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The Honourable Kenneth R. Kowalski, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 27th Legislature

Second Session

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 19, 2009

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Good afternoon.

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. Minister of Culture and Community Spirit.

Mr. Blackett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure for me this afternoon to introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly 72 enthusiastic and inquisitive grade 6 students from St. Basil Catholic school, located in my constituency of Calgary-North West in my home community of Tuscany. I get to know many of these students personally because I've had a chance to be a parent volunteer in their classes over the years, a soccer coach, and a hockey coach, and I have one special student in that group, my daughter Jasmine Blackett. Accompanying the students are their teachers, Anil Dolan, Marianne Murray, Carolyn Krahn, and teacher's aide Julia Reynolds as well as 13 parent volunteers. I won't go through the whole list. They are seated in the members' and public galleries. I'd ask that they would please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to recognize and celebrate two people who are involved with Concrete Theatre, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. As you know from hearing me in this Assembly, being able to keep a theatre alive and thriving for 20 years is not an easy feat. Concrete Theatre was formed and has carried on a long-standing tradition in Edmonton of social action theatre and has also come to specialize in theatre for young audiences and actually produces a theatre of new plays for young audiences, called the Sprouts Festival. Today I would like to welcome to the Assembly – and would you please rise – Miekko Ouchi, who was a cofounder and is still artistic director of the theatre. With her today is Debbie Giesbrecht, who is the general manager of the theatre. Please welcome them and congratulate them.

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

Dr. Taft: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a group of Alberta's registered nursing students, who are in the members' gallery up behind me today. I'd ask them to rise as I introduce them. These students are here because they're concerned about this government's plan to cut beds and services and restrict the hiring of nurses. They have spent four years getting educated as nurses. They want to work, and Alberta needs them. They're here to make sure that we get that message. Please give these bright students, the future of Alberta's health care system, a warm welcome and some real encouragement.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm very pleased to rise and introduce to you and through you Helen Cashman, a constituent who attends Avalon junior high school. Helen is an avid dancer and volunteer with the Ceilidh Dance Academy, and she's also the co-president of the Avalon junior high school student council. Helen is very interested in politics and had her father contact my office to acquire a seat in the Legislature to view question period. I'd now like Helen and her father, Paul Cashman, who are both seated in the public gallery, to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Mr. Hinman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a real honour and privilege to rise and introduce to you and through you to the Assembly a very special young lady in my life, who has been a great example. She's caring, loving, very compassionate, always wants to help her fellow beings. She's currently going to school at NAIT to become a respiratory therapist. I'd like to introduce my daughter Janna Hinman, who's here to see the proceedings of this Assembly today.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance and Enterprise.

Ms Evans: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a real privilege for me today to introduce a local businessman and entrepreneur, who just happens to be an amazing father, and he is going to soon be the father of the bride, who is my scheduling assistant, Mr. Doug Hoffman and his daughter Lindsay. She's never seen the House in motion. Glad to have you here. Please join me in welcoming them to the Leg. Assembly.

Statement by the Speaker

Fifth Anniversary of Elected Members

The Speaker: Hon. members, five years ago this Sunday will mark the anniversary of an election in the province of Alberta. On November 22, 2004, the following members were elected to this Assembly for the first time: the hon. Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, the hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration, the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness, the hon. Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security, the hon. Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, the hon. Member for Calgary-Nose Hill, the hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, the hon. Member for Calgary-Hays, the hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat, the hon. Member for Peace River, the hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, the hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka, the hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed, the hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont-Devon, the hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View, and the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie. It is their fifth anniversary this Sunday, and if this Assembly had a pension plan for MLAs, they would now be vested.*

Congratulations to all of them.

Ministerial Statements

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Recognition of 30 Years of Service

**Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker
Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock**

Mr. Stelmach: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very important milestone will come to pass over the weekend, and I think it is only fitting that the members of this Assembly take a moment to recog-

*See page 1905, left column, para. 8, and page 1913, right column, para. 7

nize and pay tribute to this historic occasion. Saturday, November 21, 2009, marks the 30th anniversary of the Speaker's service as a member of this Assembly. [Standing ovation] More than a third of that time has been spent in the Speaker's chair, presiding over the proceedings of this House.

Mr. Speaker, they say that leadership is born of great character, which confirms my personal belief that you are quite a character. It is your fairness and objectivity that underline your effectiveness as Speaker of the Legislature of this great province, it is your spirit and commitment that make you an effective representative for your constituents, and it is your humour and your vision that make you a respected colleague and friend to all of us in the House.

Mr. Speaker, you have seen a lot of changes in the last 30 years. In fact, you have been the driving force, really, behind all of these changes over the 30 years, changes that benefit all Albertans. Having occupied many different offices during your political career, you were dubbed by the press at one time as Mr. Everything and Minister of Everything. Wear these titles proudly as they reflect the diverse experience that has shaped your term of service. From the Oldman dam in southern Alberta to the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation in northern Alberta to the reflecting pools right here on the Legislature Grounds, these lasting monuments to your energy and to your enthusiasm stand throughout this province, paying tribute to your dedication and commitment to public service for the betterment of all citizens. Once a teacher of history, Mr. Speaker, your many accomplishments are now a treasured part of Alberta's history.

I speak on behalf of all members of the Assembly when I say: thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is truly an honour and privilege to serve with you. Happy 30th anniversary. [applause]

1:40

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

Dr. Swann: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour and a privilege to stand and recognize you as the Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock and add that at the AAMD and C lunch today I had the privilege of sitting in for you at your table and speaking on your behalf to your constituents.

Dr. Taft: Did you announce new funding?

Dr. Swann: I announced no new funding.

Very few parliamentarians have the privilege of serving for 30 years, and, Mr. Speaker, you should be very proud of this accomplishment. You've established an unusual degree of trust and respect from your constituents and some level of decorum in the Legislature in the province of Alberta.

Even if I weren't a member in the Legislature, I would still be grateful to the Speaker for stepping forward and accepting the challenges of public, political life. As every member here knows, it's not the easiest nor the least stressful calling in the world, but the Speaker has managed it for three decades, and that with a full head of hair, I might add. However long the Speaker serves as MLA, I trust that he continues to serve his constituents with diligence and enjoys peace, health, and happiness in his personal life.

Congratulations on 30 years of service, Mr. Speaker. While our ideologies may differ, I think we can agree that serving the public and upholding the principles of a free and democratic society are both a vital and a special privilege. Whether we've served in this Assembly for 30 years or three, we all have a duty to be true to our values to help the citizens of this great province enjoy a happier, healthier, fuller life. [applause]

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

Ms Notley: Yes. I rise to seek the consent of the House to allow the leader of the third party to respond to this statement.

The Speaker: On this occasion may I humbly implore the Assembly to give unanimous consent?

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: Proceed, hon. member.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much. You use your discretion judiciously, I have to say, Mr. Speaker.

On behalf of the NDP opposition I echo the comments of my colleagues and add our congratulations on your three decades of service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. It is a rare thing, indeed, for all members of the House to agree on anything, but we do agree that your 30 years of service are something to be recognized and that your accomplishments in those 30 years should be applauded.

Mr. Speaker, you balance the qualities of firmness and flexibility while allowing differences of opinion, at the same time reining in acrimony and hostility. Free speech is the hallmark of our parliamentary system, and the Speaker is its guardian. It is a job that is in good hands with you in the chair, Mr. Speaker.

Congratulations on your anniversary. [applause]

The Speaker: Hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore, do you seek unanimous consent as well?

Mr. Hinman: I was going to ask for unanimous consent for the hon. independent member of the House.

The Speaker: Would the Assembly agree to such a request?

[Unanimous consent granted]

Mr. Boutilier: It's a beautiful day.

Mr. Speaker, indeed, you have a full head of hair.

Second of all, from all the comments that have been made here today, I recall visiting your constituency and speaking at one of your constituency dinners. I remember the constituents in Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock saying: he cares. What more can be said of one who serves in public service but that he cares? I know you continue to view this honour and privilege to serve as Speaker and a member for the constituency of Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock, and on behalf of the members and the constituents of Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo we say thank you for your public service and continued public service for the many, many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask for unanimous consent for the member of the Wildrose party to offer comments.

The Speaker: Shall such a request be granted?

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Hinman: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and all members of this Assembly. It truly is an honour to be here today as we celebrate your 30th anniversary. It's an awesome milestone. I just regret that

I took off 18 months, that I wasn't able to be recognized with five years. It's been a privilege.

There are a few things that have been mentioned about the hon. Speaker that I'd like to reiterate. Being from southern Alberta, it's just been a major accomplishment to have the Oldman River dam. It's added life to southern Alberta. That was a very controversial and tough and hard-fought battle, and on behalf of all those people in southern Alberta I wish to thank the Speaker for that.

He mentioned earlier the five-year pension plan. Many of the good people that I've known over the years have loved their work so well that they've never retired to go on. I wish the best to the Speaker that he might wish to do that and save Alberta taxpayers any transition money that would be going, that he'll continue in his seat.

It's an honour and a privilege. I've always appreciated the open door and the advice he has given. Though I haven't always agreed with it, it's been beneficial, and like I say, it's always been there, and the expertise was there. I wish you all the best going forward. May you have many more years.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you all very, very much for your kind words and your kindness. I've always viewed it as a privilege to be an elected representative in the province of Alberta. I've been very fortunate. I've been very fortunate to have the constituents that I have and to be able to represent the three different constituencies that I've been able to represent.

As importantly, I've met a lot of outstanding individuals who have chosen to serve in their very unselfish manner as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. You are all part of that, and I think Alberta is well served by your commitment. I'm just a mirror of what you are, and I am just humbled by the fact that I've been able to do this now for 30 years. It's been a choice, a desire, and there still is fire in the belly. Hopefully, there will be good health into the future.

I also want to recognize the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, who was elected five years ago this weekend as well.*

Thank you all very much.

[The Speaker was presented with a gold Mace pin by the Premier, the Leader of the Official Opposition, and the leader of the third party] [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Thank you very much. This is a Mace pin with the number 30 on it. Many of you should be here for 30 years as well.

Members' Statements

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

Education Leadership Recognition Awards

Mrs. Sarich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta's kindergarten to grade 12 education system is recognized as one of the best in the world. High curriculum standards, excellent learning resources, well-trained teachers, and strong assessment programs all contribute to its excellent reputation. And students along with the teachers and principals are recognized for this success through various initiatives and events.

School board trustees and superintendents are cornerstones for Alberta's students, teachers, and principals to ensure that they soar to great heights. Without their due diligence and hard work we would have very little to celebrate. That is why the minister's

education leadership recognition awards, also known as the MEL-RAs, are so important. Each year school board trustees and superintendents throughout the province are recognized for the positive impact they have in the lives of students each and every day. These awards recognize jurisdiction leadership teams for significant improvements and/or very high achievement in a number of categories within their jurisdictions.

1:50

Alberta Education is honouring award recipients at five events across the province throughout the month of November. The Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta School Councils' Association, the Association of School Business Officials of Alberta, the College of Alberta School Superintendents, and the Alberta Teachers' Association, Mr. Speaker, have played a significant role in creating these awards.

I am pleased and honoured to rise today to recognize all the jurisdiction leadership teams for their continued hard work and dedication to advance all of the passion, talents of the students and youth in Alberta's K to 12 education system and to acknowledge the continued support of education stakeholders within the province. Heartfelt congratulations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: First Official Opposition main question. The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

Health System Reform

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The entire October '09 Auditor General's report shows that the transition to one provincial health authority was an utter financial disaster: budgets not being approved, millions of dollars being misreported, and the final result a \$1.3 billion deficit. It's no wonder the minister has no clear idea what is happening in his ministry with the lack of communication during this long transition. This minister takes no accountability for what has happened in this ministry. To the Premier: how can the Premier defend the minister of health's negligence in not ensuring that a board with billions of dollars would have an approved budget and business plan?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, I stand by the decision on amalgamating nine regions and two of the other affiliated boards into one rather than doing nine year-end statements, nine budgets. We're all the same taxpayers in the province of Alberta. We now have one board serving all constituents of this province with one financial report and one budget. It does mean that every jurisdiction has to, you know, print their own cheques for their own staff and move staff around and account for the pension and some of the holiday pay, et cetera. They all work within the province of Alberta. It was a good move, and it saved \$650 million in administrative expenses.

The Speaker: The hon. leader.

Dr. Swann: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. But how can Albertans trust this Premier to deal with a \$1.3 billion deficit in health when his minister of health failed to ensure the Health Services budget even got approved?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, there is an operating deficit within the Alberta Health Services Board. That is why I've said many times in this House that we're a province of 3 and a half million people

*See page 1903, right column, para. 9

spending close to \$13 billion. All Albertans are telling me that there is enough money in the system, to just make sure that we get more value for the dollars that we have invested in health, and that's what we're doing.

Dr. Swann: Well, the complete disconnect between what Alberta Health and Wellness is saying and Alberta Health Services is providing was shown on Tuesday when neither the minister nor the Premier knew what Health Services' plans were for the Sheldon Chumir centre in Calgary. Can the Premier today tell downtown Calgarians what will happen to their 24-hour urgent care service?

Mr. Liepert: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what the member is referring to because he threw out a rumour the other day. We checked on the rumour. It has no fact. The Sheldon Chumir centre is operating 24/7, is going to continue to operate 24/7. Does he know something that we don't know? He's accusing us of not being honest and truthful. Those are the facts.

The Speaker: The hon. leader. Second Official Opposition main question.

Nursing Recruitment

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, the lack of a proper business plan and budget by Alberta Health Services Board has led to uncertainty for nurses and nursing students in Alberta. On the Alberta Health Services website there are roughly 195 nursing positions posted, mostly temporary, casual, and part-time. There are nursing students in the gallery that are here to find out some answers to questions they've been asking. To the minister: what does the minister have to say to nursing students graduating this December when they have no jobs in Alberta due to the fiscal mismanagement at Alberta Health Services?

Mr. Liepert: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, this member is trying to leave an impression. He used the term: there are no jobs in Alberta. That is factually incorrect. Hiring will continue through Alberta Health Services as required, and yes, Mr. Speaker, this particular administration has taken a look at the requirements in ensuring that all of our professionals are working to their full capacity. But we also have a situation within Alberta Health Services today where a year ago many of our nurses were working part-time. Now, all of a sudden with the change in the economy many of these nurses have moved to a full-time position, thereby using up some of that gap that was there earlier, the shortage for nurses.

Dr. Swann: Mr. Speaker, the minister is driving nursing graduates out of the province to find work because the few nursing positions available are limited to internal hires. Yes or no, Mr. Minister?

Mr. Liepert: Well, one of the things that the new CEO had to do was to get control of the organization and ensure that there was an appropriate process in place for hiring because we had different hiring practices in the various regions around the province. That process is ongoing, and as the hiring initiatives take place, there will be plenty of opportunities for our graduates in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. Swann: Again to the minister: can the minister tell Albertans how much money Alberta Health Services is wasting on full-page advertisements in national nursing publications when Health Services is concentrating on internal hiring?

Mr. Liepert: I'm not aware of any particular advertisements, Mr. Speaker.

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

Postsecondary Tuition Fees

Mr. Chase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister of advanced education continues to dodge questions on hefty tuition increases by claiming that no proposal has crossed his desk. Clearly a newspaper hasn't crossed his desk either as proposals from NAIT and from the universities of Calgary and Alberta are being widely discussed, frightening students and affecting their future enrolment decisions. The time for platitudes is over. Will the minister of advanced education continue to dodge this question, or will he clearly state that he intends to allow postsecondary institutions to break his own government's tuition caps?

Mr. Horner: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's a darn good thing that this government doesn't base its policy and its decisions on the research of newspaper articles. This government has put more money per capita into their postsecondary than many jurisdictions in North America this year. In fact, on November 2, if he'd care to go back in *Hansard* and read on November 2, I answered the question as it related to proposals that would come from me to postsecondaries, that we would look at them. They had to be real. They had to be fair. They had to be equitable. They had to have a very strong argument on a case by case basis. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is wrong. There has been no proposal cross my desk.

Mr. Chase: Well, I guess my comment would be: University of Calgary, University of Alberta, NAIT, get the minister's address.

The slowdown in this construction industry is squeezing the employment prospects of Alberta's tradesmen and -women. Why would the minister want to place more pressure on Alberta's supply of skilled labour by contemplating significant tuition increases at NAIT? Say it ain't so.

Mr. Horner: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not contemplating significant tuition increases at NAIT. The hon. member is referring to a newspaper report of across-the-board 40 per cent increases in tuition at NAIT. That's a rumour. I would encourage the hon. member to perhaps pick up a phone and call the president of NAIT and ask him what he thinks.

Mr. Chase: As the advanced education minister you have the ultimate say in the approval of a tuition cap being removed. It comes to your desk, and if it hasn't come as of now, I'm sure it'll be arriving shortly.

This government's boom and bust fiscal roller coaster style of management is an abject failure. Will the minister admit that a dedicated postsecondary endowment fund would have protected our postsecondary system from the staff cuts and tuition increases we're now facing?

Mr. Horner: Actually, let me help the hon. member out a little bit because if he's using newspapers for his research, there was a quote that I made in the newspaper that said – and I don't remember the exact quote, but I can kind of give you what the idea was – that this government is not removing the CPI cap on tuition across the board, that under my watch there will not be an across-the-board increase to tuition. If the hon. member wants to go back to the *Calgary*

Herald or the *Edmonton Journal* and find those particular quotes, I'm sure they're available, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, followed by the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

2:00 Electricity Transmission System

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, change is coming, says the Premier. One change Albertans would love to see is for the government to stop wasting their money on multibillion dollar boondoggles. This government has been trying to scare Albertans with claims that our electricity transmission grid is so old, it's about to fall down, leaving us all sitting in the dark. But a report prepared for the Utilities Consumer Advocate, which I have here today, states that the AESO and government demand forecasts are wrong. Given this, will the Premier reconsider the government's position that \$14 billion of new transmission infrastructure is urgently needed?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for the UCA will respond to that question.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make it very clear that neither the UCA board nor I agree with the conclusions reached in that report. There are many reports that are prepared on a regular basis for government. This is just an example of a report that has a particular opinion. What is clear here is getting the facts out and advocating for consumers, which I will continue to do.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. By repressing reports, I guess.

Albertans want real change, and this government won't give it to them. The report says, "This section will show that there is really no such emergency for load and what little congestion there is for generation is manageable." Will the Premier admit that his government has been trying to frighten Albertans into accepting an unnecessary \$14 billion hit on their power bills?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, he's referring to a bill that's before the House. Again, if that member puts his trust in that report, vote accordingly. But if we don't get electricity to every Albertan in a few years, have him take the responsibility and the blame.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. The government has tried to scare Albertans by suggesting that electricity demand will soon outstrip transmission capacity, but the report contradicts this. It says, "Much of the data and logic presented by the AESO is unconvincing and overstates the sense of urgency." Will the Premier finally level with Albertans and admit that this \$14 billion boondoggle is unjustified and a waste of Albertans' hard-earned money?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, as I said before in the House, it's our duty to ensure that we have a transmission system that will move electricity to all electricity consumers in the province of Alberta. The transmission lines are congested. They're aging. This is an

issue that not only faces Alberta but faces the rest of Canada and also the United States. The Americans will be making a huge move towards building new transmission, and we're going to have to do that same thing across Canada. We might as well face up to the fact that we sat back and didn't do anything in this area for the last 30, 40 years. We've got to ensure that we don't put the tab on future generations for getting the electricity there.

Again, these people want to burn more coal, create more carbon, and get less electricity to every consumer in this province: absolute nonsense.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Government Spending

Mr. Boutilier: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in this House some very good questions were asked to members of the government. One of them was in fact from the hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere. I'd like to follow up today with the minister of the Treasury relative to his comment that his hands would be tied if he had to keep government spending to the rate of inflation with population growth. I'd like to ask the hon. minister if he could give me an example of where his hands would be tied with this conservative principle of keeping spending under control.

Mr. Snelgrove: If we had to do that as a government, it would probably mean the billion and a half dollars we've spent at Fort McMurray in the last three years would certainly be curtailed. You have to wonder, Mr. Speaker. We're faced in Alberta right now with the pandemic costs that we talked about yesterday. Serious questions. Where would you get the \$100 million to deal with the pandemic if you don't have funds at your disposal to do the right thing at the right time for Albertans? To the hon. member: what roads, what infrastructure in Fort McMurray doesn't he want for them? What support that we've given to that community did he think isn't necessary? Just tell us, and I'll try to get them to stop.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Boutilier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess to the opposite side, conservative principles talk about putting a framework around spending. Again, my question is posed to the minister of Treasury. How are your hands tied relative to singling out the constituency of Fort McMurray when royalties continue to be poured into the revenue and to the general revenue of the government? That actually could create another problem for you, meaning less revenue based on the royalties if you're trying to stop. My question is: give me another example, not regarding nurses or teachers but actual examples of where greater value can be achieved.

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, I think the Assembly would recognize that we have started to do things differently. Three years ago next month the government set up ministerial working groups that meet with their deputies. The Premier allowed us to establish an issue-based fund for crime and safe communities, where we make departments come and work together because issues like crime don't stop with Justice or Solicitor General or Health and Wellness. It affects all the departments, and it affects all Albertans. So it's about doing more with less. There is a three-way win. The staff that work on our behalf are more engaged and more effective, the taxpayer has saved money, and the issue, particularly on safe communities, gets dealt with. So we have put in place effective tools of cross-government management.

Mr. Boutilier: Mr. Speaker, my final question. In the *Hansard* it says that the Premier agrees with this conservative value relative to controlling spending, which I think members of this Assembly applaud. Again, my question to the minister of Treasury: can he give me an example why he could not go forward with this population growth and inflation and how he feels that his hands are tied? I believe this can be achieved relative to how we go forward with the flexibility to serve Albertans on important initiatives.

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, it's not about needing legislative guidelines to be fiscally prudent. We set our budget out last year based on the premise of a maximum of the population plus inflation. We have also put into place value reviews and re-engineering government to make sure that – you've got to be clear. It's not about putting a cap on spending if our spending is at unrealistic levels. We need to decide not how much we can spend on education or health care. What do we need to spend to have effective, sustainable health care and education systems when we get there? When this House is comfortable and Albertans are comfortable that we've got the right amount going into health care, going into education, then we can use this House to put the restrictions around what we spend, and we use Albertans to determine that.

I'm not against fiscal conservative principles, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, I think most would agree that I believe in them. But I believe you do the work in the House, and if you need legislation, so be it. I don't think we do. I'm open to any suggestions from any member in this House.

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

Ms Blakeman: Did you say Centre?

The Speaker: Yes.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Sorry. I should have said Gold Bar.

Ms Blakeman: I will cede the floor to my hon. colleague.

Employment Strategies

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, on this day I certainly could have waited, but that's fine.

The minister of finance originally predicted an overall job loss of only 15,000 individuals for the entire year. But we've seen in the month of October an additional 14,900 jobs lost, and we have an unemployment rate in this province of 7 and a half per cent. My first question is to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Given that \$60 million has been earmarked as training-for-work funds this year, how much of this money will be used to train unemployed Albertans aged 15 to 24, who are experiencing an unemployment rate that is almost double the provincial average?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Goudreau: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't track the numbers of individuals according to age. I know individuals come to us with particular needs. They come to us with particular backgrounds. We do their assessment, and if they qualify for retraining support, we provide them with those retraining supports.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record his department tracks the number of young people who are unemployed not only in Alberta, but they break it down by region.

Again to the same minister: why is it necessary to spend millions of dollars recruiting health care professionals from overseas when we could be using the \$45 million health workforce development fund to train unemployed Albertans of all ages right here in this province?

2:10

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, we certainly do both of those. We've, first and foremost, put a priority on Albertans. For those individuals that want to enter the health workforce areas, we will support and provide additional assistance to them. Having said that, we know that there is a shortage in particular sectors in the health workforce, and we will continue to recruit to fill those particular positions.

Mr. MacDonald: The minister knows that he's wasting millions and millions of dollars on outfits like Geneva International, recruiting health care professionals when there are people in this province that are ready and willing and able to work. Again to the same minister: given that the Peace Country area, an area the minister represents, has an unemployment rate of 9.1 per cent, does the minister agree with the Premier's claim that some Albertans are unemployed as a result of their own poor attitudes?

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, I think we all need to recognize that the labour conditions out there have changed. We've come from a period of having a huge shortage of workers to one where we've had a surplus of workers. Individuals must recognize that in order to participate fully in the workforce, they have to look at additional training possibilities or upgrading their skills. I truly believe that individuals have to take those types of initiatives on their own to be able to eventually help themselves in the long run.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Family Violence

Mr. Bhardwaj: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A recent Stats Canada survey reported that in 2007 Alberta had the second-highest rate of spousal violence in the country. Whether it's due to economic downturn or other factors, the fact remains that many women and children are in danger of violence in their own homes. My question is to the Minister of Children and Youth Services. Given the fact that SafeCom recommended expanding programs for those affected by domestic violence, can the minister tell us what steps the government is taking to help reduce and prevent family violence?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Tarchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is taking a lead role in addressing the serious issue of family violence. In fact, several of my colleagues and I this week were able to attend a family violence conference here in Edmonton with 650 individuals very committed to ending the silence and stopping the violence. We have nine ministries that are working on an initiative that have spent nearly \$60 million this past year on raising awareness, on prevention, on supporting victims. Our efforts have included enhanced legislation, increased funding for women's shelters, enhanced services for

immigrant and aboriginal communities, and as well providing our 24-hour family violence line, now in more than 170 languages.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Bhardwaj: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My first supplemental to the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security: what is your ministry doing to address this serious issue?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Lindsay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My ministry has been actively involved in family violence training for police since 1991. We ensure that our front-line police officers are properly trained. They must complete a family violence investigative report when responding to domestic violence calls. This report not only helps them gather critical information in the first 12 hours of attending a family violence complaint, but it also alerts them to situations that may require specific follow-up.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Bhardwaj: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplemental to the same minister: what help does the government provide to the victims of domestic violence?

Mr. Lindsay: Well, Mr. Speaker, in addition to our front-line police officers and ITRAC, which focuses on domestic violence, our victims' services units provide much-needed support to victims of crimes such as domestic violence. They help ensure that these victims are treated with compassion and respect and help them rebuild their lives. Last year we provided \$25 million in funding for programs and financial benefits that support victims of crime.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay.

Rent Supplement Program

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs has said time and time again that changes to the homeless and eviction prevention fund and the direct-to-tenant rent supplement programs were merely administrative and that people were going to have more and not less support, but the reality is that rent supplements are no longer available for families not already in the program, that there hasn't been money available to support new applicants since the summertime. The fund has dried up, and now families are having to make a hard choice between eating their next meal or keeping a roof over their heads. To the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs: now that families are unable to access rent subsidies and are having to wait over two years to get into affordable housing in many cases, just what are they supposed to do?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Fritz: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to this question. As you know, the rent supplement program is working. It's working very well, in fact. It's helping our most vulnerable people, and that's whether it's paid directly to them or to the landlord. The member is right: given the current economy the demand for all our housing programs is high. But I can tell you that this year we are providing \$140 million to assist 85,000 people that are low income through rent subsidies and social housing.

I can also tell you this, Mr. Speaker, that the waiting list for rent supplements is not growing. That's incorrect. The information you have is incorrect. That wait-list has not grown. In fact, we are assisting . . .

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, the fact remains that since summertime all of us on this side of the House have been hearing from people in our respective constituencies that people cannot access the money if they're not already in the program. So the program may be working fine for people who got in springtime or earlier, but for people who are falling on hard times now, they're in trouble, and your fund is not supporting them. With the need for Alberta's food banks up a staggering 61 per cent because of the economic downturn, how can the minister justify this failure to adequately fund the direct-to-tenant rent supplement program at this crucial time?

Mrs. Fritz: Well, Mr. Speaker, I really would have liked you to have been there at the luncheon that I had today with the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness because this is the very issue that we talked about, and this member would have benefited from that meeting. The rent supplement program, I can tell you, has increased significantly over the past three years. It was \$18 million assisting 7,500 people three years ago. Today we have \$90 million assisting 40,000 people, and there are 800 people supported, new people and families – that includes families, individuals – each month with this program.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, she is playing with the figures here. She's playing with the figures. Sure, there's been all kinds of money spent over the last three years, and that's precisely why the ministry has turned off the taps or turned them down to drip from flow, because they're trying to stem the amount of money that they're spending. Social workers are getting fed up with this government saying one thing and doing another. How can the minister reconcile . . .

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Taylor: Wait for it; I'll get to it.

. . . her well-advertised commitment to end homelessness with her failure to adequately support rent subsidies that would actually keep families from becoming homeless?

Mrs. Fritz: Well, Mr. Speaker, to talk about the ending homelessness area, that we've really worked extremely hard on with our 10-year plan, it's a \$400 million commitment over three years for capital dollars to build housing for the homeless. That's the first time in Canada that money has ever been committed, and it's a significant contribution. As well, we are assisting a thousand people this year that are homeless with a \$32 million commitment, and that is significant.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay, followed by the hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

Gangs and Organized Crime

Ms Woo-Paw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that gangs of various natures are active throughout our province, and most do not limit their operations to a single community. They're highly mobile,

and they threaten the safety and security of Albertans. My questions are for the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. I have constituents who want to know what is being done to combat these increasingly sophisticated gangs.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Lindsay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the primary ways we are tackling this issue is through integrated policing, ALERT, which is the Alberta law enforcement response team. It's a perfect example of how this model works. It brings together Alberta's most sophisticated law enforcement resources to strategically target serious and organized crime. There are more than 30 teams in seven regions around Alberta dedicated to disrupting and dismantling organized crime. We're sharing intelligence and operational information also across provincial boundaries.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Woo-Paw: Thank you. To the same minister: how do you know this strategy is actually making a difference?

Mr. Lindsay: ALERT is making it increasingly difficult for criminals to operate in this province, Mr. Speaker. In fact, in the last few months alone ALERT's integrated teams have put four large drug operations out of business in this province. Since it was established in 2006, ALERT units have arrested more than 2,300 individuals on 5,600 charges relating to drugs, weapons, and violent crime. These units have seized nearly \$4 million in cash and have been responsible for taking approximately 600 kilograms of drugs and more than 300 firearms off our streets. Last year alone they contributed to taking \$85 million of illegal drugs off the streets of this province.

2:20

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Woo-Paw: Thank you. Well, we know gangs aren't the only issues that cross jurisdictional lines and threaten the safety of our communities. What is being done to deal with these other complex problems?

Mr. Lindsay: Again, Mr. Speaker, ALERT continues to target and arrest those who have no respect for our laws and who use violence and intimidation. While it may be the big drug busts that hit the news, ALERT is involved in other activities, including the ICE teams, that target online child pornography; the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre, which helps reduce and prevent domestic violence and stalking. ALERT also includes SCAN teams, that target problem properties, and the FASST teams, that target criminals who are wanted on outstanding warrants.

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

Agricultural Assistance

Ms Pastoor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last decade this government has handed millions of dollars in grants to multinational agricultural corporations not based in Alberta. Taxpayer dollars that could have gone to help sustain our local family-owned and operated farms instead went to fund massive corporate farms. To the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. This government has awarded Cargill over \$10 million in direct grants in just the last six years. Would the minister tell us what these grants were for?

Mr. Groeneveld: Well, Mr. Speaker, the challenges faced by the agriculture industry certainly are not just limited to one sector. Operations of all sizes are impacted, including Cargill. It would be very interesting to note that all companies that receive any funds from this government are taxpayers in Alberta.

Ms Pastoor: Will the minister provide documentation that proves that this money was used solely for initiatives in Alberta and not to fund corporate farms in other provinces or countries?

Mr. Groeneveld: Well, Mr. Speaker, under the system the compensation programs are usually on a per-head basis, so it's no surprise that the larger operations receive larger support under the programs. I will tell the hon. member that the programs do have a maximum cap for larger operations.

Ms Pastoor: That may well be the crux of part of this matter, that we should perhaps be looking at a different way to get those grants out and not just on a per head.

What process and regulations are used to determine whether a corporation not based in Alberta is eligible for Alberta taxpayer funded agricultural grants?

Mr. Groeneveld: Well, once again, Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any corporation that's not based in Alberta receiving these programs, so I don't understand exactly where she's coming from.

Ms Blakeman: Cargill.

Mr. Groeneveld: Cargill is in my constituency, Mr. Speaker.

You know, let it be clear that our payment programs are often structured with other national programs. We work very closely with our federal counterparts and provincial counterparts on eligibility criteria. I'm proud to say that no other jurisdiction in Canada has provided the level of support to the producers in Alberta that the province of Alberta has.

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

Postsecondary Tuition Fees

(continued)

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Advanced Education and Technology is continuing to stress out students and their families by fudging his answers about increasing tuition costs. At the same time that he says that he'll not remove caps on tuition, administrators at the U of A are saying that they will be seeking government approval for increases of \$3,000 or \$4,000 per year for certain professional programs. To the minister: why won't the minister clarify this discrepancy by stating clearly that the government will not allow any university program to increase fees by more than the cost of living?

Mr. Horner: Well, Mr. Speaker, continually we get these comments about "Well, the rumour is" or "The administration says that they're going to seek approval," that they're going to come and talk to me. The hon. member is asking for an answer that I can't give because they haven't come to talk to me yet.

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, it is perfectly within the ability of this minister to state now that he will not agree to a request to increase fees. He just doesn't want to say it. Now, I don't care if

you call it a market modifier, an increase to the tuition base, or simply what it is, an increase in fees to students, ultimately students will be asked to pay more. Why won't the minister admit right now that if he considers this, he will be breaking his promise to keep increases to what students pay in line with the cost of living?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I'm not hiding anything. I said in this House on November 2, I said in April after we put the budget out there, and we've said during our meetings with the council of chairs and with the presidents and with the students that if a valid, reasonable, fair, and equitable case is made on a case-by-case basis for programs, we will take a look at that. That means we may approve it; we may not approve it. I'm not about to preclude that decision here in the House today.

Ms Notley: What that says to me is that the minister is finally saying that he is considering going around the cost-of-living cap.

So now these proposed hikes will put advanced education out of the reach of many Albertan families regardless of whether they want to send their kids into professional programs or the trades. Why won't the minister admit that this government's broken promise and the resulting 40 to 60 per cent fee hikes will mean that even fewer Albertans will have the chance at a postsecondary education?

Mr. Horner: Well, Mr. Speaker, the only one that's raising a lot of concern and fear in the students' minds across the board in Alberta today is the hon. member because as of today the rule is that the CPI cap is in place at 1 and a half per cent for the 2010-11 student year for tuition increases. That's the maximum allowable across the board. We have always said that if there is a situation where we have to adjust the base on a fair and equitable position, with consultation with the students – we've always made that commitment as well – then we will look at it. Does that mean that I'm going to say yes just because the hon. member says that the *Edmonton Journal* has reported it? Absolutely not.

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

Immigrant Investor Program

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our provincial immigration system needs to attract, in addition to employees, employers to our province, people who bring with them the entrepreneurial spirit, know-how, and resources to create jobs and prosperity in our province. Many provinces have an entrepreneur stream in their provincial nominee programs. My question is to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Where is our stream?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Goudreau: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our Ministry of Employment and Immigration is reviewing the Alberta immigrant nominee program, and part of this review includes looking at the viability of such a stream. We know that some other provinces do have a similar stream, and we're using the opportunity to learn from them, to see what their challenges and successes have been. We've found out that one such challenge is ensuring that people commit to building their businesses right here in Alberta for the long term and are not perceived to be buying their way into our country. Our goal is to attract individuals with the expertise and capital to add to Alberta's workforce and the economy.

Mr. Bhullar: My first supplemental, Mr. Speaker, to the same minister. Mr. Minister, now is the time to lay the seeds for an even more robust economy and prepare for when it's firing on all cylinders again. If this stream is being considered, when do you propose we can actually have it start?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Goudreau: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need to first make sure that this stream would provide real benefits to Albertans. Developing a new stream, that is being proposed, takes time and involves a lot of market research and business decisions. Since our budget process has yet to be resolved, we're considering whether or not it's feasible to move forward at this time. It should also be noted that we would need to consult with our federal counterpart at Citizenship and Immigration Canada to ensure that any changes are consistent with the federal Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Mr. Bhullar: My final question, Mr. Speaker, to the same minister: Minister, are we participating in the federal government immigrant investor program? If not, why not?

2:30

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, the federal government's immigrant investor program remains a viable option for potential investors that are destined for Alberta, but Alberta differs from other provinces in its decision to not participate in the financial side of the program. Alberta would need to set up a Crown corporation to administer the program. In addition, the investments must be returned after five years. The use of investor funds is complicated. It's time consuming and resource intensive, and it's unclear if the benefits at this time would justify the cost. This decision, though, has not compromised our ability at all to track investment in the province as we speak.

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

Film and Television Support

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. B.C. is enjoying a recession-proof \$1.2 billion film industry that employs over 40,000 people. Compared to B.C.'s tax incentives and funding initiatives, Alberta can't compete. With Alberta having only 3 per cent of Canada's total production in film, we need a lot more than one Calgary film studio and tinkering done to the film development program to be competitive. My questions are to the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. When will the minister make Alberta competitive and match B.C.'s tax credit model?

Mr. Blackett: Well, Mr. Speaker, funny enough, the hon. member hasn't quite got it correct. Actually, Alberta is one of the most competitive regimes for film and television in Canada. We have a labour rate at 29 per cent. That is higher than B.C. That is higher than Ontario and higher than Quebec. We have a film development grant that is a leader in the industry, that Saskatchewan is looking at as a model. We don't care about tax credits here in this particular government. We're not in a race to the bottom. We're not in a race to compete with other jurisdictions which are going in the wrong direction. I think we're going in the right direction.

Ms Blakeman: Back to the same minister. If the city of Calgary is providing the seed money for this new film studio, why was the minister making the project announcement? What is this government's budget for this project?

Mr. Blakett: Well, Mr. Speaker, the reason that this minister, representing this government, was making the announcement was because we took the initiative to work with three levels of government and the private sector and Calgary Economic Development. We took the initiative to go and find an area that we could build a purpose-built television, film, and digital studio. We negotiated with WinSport Canada to get 10 acres of land in Calgary. They gave them \$30,000 of seed money to start this project. We gave them \$75,000 last year to do a feasibility study, which we moved forward today. We haven't yet finalized the funding levels for all three levels of government, and we haven't finalized the commitment for the private sector. We're doing our due diligence and making sure that we have a governance model and a not-for-profit entity that will be able to manage this facility.

Ms Blakeman: Back to the same minister. Why is this special deal made to subsidize the declining horse-racing industry, but the minister won't entertain a tax credit model for the film industry, an industry which has real growth potential and supports green economy sustainable jobs? You should be able to do better than 3 per cent.

Mr. Blakett: Well, funny enough, I had a meeting, Mr. Speaker, with the Canadian Film and Television Production Association along with the president of CBC and some other production companies. I asked a simple question. Do you want cash, or do you want a tax credit? Do you want to get paid out in cash two months after production, or do you want to wait 12 to 18 months after you've finished production? Their answer was: we'll take the cash two months after production.

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

Underground Electricity Transmission Lines

Mr. Xiao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A great number of my constituents have sent me e-mails and letters regarding the proposed transmission line. My first question is for the hon. Minister of Energy. Can the minister elaborate on the possibility of burying certain segments of the proposed transmission line in the densely populated areas?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Knight: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't make comments relative to specific pieces that may be the subject of debate in this House, but generally I would suggest that what has been done – there are two studies initiated in Alberta currently: one that looks at the Edmonton region and one that looks, I think, a bit broader, across the province of Alberta. We haven't got the results of those studies yet, but what I would say is that underground cable is in the city of Edmonton now. It's not as if it can't be done. Depending on the size, depending on the capacity and that sort of thing, it's done, and we have it here now.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Xiao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first supplementary is to the same minister. Can the minister advise what consultation is occurring with respect to the location of the transmission lines?

Mr. Knight: Well, Mr. Speaker, of course, I've alluded to this a number of times in the House and in public many times. The consultation process that's in place that goes ahead of any decisions that are made relative to these issues, I think, is relatively well understood. The AESO and the transmission facility operators go out in front of any of these things and propose a number of options and have consultation around the options. That continues to take place today on an ongoing basis with respect to the issues in and around the city of Edmonton.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Xiao: Thank you. Many of my constituents, while recognizing the importance of new transmission lines, would like to bring forward additional concerns and input. My final supplementary to the same minister: can he advise what avenues are available to my constituents to provide their input?

Mr. Knight: Well, yes, Mr. Speaker, I certainly can. The situation as it unfolds, of course, with any transmission development in the province of Alberta is consistent with what's going to happen in this area, and that is that at the correct point in time, when we get to a permit and licensing stage with respect to any of these pieces of infrastructure, the Alberta Utilities Commission holds an open public hearing at which any Albertans at their choice can go and intervene and have their concerns and requests and requirements heard by the Alberta Utilities Commission in a quasi-judicial setting.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, followed by the hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Métis Settlements Ombudsman

Dr. Taft: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. The annual report of the Métis Settlements Ombudsman raises concerns regarding declining working relationships, legal challenges that stall and undermine the ombudsman's role, and unease with the ombudsman's connection to the minister's office. Calls that we've received in our office from settlements confirm these concerns. My question is to the Minister of Aboriginal Relations. What actions has the minister taken to address the concerns raised in the Métis Settlements Ombudsman's most recent annual report?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, it's true that there were some unavoidable delays in some of the processing and some of the administrative matters in the Métis Settlements Ombudsman's office over the past several years, partly due to the complexity and partly due to staffing issues and a few other internal things. However, we have a new Métis Settlements Ombudsman that has taken over after the good work done by the previous one, and some of those streamlines have now taken place. I think you'll see some improvements coming over the next few months.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Dr. Taft: Well, thanks, Mr. Speaker. That doesn't fit with the calls we're getting to our office. The problems continue. The friction continues. My question again to the same minister: will the minister review the regulations governing the office of the Métis Settlements Ombudsman now rather than waiting four years until the regulations expire?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, in fact, I've had several meetings with the Métis Settlements General Council on this matter, and we have agreed to taking a look at what we call a parallel process. As part of that parallel process we'll be probing fairly deeply into the functions and purpose and nature of the Métis Settlements Ombudsman, who, according to the Métis Settlements Act, carries the investigatory powers of the minister.

Dr. Taft: Okay. It sounds like the minister is already conducting a review. I'm going to give him a suggestion. As it stands now, the minister appoints and effectively delegates authority to the Ombudsman. Will the minister consider establishing legislation enshrining the Métis Settlements Ombudsman as an entity separate from the minister to remove the politics from that position?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, I can assure this member and the House that there are no politics with respect to that appointment. The fact is that the Métis Settlements General Council suggests one member to sit on a tribunal. I as minister suggest one person with that background to sit on a tribunal council. The two of them together choose a third person. They review potential applicants. Then they make a recommendation to me, and then the appointment is made. In this most recent case I was very convinced that Mr. John Brosseau had the skills and the experience and the integrity necessary to fill that position. The issue is one of competency, and he certainly has it.

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

Aboriginal Education and Employment

Mr. Berger: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Aboriginal Relations recently attended a federal-provincial-territorial meeting of aboriginal affairs ministers and national aboriginal leaders. I'm sure there were a lot of important issues that were discussed. One of the biggest issues for the aboriginal people in my constituency is unemployment. My question for the minister: of what benefit was this meeting for aboriginals in Alberta who are facing tough times and in particular for the aboriginals in my constituency?

2:40

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, this was a very important meeting because it was the first meeting of its kind in more than four years. To bring together federal, provincial, and territorial ministers as well as the five national aboriginal leaders was a feat in itself. Its purpose, really, was to address several issues such as aboriginal economic development – read into that employment, if you like – as well as postsecondary and skills-training opportunities for aboriginals. These are issues that are important to all aboriginals, particularly here in Alberta, of course, from my point of view, but everywhere else. Let me just conclude by saying that the meeting was held partly at the behest of the first ministers and the Prime Minister, who requested we get together and deal with some of these important issues of education, economic development, and others.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Berger: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we can get to the higher education levels and skills training he speaks of, I'd submit that there needs to be more done to help the aboriginals with their basic education needs. I'd like to ask the minister: could the minister please clarify for me what this meeting may have accom-

plished in terms of narrowing that gap between aboriginal and nonaboriginal educational outcomes?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, it was a very productive meeting with respect to narrowing the gap that exists between aboriginal and nonaboriginal learners. I looked at it from the Alberta perspective. I need to explain, first of all, that the delivery of education on reserves, of course, is a federal responsibility. I'm pleased that the federal minister, the Hon. Chuck Strahl, was there with us, and he heard the concerns that we took forward. As part of our group, nonetheless, we agreed to address matters of education gaps and other gaps with our provincial counterparts: the two ministers in this case, advanced education and basic education in Alberta.

Also, here in Alberta we recently established an aboriginal education partnership council, and among its primary objectives is, in fact, what the member is asking about; that is, narrowing the educational gap that seems to persistently exist between aboriginal learners and nonaboriginal learners.

Mr. Berger: My final question to the same minister would be: what mechanisms will you be able to put in place to measure these outcomes, and what kind of follow-up can be done to ensure that these issues will be addressed and acted upon and achieve some real results?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, very good questions. Besides the aforementioned educational council I want to indicate, too, that we as well as federal, provincial, and territorial ministers and aboriginal leaders agreed to establishing an aboriginal affairs working group, the first of its kind. Its purpose will be, in fact, to track these issues. We will again meet in April of 2010, and as soon as possible thereafter we will provide our recommendations and our results to the Prime Minister and to all of the provincial and territorial Premiers. So there are a few mechanisms in place that will keep the system's checks and balances in place.

The Speaker: Hon. members, that was 96 questions and responses today.

Earlier in the afternoon in a blurry-eyed moment I made an error by congratulating the hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration for his fifth anniversary as an elected person. That was an error. He was actually elected in 2001.*

Might we revert briefly to Introduction of Guests?

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests

(continued)

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

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise and introduce a number of very special guests today. To begin with, to you and through you I'd like to introduce to the Assembly Guy Smith, president-elect of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees. AUPE is the largest union in the province, with over 76,000 members serving Albertans in every corner of the province every day of the year.

Guy is here in support of the ongoing campaign to save Alberta Hospital Edmonton and to show his support for the public services and programs that Albertans count on in their everyday lives. With Guy today are nine AUPE members from Alberta Hospital Edmonton, six from the U of A hospital, one more member from Fort

*See page 1903, right column, para. 9

Saskatchewan, and we also have two AUPE employees who have assisted these members in their effort to stop the bed closures at Alberta Hospital Edmonton. This group from AUPE is looking forward to seeing a number of their petitions to save Alberta Hospital Edmonton tabled in the House later this afternoon. I would now ask that Guy Smith along with my other guests rise to receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. Lund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great pleasure for me to introduce to you and to the members of the House the deputy mayor of Sundre, Annette Clews. Annette is the mother of a very accomplished teenager, who represented the Alberta branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Quebec last year at the summer games and came in second in Canada. Allan came in second in his competition in track and field. I would ask Annette to rise and the House to give her the traditional warm welcome.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Concrete Theatre

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to recognize and celebrate the 20th anniversary of Concrete Theatre and, in doing so, to focus on their longest running project, *Are We There Yet?*

Now, Concrete Theatre was formed to carry on the long-standing tradition in Edmonton theatre of social action theatre. *Are We There Yet?* was created by Jane Heather and is an innovative piece of theatre that works in important ways as a teaching tool on sexual health for kids. Thanks to Jane Heather for creating it and to the many actors and directors, stage managers, and designers who have toured the show across Alberta to grade 9 students over the last 11 years.

Are We There Yet? is a successful learning tool for young people as they grapple with a bewildering buffet of sexual images in magazines, online, TV, video games, bus shelter ads, you name it. The Edmonton public school board has done a large research project on this show, and it reinforces that in quantitative and qualitative measures positive, measurable change occurs for both male and female students.

The play's messages about the importance of setting personal boundaries are welcomed by young people. Students reported that they learned to be aware of their own limits, to be cognizant of their partner's boundaries, and to give importance to communication. This has been a very successful and long-running project because it honours kids and gives them information to make good decisions.

I'll give the final words to them. "It helped me realize that people have to respect my body and boundaries." "It made me know to stand up for myself and my limits are my limits and if I don't want to go further, I don't have to." Finally, "Yeah it changed things I would do. It made me more knowledgeable of what to do in those types of situations."

Are We There Yet? is a great example of your success, Concrete Theatre, and I hope more Alberta kids have the opportunity to see the show and learn those valuable life lessons. You've made a very, very positive change in Edmonton and in Alberta. Thank you so much, Concrete Theatre.

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

Stella Calahasen

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 28 I had the real pleasure of being invited to attend a book launch at Audreys Books in Edmonton. It was a pleasure to meet Ms Stella Calahasen, the sister of the wonderful Member for Lesser Slave Lake and the author of the book *Dream Catcher*.

This book is a wonderful and unique interpretation of the aboriginal culture and, in particular, the story of the origin of the dream catcher. This book is a creative tool to learn more about the Cree culture and to help future generations of Cree children retain their language and their culture.

Ms Calahasen was raised as part of the Woodland Cree First Nation, in northern Alberta on the shores of Lesser Slave Lake. With a household of 10 children, six of them girls, her parents were firm believers in the use of storytelling to calm the excitement in the household. This age-old tradition was a favourite of the children and, as her sister, our colleague, says, brought a sense of calmness to the otherwise busy home. Stella Calahasen also believes strongly in passing along these stories to her children about the way of life and language of the Cree people and has captured one of these stories in her book, *Dream Catcher*.

It is great to see a fellow Albertan succeed in writing and publishing her work, and it is especially inspiring to see an aboriginal woman publish a book about her heritage and about the beliefs she holds so dear. It is truly a remarkable feat. Congratulations, Stella, and I look forward to more successes like this one in the future.

Hai, hai, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Strathcona.

2:50

CASA House

Mr. Quest: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm pleased to rise to acknowledge the official opening of CASA House, which I was privileged enough to attend on November 2, 2009. CASA does tremendous work in providing mental health services and is a valued partner to the Alberta government. The new CASA House is located in Sherwood Park, in the hon. Minister of Finance and Enterprise's constituency, and is a state of the art facility that expands adolescent treatment beds from 12 to 20. The new CASA House is owned by Alberta Health Services and is leased to CASA to provide the services.

CASA is a major community-based provider of mental health services for infants, children, adolescents, and their families within the Edmonton zone and from central and northern Alberta. The classroom space is expanded from the current two to four on-site classrooms with the addition of an on-site library provided by Edmonton public schools. Three pods, each with its own living area, will serve as the home environment for adolescents after a day of therapy and school. There is also a full-size gymnasium and a games room.

CASA is staffed by professional and highly skilled teams representing many disciplines, including psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, child care counsellors, teachers, and administrative support staff. CASA provides assessment and treatment services for approximately 3,000 infants, children, and adolescents, from birth to age 18, each year through a continuum ranging from consultation in community outreach settings to very intensive treatment programs. These children, youth, and their families are well served, and indeed our whole society is stronger because of the compassionate intervention of CASA staff.

On behalf of Albertans, I extend our deepest appreciation. Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Livestock Traceability Program

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to highlight the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development's trade mission to Japan and Asia last week and the important work being accomplished under Alberta's livestock traceability program. The BSE crisis in the beef industry and, more recently, the pork industry's experience with 2009 H1N1 influenza A underline the need for traceability. During the minister's federal-provincial trade mission our trading partners once again emphasized that traceability and age verification are the minimum requirements needed to regain access to these important markets. As many of my colleagues know, Alberta's agriculture industry is export oriented. Our ability to compete in the global market is critical to our success. May I congratulate the minister of agriculture on his recent trade mission.

International missions are critical to building relationships. It is a customary protocol to visit the countries you expect to do business with. The opportunity to update our trade partners on the significant progress of our traceability programs and other industry activity is invaluable. We need to make clear that Alberta has safe, high-quality products for Asia's consumers. Alberta's producers are adapting to changing market conditions so that we will be able to take advantage of opportunities to fulfill the growing global demand for traceability and age-verified products.

Mr. Speaker, may I encourage our livestock and meat industry and all of my colleagues to continue supporting traceability. It is essential to the future success and sustainability of the livestock industry in our province.

Thank you very much.

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

Government Policies

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. This government's drop in support is a reflection of the anger and frustration felt by so many Albertans. They are angry because this Premier didn't level with them in the election about plans to drastically alter the health care system. He didn't mention hospital closures, he didn't talk about laying off nurses, he didn't bring up his plans to close mental health beds, and he broke his promise to provide more long-term care beds for Alberta seniors. To top it all off, this government has conducted the most chaotic and disorganized H1N1 vaccination program in the country by far. And the list goes on: bitumen exports, royalties, tuition, child care, and homelessness are all steps along the trail of broken promises. We have seen dramatic jumps in welfare cases and increases in food bank use, the highest increase in the country.

This government is planning on spending \$14 billion on unneeded electricity lines with 100 per cent of the cost borne by power consumers. This move will significantly raise electricity rates, hurting businesses, homeowners, and leaving seniors in the dark. But we're all in the dark, Mr. Speaker, if we think this government will change. While this Premier promised change, he has delivered more of the same. This is a government that consistently gives us smoke and spin and where the truth comes in a brown paper envelope. It remains the most secretive government in Canada. Despite the fact that we have challenged the Premier this week on

four different areas of needed change—health care reform, long-term care beds, bitumen exports, and electricity deregulation—we have received more of the same.

If Albertans truly want change, Mr. Speaker, they must start with changing this PC government.

Presenting Petitions

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

Mr. Doerksen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm presenting a petition today with 54 signatures representing residents of Brooks and area. They ask that the government of Alberta grandfather the rights and status of all currently practising registered massage therapists in Alberta so that they may continue to practise while, when necessary, upgrading to meet newly proclaimed standards of training and to ensure that clients of said therapists will be able to use their insurance coverage to pay for massage services from current massage therapists.

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

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to present a petition today. The petition has roughly 1,000 names from mostly the Calgary area. It says: "We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government to maintain the current policy for distribution of charitable gaming proceeds."

Thank you.

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

Ms DeLong: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to urge the government of Alberta

grandfather the rights and status of all currently-practicing Registered Massage Therapists . . . in Alberta in a manner that they may continue their practice undisturbed and, when necessary, gradually upgrade to newly-proclaimed standards of training, so as not to force current therapists to lose their ongoing income whilst upgrading and so to ensure that clients of said therapists will be able to use their insurance coverage in order to pay for massage services from current therapists.

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

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition which reads:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government to redevelop Alberta Hospital Edmonton as necessary in order to maintain all services, programs, and beds operating as of September 1, 2009 at Alberta Hospital, Edmonton.

Mr. Speaker, this petition has 983 signatures.

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mrs. Sarich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three tablings and the requisite number of copies for each. My first tabling is for the minister's education leadership recognition awards, also known as the MELRA, presentations held for school boards in zone 1 on November 5, 2009.

My second tabling is for the MELRA presentations for zone 5, held on November 6, 2009.

My third and last tabling is for the MELRA presentations held for schools boards in zone 6 on November 9, 2009.

Heartfelt congratulations to all of the leadership teams in the school boards represented by zones 1, 5, and 6.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table five copies of a letter that I received from the Trico Centre, which is located in the beautiful constituency of Calgary-Egmont. It also deals with charitable casino funding and advocates that the current model be maintained. I'll pass five copies to the Clerk.

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

Mr. Sandhu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am presenting five copies of three different documents today. First, I have the Fusion Canada preliminary research report for Fusion North East Edmonton.

Second, I have five copies of the program from the North Edmonton Seniors Association Remembrance Day tea and tribute, that was held on November 10, 2009.

Finally, I have five copies of the program for the Unity Centre of Northeast Edmonton 15th annual silent auction and pub night.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. members, Standing Order 7(7) states: "At 3 p.m. the items in the ordinary daily routine will be deemed to be concluded and the Speaker shall notify the Assembly."

Mr. Mason: I beg unanimous consent to finish the Orders of the Day, Mr. Speaker.

3:00

The Speaker: A request has been made for unanimous consent to waive the standing orders.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: We are going to proceed. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Four tablings today plus one for a colleague. The first is from constituent Sandra Norton, who's commenting on the closure of beds at Alberta Hospital Edmonton and notes that "community mental health care options are needed, but not at the expense of acute care beds." She notes that she works at the Stanley Milner library and sees every day the struggle of some people with little or no help.

The second is from constituent Melissa Dumenko, who's also concerned about the closure of beds at Alberta Hospital Edmonton and says: "The promise of putting into place additional community supports is not enough, additional community supports are required just to meet the existing demand, never mind the additional demand after closing acute care beds."

A letter from Jazz Alcock and Brian Alcock, asking that there be no funding cuts to schools.

An e-mail from Kelsey Gill, also a constituent – sorry, the previous people were as well – noting that he's a 24-year-old university student with huge concerns about the future of this province, which he loves dearly, as well as his own future as a human being with human needs for food and water.

Finally, on behalf of my colleague the Member for Calgary-Currie a tabling from a constituent of his, Lesley Washington. This is a letter directed towards the minister and signed by Lesley Washington, noting that they have been advised since summertime that "the direct to tenant rent supplement has no funds in it to support new applicants."

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the appropriate number of copies of a paper I referred to today in question period prepared for the office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate, which indicates that Bill 50 would result in an overhaul of the transmission system, that AESO's demand forecast is wrong, that Bill 50 will allow critical transmission infrastructure to be built without proper stakeholder involvement, that there's no emergency for load and what little congestion there is for generation is manageable, and that Bill 50 will allow the cabinet to bypass current long-established landowner claims procedures.

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

Mr. Chase: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies of correspondence from Dr. Robert Dickson, Vanessa D'Souza, Evan Goian, Stephen Gordon, Laurel Jackson, Diane Myshchysyn, Carole Jones, Marianna Pankalla, Anne Paul, Reg Paul, Betty Stewart, Jennifer Wicks, and Alysia Yuck, all expressing their concern to the Premier and the Minister of Education and urging the Premier and the minister not to cut funding for schools because Alberta's prosperity depends on knowledge.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacDonald: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table for the benefit of the House information regarding questions that I asked yesterday during question period. This is a spreadsheet with the total salary and benefits of senior executives in Executive Council from the year 2002-03 through to 2008-09. There's almost a doubling of the salary and benefits. Of particular note is the last three fiscal years, where we see a 50 per cent increase in salaries and benefits.

Thank you.

Projected Government Business

The Speaker: The Official Opposition House Leader.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask the Deputy Government House Leader to please share with those in the Chamber the projected government business for the week commencing November 23.

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Zwodzesky: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, November 23, in the afternoon we will proceed with private members' business, and then in the evening and otherwise as per the Order Paper we'll be in second reading on Bill 58, the Corrections Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 59, the Mental Health Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 60, the Health Professions Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 61, the Provincial Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 62, the Emergency Health Services Amendment Act, 2009. Following that, we hope to go to Committee of the Whole on Bill 50, the Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 53, the Professional

Corporations Statutes Amendment Act, 2009; as well as bills 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62.

On Tuesday afternoon we hope to be in Committee of the Whole on Bill 50 and otherwise as per the Order Paper. In the evening we will be in Committee of the Whole on bills 50, 53, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, and then third reading on Bill 53; Bill 56, the Alberta Investment Management Corporation Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 57, the Court of Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009; and bills 58, 59, 60, 61, 62; and otherwise as per the Order Paper.

On Wednesday, November 25, in the afternoon we'll be proceeding with third reading of bills 53, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62 and otherwise as per the Order Paper. In the evening we hope to be in third reading on Bill 50 and otherwise as per the Order Paper.

On Thursday, November 26, in the afternoon we anticipate Royal Assent being given to a number of bills here in the Assembly and otherwise as per the Order Paper.

I will table four copies of this for the Assembly's pleasure as well as copies for the two other parties.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Bill 62

Emergency Health Services Amendment Act, 2009

Mr. Liepert: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to move second reading of Bill 62, the Emergency Health Services Amendment Act, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes when government does the right thing, there ends up being some unintended consequences or some clarification that needs to be made, and that's precisely what this particular bill attempts to do. When we moved our ground ambulance system, emergency medical services, from municipal jurisdiction under the jurisdiction of Alberta Health Services, it then brought these particular employees under the Health Information Act. We have had some situations over the period of time since April 1 where our employees, our paramedics primarily, who are typically the first on scene, are uncertain as to whether or not they can divulge information to police authorities to do an investigation without contravening the Health Information Act.

Really, they are not going to be doing anything differently than they currently are doing. It's just that they now fall under a different act. So what this particular amendment will do is that it will clarify that, in essence, our paramedics should continue to do what they've always done. They should ensure that the information that is sought by our police investigators relative to that incident is not compromised. This is a particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, which I think is very important to ensure that public safety continues to be conducted unimpeded.

I would ask that all members of the House support this particular bill as we move it through the House. With those few comments, Mr. Speaker, I would adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Mr. Mitzel in the chair]

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

Bill 50

Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009

The Deputy Chair: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to this bill? The hon. Minister of Energy.

Mr. Knight: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's a pleasure to rise today to introduce a series of amendments to Bill 50, the Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009. As you know, over the last several months we've been listening to Albertans and considering the feedback that they've provided to us with respect to Bill 50. Most people we have heard from understand the need to upgrade our transmission grid across the province. Most of the people we have heard from understand the need to continue this important work.

Mr. Chairman, am I allowed to continue as the amendments are being distributed?

3:10

The Deputy Chair: Let's pause for a moment while the amendments are being distributed. You proposed the amendments?

Mr. Knight: Yes.

The Deputy Chair: Okay. Just pause for a moment.

Hon. minister, please proceed.

Mr. Knight: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will continue. It's clear that the province has grown tremendously since we last had major upgrades to our grid. Again, I think that most Albertans understand that some work is necessary relative to that very important infrastructure.

But we've also heard, Mr. Chairman, a number of concerns about the magnitude of the projects and costs to consumers. There has been some misunderstanding around the full cost of AESO's long-term plan, which is something that they propose may be done over a large area of the province over a longer term. It includes about \$14 billion worth of work over many years. There's confusion around that and the actual costs of the critical infrastructure that's identified in Bill 50. These amendments, Mr. Chairman, should make it very clear to all Albertans how this critical infrastructure needs to be built, how much it will cost, and what type of infrastructure needs to be built.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, these changes that we propose would also make it clear that there is a role for consumers in monitoring the cost of these projects, and we will also address a concern about the role of the Alberta Utilities Commission in the permit and licensing process.

Mr. Chairman, amendment A makes it clear that the Alberta Utilities Commission is no longer required to do a needs assessment on the critical infrastructure projects identified in Bill 50; B refers to our plan to build these projects in stages as they are needed to meet demand; C establishes the consumer oversight committee that will provide a role for consumers in monitoring the cost of these projects; D refers to staging of specific projects identified in the legislation; and finally, E is linked to A and ensures that the Alberta Utilities Commission will be required to consider the siting of these projects and consider whether the siting of these projects is in the public interest when the AUC is in hearings and the hearing process commences.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I would move that we adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

Bill 56
Alberta Investment Management Corporation
Amendment Act, 2009

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

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate this opportunity to get involved again in the debate on Bill 56, the Alberta Investment Management Corporation Amendment Act, 2009. Certainly, we had an opportunity at second reading to get some issues on the record. Even though it's been classified as just some minor changes, I think it's significant that we are removing from AIMCo the direct advice of the deputy minister of finance. If this bill was to become law, say, three years from now or five years from now, I certainly would support it. In second reading I referred to the Alberta Investment Management Corporation's annual report for 2008-09, but I unfortunately neglected to bring it along to the House. It's quite an interesting read. There are messages from the chair, messages from the CEO. There's a list of the board of directors, which is a very interesting list, very accomplished people. We can, I think, be confident that they are going to do their very best to ensure that our \$69 billion in assets are prudently invested.

Now, whenever AIMCo was created, I believe the hon. minister of finance at the time was a gentleman who's retired now from this House, Dr. Oberg, and there was one report that was tabled before the Assembly to justify creating AIMCo. There were naturally comparisons made to what was going on in other jurisdictions. We had a little discussion on this in second reading, but we need to have another careful examination in committee of what exactly we are proceeding to do here, Mr. Chairman.

Now, when we look at the assets under management, we clearly see that there are endowment funds here, there are pension plans, there are short-term government funds and special-purpose government funds, but it's the pension plans that I would like to specifically address now. We look at other jurisdictions; I'm thinking of Ontario, and I'm thinking of British Columbia. I think it's time to look at perhaps making a suggestion through an amendment to Bill 56 to see if the House would be agreeable to amending this bill to give individuals who have an investment or are planning on retiring at some point and are relying on income, hopefully, for a very long time from one of the pension plans, whether it be the local authorities plan, the public service plan, management employees, special forces, members of the judiciary are in here, the management supplementary retirement plan – there are quite a few plans involved in this. I would like to propose that these plans have some direct influence on who is selected to provide investment advice for them and on their behalf, of course, to and through the board.

Now, other provinces have a similar system. I still feel that we should leave the deputy minister directly involved in this operation for up to a five-year period, and then we can cut those ties formally. But my sense of this: the minister of finance obviously doesn't agree, but we really need to just keep an eye on things very closely until this group gets their legs underneath them.

I know that in the last year and a half for everyone with a financial investment there have been some difficult moments. I look forward with anticipation to I believe it's the 30th of November. Monday, November 30, is the day I'm told that the second-quarter fiscal update will come from the minister of finance, and we can see for ourselves just sort of the recovery that has been made with not only the investments under AIMCo but other financial interests that our government holds.

Mr. Chairman, I would like, if you don't mind, please, to have the pages circulate this proposed amendment to Bill 56. I will finish my remarks after the distribution of this amendment.

Thank you.

3:20

The Deputy Chair: We'll pause for a moment while the pages distribute that amendment. This will be amendment A1.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar to continue.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Now, the amendment that has been circulated for all members reads that Bill 56, Alberta Investment Management Corporation Amendment Act, 2009, be amended in section 2 by adding the following after section 4(1).

- (1.1) Of the individuals appointed under subsection (1)
 - (a) one must have had experience with the Local Authorities Pension Plan Board,
 - (b) one must have had experience with the Public Service Pension Plan Board,
 - (c) one must have had experience with the Special Forces Pension Plan Board, and
 - (d) one must have had experience with the Management Employees Pension Plan Board.

Now, of course, the market value of the pension plans discussed here, Mr. Chairman. For the Local Authorities Pension Plan Board it is \$13.2 billion, for the Public Service Pension Plan Board it is \$4.5 billion, for the Special Forces Pension Plan Board it is \$1.1 billion, and for the Management Employees Pension Plan Board it is \$51 million. Those are four boards that have various amounts of money pooled into AIMCo, and I think it would be prudent to legislate or have a mechanism in place where they could have a direct interest and an eye, naturally, on their investment.

Now, Alberta's pension plans are administered by the Alberta Pensions Services Corporation. The seven statutory pension plans are under the direction of these four pension boards, as I mentioned, and of course the government of the province. Currently the Lieutenant Governor in Council appoints the 11 members of AIMCo's board, who are responsible for the investment decisions of the funds under management. Board members must meet specific qualifications as set out in the regulations as noted below.

It's interesting, Mr. Chairman. The Alberta Investment Management Corporation regulation states that

individuals appointed to the board must have proven and demonstrable experience and expertise in investment management, finance, accounting or law or experience as an executive or a director in a senior publicly traded issuer.

Now, someone may be interested to note that this is quite a distinguished group. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre would described them as august, I think, but I'm just going to say that they're very distinguished because they certainly are, this group. The regulations also state that a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta cannot – cannot – be a member of AIMCo's board.

This amendment as circulated calls for the pension groups under management by AIMCo to be involved in the process of appointing AIMCo's board members. Specifically, this amendment would require the appointment of four board members to AIMCo who have experience with the local authorities pension plan, the public sector pension plan, special forces pension plan, and the management employees pension plan.

A stand-alone provincial corporation to manage Alberta's money is consistent with other jurisdictions such as the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation and the Ontario Teachers'

Pension Plan. There is a difference between how board members are selected, as is highlighted here. Now, there's no requirement for the Deputy Minister of Finance to be a board member of the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation or the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, both of which have the same objectives as independent investment companies such as AIMCo, although, you see, these corporations do have requirements to allow pension groups and other interested parties to be involved in the board appointment process.

It is from this jurisdictional comparison that this amendment to this bill originates, and I think it's a good idea. I talk frequently to retired individuals who live in our constituency, and they have issues, whether retired for five years or 15 years, with their pensions and the administration of their pensions. I think these are important matters. I think they should be addressed through this amendment.

Now, the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation has close to \$75 billion in assets under management. Its clients include public-sector pension plans, the province of British Columbia, publicly administered trust funds, and public bodies. The British Columbia Investment Management Corporation has more specific requirements for who is involved in appointing board members. The board is made up of seven members, four of which are appointed by the four statutory pension plans under management. In British Columbia it's the college pension plan, the public service pension plan, the municipal pension plan, and the teachers' pension plan. The other three are appointed by the Minister of Finance to represent the British Columbia Investment Corporation and other clients.

Now, the following, Mr. Chairman, is from section 19(3) and 19(4) of the British Columbia public-sector pension plan, under which the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation is legislated. As I said, there are seven directors,

- (a) one director appointed by the college board from among its members;
- (b) one director appointed by the municipal board from among its members;
- (c) one director appointed by the public service board from among its members;
- (d) one director appointed by the teachers' board from among its members.

You can see where they're doing things slightly differently than what we had originally started in this province, but I think it would be in the interests of many individuals across this province who at some point are going to rely, if they are not already doing so, on one of our pension plans that I had mentioned earlier.

With that, I would certainly encourage this amendment, for hon. members to give it consideration. I think it's a good amendment to this bill. We've outlined our concerns. This is something that I think we can do to ensure that people as they retire and those who already are retired can have confidence in the investment proceeds of the sometimes significant pools of money that are available. We need to ensure that these pools of money grow and that there are pension and pension benefits for those who are eligible.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, to amendment A1.

Dr. Taft: Thanks very much, Mr. Chairman. I think this is a really good amendment. I think this is an amendment that rises above partisan considerations. I would ask all of the government members here to have a read because this amendment would bring AIMCo in line with the practice in other provinces. It would improve accountability because it would connect some of the management board of

AIMCo more directly to the mandates of some of the funds they're managing. There's nothing here unreasonable; there's nothing here out of line. This is a good idea.

3:30

I think it's worth repeating the point that the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation, which is their equivalent of AIMCo, has almost \$75 billion in assets, so it's actually quite similar to AIMCo. Its board is comprised of representatives of various pension plans that are connected to the fund, and they have a mechanism that allows a diversity of appointments to the board of the B.C. Investment Management Corporation. I won't go into the details of that; I think the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, who sponsored this amendment, has spoken to that. As well, the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan has a number of members from various interests on their board. So they're not just appointed unilaterally at the whim of cabinet or a minister. They're appointed because they are representing a specific pension fund and have got an interest and roots in a specific pension fund.

One of the concerns I have with the AIMCo board is the same concern I have with all kinds of these government boards that this particular government sets up. All the board members are appointed at the whim of the minister and the cabinet, and we end up with the same people getting appointed to the board. [interjection] I'm getting distracted by one of my colleagues here.

Mr. Liepert: Tell him to behave.

Dr. Taft: Yeah. He's misbehaving here.

I think there's a real problem when we have such centralized control of all of the boards. I think that, in fact, it increases our risks of mismanagement. It doesn't diversify decision-making. It doesn't bring in multiple views, which we tend to think is a good idea on this perspective, and in this particular case it doesn't enhance accountability. In fact, the people on the board don't necessarily have any commitment, other than their paycheque, to the performance of the funds that they are managing.

So I'd urge government members to take a serious look at this amendment. This is eminently reasonable. It's a way to improve the governance of AIMCo and make sure that the assets of the people whose retirement depends on how this fund is managed are actually looked after. With those supportive comments, Mr. Chairman, I'll cede the floor to somebody else.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Any other members wish to speak to the amendment? The hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

Mr. Hehr: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's an honour and a privilege to rise and speak to this amendment, an amendment that I also feel is very good for many of the reasons that have already been given. So I shall be relatively brief here.

If we look at the way the current AIMCo board is set up, it is made up of 11 members, all of very high stature in the investment community. They have achieved certain levels of expertise and, I believe, are qualified for those roles in a very good way that's referenced by their qualifications. Where I think this amendment will add to a balance of this board is that some of the people with some skin in the game, shall we say, will also be represented at the table. And by "skin in the game" I mean people who have worked long and hard and contributed pension dollars to this fund. By adding, as I believe the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar has suggested, a member from the local authorities pension plan, a

member from the public service pension plan, a member from the special forces pension plan, and a member with the experience of the Management Employees Pension Plan Board, I believe you do have people with skin in the game, people who will be having an extra eye on the ball, shall we say, in looking after their members' investments going forward for they've put their hard work, blood, sweat, and tears into saving this money. That's why I think this is a great amendment.

It also brings us in line with what some other provinces are doing in the country, mainly British Columbia and Ontario, which appear to have successful models that recognize that multiple viewpoints are a good thing to have, with multiple levels of checks and balances put into place that allow for additional accountability. Like I said, I think it's important for people with skin in the game, so to speak, to be at the table to see what their money is doing, to hold their investment advisors to account and ask those difficult questions.

Hey, I think the 11 people that we've appointed to the board are excellent people. Just having some extra accountability there would be a good thing. I believe this would be not too difficult a thing to accomplish.

I commend the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar for making this amendment and thinking of what could make our AIMCo board more accountable and run in a better fashion, especially for those people who have put their money and their assets into that pool of money along with the government.

I thank you for allowing these comments to be made. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

The Deputy Chair: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, on the amendment.

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to rise and make a few comments with respect to the amendment to Bill 56. The amendment I think does a good thing in the sense that it adds a number of positions on the board or focuses the positions on the board on people who have experience with managing the investments relative to public pensions. I think that pensions are a good example of the kind of investment approach we need for the government's assets of billions of dollars of money. In other words, with very large amounts of money you take a long-term view, you're cautious, and you're prudent. That model is used for the investment of pensions, and it's the appropriate model, I think, for the government's investments.

I have a lot of problems with how AIMCo has been established, Mr. Chairman, because, you know, I'm very concerned that the government seems to think that if you get high-rolling, high-risk investors involved in the management of the government's finances, you're going to do a lot better. They have this, I guess, orientation towards high-risk capitalism, that I don't think is appropriate for the public investments and the magnitude that we've seen under the responsibility of AIMCo.

The big problem, I think, is that the act as a whole eliminates the deputy minister as a participant on the board. Now, this is not addressed by this amendment. Maybe it should be, or maybe it's just so contrary to the intent of the act that it might not be in order. Nevertheless, I think it's critical because the minister will now have the same reporting relationship with the AIMCo board that she does with her deputy minister. There will be no opportunity for the finance administration to provide the minister with oversight and information. Now, this may be partly compensated by putting some good board members with pension experience on it. It may compensate for that basic problem or basic flaw. I think that the minister without the support of her department and the senior officials is ill

equipped to oversee the AIMCo board. I think that in that sense the bill is a mistake. I'm not sure that the amendment deals with that particular flaw in the bill, or perhaps it couldn't, but it would strengthen the board, in my view, to do this.

3:40

One of the things that I have experienced in my time in municipal government, Mr. Chairman, is that whenever you appoint a bunch of businesspeople, executives and so on, to manage something that was previously part of the public service, they take a different view of how things are managed. I know a lot of the Conservatives over here in this House think that, you know, if you could just put businesspeople in charge of the operations of government, it would all be run more efficiently, and the taxpayer would get more bang for their buck.

I don't think that that's actually true. In my experience one of the first things that happens when you appoint a bunch of businesspeople to a board to take over a function of government is that you immediately lose control of your compensation costs. In fact, we've already seen this. The top two AIMCo executives have received \$5 million in compensation, and that is in the same year that they lost 17 per cent on the investments. That's a problem. So I have a fundamental issue with the approach.

I would prefer to see investment people who are responsible to a board that has more input and control from the department of finance than we have. But I do think, Mr. Chairman, that in the sense that we can strengthen the board by adding people who have previous experience managing pensions, it's a good thing.

So I'm prepared to support this amendment, and I urge all other members to do so as well.

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Chairman, I think that if you look at Bill 56 and the discussion about the 11 members, it doesn't preclude any of the people that they're talking about or individuals that may have had experience with the local authorities pension plan. It doesn't preclude any of those people. I think we need to keep in mind that AIMCo needs to be independent, needs to have the opportunity to make investments based on sound financial management practices. I think that if you start to load up a board – and I can accept some of the arguments, some of the discussion about people with skin in the game, but you also don't want to have conflicting skin in the game. I mean, if you make an investment that's good, does that become special forces pension? I mean, I've been around an auction market, and I know that when you buy a bad pen of calves, you don't take them home. So let's not put people in positions where they are in a conflict.

Now, the simple fact is that you have to have a board that has a sole objective ahead of it. I don't want to get into great philosophical differences, but they're there for one reason. They're there to manage your investments; they're there to make you money for your retirement. That's what it's all about. That's it in a nutshell. So pick the best people you can get, put them on the board, and let them do their job. That's what the intent of the bill is. I've said that it doesn't preclude any of the people they've described in the amendment, but the amendment isn't necessary.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. MacDonald: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly, I appreciate the remarks and the participation of the hon. President of the Treasury Board. I understand what he's stating, but if we compare ourselves to B.C., the fact that we have a \$69 billion or a

\$70 billion fund here that we're talking about, all told, and B.C. has a \$75 billion fund, there's not much difference. They started their fund in this way before we did. We were sort of modelled off them, from what I can remember of what Dr. Oberg had said in this House. But I'm specifically thinking of an individual who lives in our constituency and who has been retired for some time with a public-sector pension plan. This gentleman has some issues around that plan, its governance, its direction. In fact, in some parts of this city and across this province there are groups of retired individuals who are seeking relief through legal action for some of the outstanding issues that they have.

I have, as I said before, confidence in the individuals. We have the chairman of this board, a gentleman named Charles Baillie from the Toronto-Dominion Bank, and he's currently chancellor of Queen's University, president of the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Dr. Taft: A big supporter of public health care.

Mr. MacDonald: Someone said he is a big supporter of public health care, which is just an excellent thing to hear.

The vice-chair is George Gosbee from Calgary, president and the CEO of Tristone Capital. We have Clive Beddoe, chief executive officer of WestJet, a fine airline, very well managed, in my opinion. It's my airline of choice if I can get a ticket on it. David Bissett is the founder of Bissett Investment Management, which is now a division of Franklin Templeton Investments. This individual has a law degree from Dalhousie University. Virginia Holmes is a former chief executive officer of AXA Investment Managers Limited in London, United Kingdom. International experience.

We have Daryl Katz, the founder and chief executive officer and chairman of the Katz Group. He's also a member of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, has a law degree from the local University of Alberta, and, I'm proud to say, is the owner of the Oilers. I wish him well. He's no different than anyone else. He's always looking for those big power forwards. They're hard to find, and whenever you do find one, you've got to pay them a lot. Frank Layton, QC, currently is counsel with Bennett Jones, again is a graduate of the University of Alberta. Andrea S. Rosen, vice-chair of the TD Bank Financial Group; Mac Van Wielingen, ARC Financial Corp.; and, of course, a board member who I think would be coming off, Mr. Tim Wiles, Deputy Minister of Alberta Finance and Enterprise. We deal as Public Accounts members with Mr. Wiles frequently, and he is an able and capable individual.

When we look at this group and we look at the suggestion we are making and we look at the amount of money that some of the retired individuals have, what's at stake for them, to have their interests at the table I don't think is unreasonable, nor is it unusual, Mr. Chairman. When we look at AIMCo to date and we have a look at what the Auditor General has to say, yes, you look surprised, but the Auditor General devoted considerable attention to the governance of AIMCo in his report that he released in October.

We all know that the corporation started in 2008, the first day of the year, and it was to provide investment management services to various Alberta public-sector pensions and endowment funds and special purpose funds, as I said earlier. But it's the public-sector pensions and those that are planning on or are using those pensions now that we have to consider, and hopefully that's what we're going to do with this amendment.

Now, the Auditor had a lot to say about risk management and the new management's new approach. I'm going to quote directly here from the Auditor's report, Mr. Chairman. This is quite relevant, with due respect to the chair. We're talking about control on AIMCo, and we are talking about increasing the control through this

amendment and making the board even more responsive to those who are going to benefit from this, not just the taxpayers but individuals, as I said before, who are planning on retiring and are relying on that money or who are already retired from the public sector.

3:50

When we look at that, Mr. Chairman, we look at what Mr. Dunn has to say.

As we were auditing internal control systems in the latter part of 2008-2009, the new management at AIMCo was assessing the quality of those systems and by means of a new business plan, identifying the areas of its business that needed a new approach in terms of management and control. By the spring of 2009, subsequent our audit, AIMCo began to introduce new risk management processes. In our opinion, the improvements under way will significantly strengthen the controls that AIMCo needs to manage its business.

That's very good. That is a form of control, and that is an improvement. This amendment is an improvement, and it's control as well because the public-sector pensions have a lot at stake here.

Now, the Auditor goes on with other areas of improvement that he notes in his report. He talks about enterprise risk management, derivative risk management, derivative credit risk monitoring, the corporate bond credit screening process, the internal audit, the recommendations. The Auditor is suggesting: "We recommend that AIMCo re-establish an Internal Audit [committee]." The word "re-establish" certainly caught my eye when I initially read this report. There is nothing the matter with scrutiny and openness and transparency, and I'm not suggesting for a minute that AIMCo won't have openness and transparency.

The first annual report is titled *The Start of Something Big*. We've got a ginger-haired young man here with a tree. I can only assume that this photograph is taken in Alberta, I think down by Canmore somewhere. It's the start of something big. What we can do with this amendment, this small change to the bill, is provide a form of control for public-sector employees who are now retired or who are going to retire in the future. They can have a direct say in the operations of their pension money. I don't think it's unusual, nor is it an unreasonable request.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Any other members wish to speak on the amendment? The hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

Mr. Hehr: Well, thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me to speak again on the amendment, and I do appreciate the hon. minister of the Treasury Board adding his participation to the debate. I understand a little bit of his reason and rationale for trying to get the 11 best people who are talented in the area of investments, hiring them, and letting them to do the best they can with making your money. It does hold some rationale to it.

I guess, you know, a comparison can be made to the early '90s, when Ed Johnston was the coach and general manager of the Pittsburgh Penguins. He had Jaromír Jágr, Mario Lemieux, Kevin Stevens, Larry Murphy, and Paul Coffey on his power play, and he'd put them on the ice. I remember an interview after a game when they didn't do very well. They said, "Coach, are you going to tell them to go practise the power play?" Coach Eddie Johnston said: "Those are five of maybe the seven or eight best players in the world out there. If they don't know how to score a goal on the power play, how the heck am I going to teach them?"

I understand that sort of rationale. It's sort of the rationale that the hon. minister of the Treasury Board was using. You find your 11

best players, give them a puck, and tell them to go out there and score a goal for the Alberta people. I understand that. But what this amendment is trying to do here is have a little bit more substance and control. Sometimes your 11 best players can get so concentrated on scoring that goal and so hell-bent on winning that game that they maybe forget some of the principles of why they're there. I'm not saying that that would necessarily happen in this case. As the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar said, the amendment adds some people there – the local authorities pension plan, the Public Service Pension Plan Board, the Special Forces Pension Plan Board, and the Management Employees Pension Plan Board – some people with some additional experience who have run pensions, who have some skin in the game, like I mentioned earlier, who can sort of be an additional tool or a resource or a sounding board, shall we say, to some of the investment ideas put forward by the 11 members.

I, too, like the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, know they're tremendously talented individuals. I know I was at the MAX awards recently, awards by the University of Calgary recognizing entrepreneurship and leadership in the financial markets. George Gosbee was the winner of that award. Interestingly, George and I actually went to school with each other from grade 3 on, so I know of the tremendous talent and success he has had and of both the competence and ability he has.

You know, we're not challenging the credibility of the people who are on the board. We just think that this is an additional layer of a sort of scrutiny, almost a sober second thought that allows for some other people with some other ideas and some people who have worked very hard or people who have knowledge of what their people have done to get the money into a position to be invested.

Those are my comments, and I thank you again. I encourage all members of this House to support this very good amendment by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

The Deputy Chair: Any other members wish to speak on amendment A1?

[Motion on amendment A1 lost]

The Deputy Chair: On the bill, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview.

Dr. Taft: Yes, specifically on the bill, Mr. Chairman. I think it's worth noting that this piece of legislation follows on the heels of the controversy concerning AIMCo's investment in Precision Drilling and the concern that there is perceived to be government meddling in that decision. Whether there was or not, this is about dealing with a perception. I think this is a way, in a manner of speaking, of the government distancing itself from the board of AIMCo. There are pros and cons to that. I think we need to be careful that the government doesn't distance itself so far that it stops being responsible and accountable, but at the same time we do all agree that we don't want political meddling.

I think it is regrettable that the amendment brought forward by the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar didn't get any serious attention from the government because that was another way of ensuring accountability in AIMCo, of ensuring that decisions were made for the right reasons, and, frankly, of putting in place the mechanisms that separated the political connections from AIMCo. When you look at the board of directors of AIMCo now, if this piece of legislation moves through, the deputy minister won't be there. How many of those members of the board of directors are active supporters of the PC Party? Certainly, some of them are. Some of them are

donors. Some of them have donated quite a lot of money. I think it's very regrettable for everybody concerned that the perception is going to be there that, you know, one of the ways to get on the board of AIMCo is to be well connected politically. That's not what we want for AIMCo. What we want is a formula for bringing forward members of the board that makes them completely independent of political meddling.

4:00

I think this bill should go a lot farther. I think it's a modest step. I think it's probably motivated purely by political butt-covering. But sometimes the right things happen for questionable reasons, so I'll leave it at that and wish AIMCo management and the board all the best because they've got an enormous responsibility.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Are you ready for the question on Bill 56?

Hon. Members: Question.

[The clauses of Bill 56 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

The Deputy Chair: Shall the bill be reported? Are you agreed?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: Opposed? That's carried.

Bill 57

Court of Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009

The Deputy Chair: The hon. Member for Lethbridge-West.

Mr. Weadick: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a pleasure today to stand up and speak to Bill 57, the Court of Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009. I'm pleased and encouraged by the debate so far, and I look forward to this discussion during Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chair, Bill 57 is legislation that will help increase the efficiency of the justice system. Through the amendments of this bill Court of Queen's Bench justices will be able to hear some of the same applications that justices of the peace and provincial court judges can hear now, reducing the amount of time needed for law enforcement to apply for warrants to two different justices.

Right now for warrants authorizing the use of a tracking device or a number recorded under part 15 of the Criminal Code, law enforcement must make application to a provincial court judge or a justice of the peace. But certain applications under part 6 of the Criminal Code for other types of warrants, like applications for wiretaps, can only be made to a justice of the Court of Queen's Bench. In some cases warrants are needed under both parts of the Criminal Code, so law enforcement must make multiple applications to different courts. When this happens, more court time is used, more man-hours are used by law enforcement, two different decision-makers must become familiar with the documentation, which is typically lengthy and complex in these kinds of applications.

Mr. Chair, Bill 57 would give Court of Queen's Bench justices the same jurisdiction as justices of the peace in the cases I've described. Reducing the number of applications law enforcement need to make in complex investigations that involve multiple warrants saves court time, saves law enforcement time, and allows warrants in these cases to be obtained, where appropriate, in a more timely fashion. The Court of Queen's Bench Amendment Act will help to increase the

effectiveness and the efficiency of our already very busy justice system, ensuring that more resources are available for Albertans.

I thank all the hon. members for their support so far and urge all members to support this important legislation. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: The hon. Member for Calgary-*Buffalo*.

Mr. Hehr: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I'd like to thank the sponsor of the bill, the hon. Member for Lethbridge-*West*, for bringing this forward as it looks like it will both ease the administration of justice and streamline the process in order for justice to be served more readily and speedily on Alberta's streets. This will likely have an almost entirely positive effect on the administration of warrant applications. Allowing members of the Court of Queen's Bench to hear these applications will undoubtedly streamline the current process.

It's important to note that this change was made after careful consultation within the judiciary, who are supportive of the proposed changes to the warrant application process. In addition, similar measures have been used to harmonize the warrant application process in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. Like I said, as the government has done a good job here in communicating with the judiciary, who have given their blessing to these amendments, who am I to stand in their way?

I'd like to again commend the government for moving on streamlining these applications. Hopefully, this will go to better serve the administration of justice.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

The Deputy Chair: Any other members wish to speak?

[The clauses of Bill 57 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

The Deputy Chair: Shall the bill be reported? Are you agreed?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: Opposed? That is carried.

The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Zwozdesky: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would move that the committee now rise and report progress on Bill 50, the Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, and report Bill 56, the Alberta Investment Management Corporation Amendment Act, 2009, and Bill 57, the Court of Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Mitzel in the chair]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member for Little Bow.

Mr. McFarland: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain bills. The committee reports the following bills: Bill 56, Bill 57. The committee reports progress on the following bill: Bill 50. I wish to table copies of all amendments considered by the Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

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

Hon. Members: Concur.

The Acting Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.

Government Bills and Orders
Second Reading
(continued)

Bill 58
Corrections Amendment Act, 2009

[Adjourned debate November 3: Mr. Griffiths]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-*Buffalo*.

Mr. Hehr: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour and a privilege to rise and speak to Bill 58 as proposed by the hon. Member for Battle River-*Wainwright*. This bill follows initial changes to the act that permit correctional facilities in Alberta to monitor inmate communications, which were previously only telephone based, which passed third reading on December 4, 2007.

This bill will further enhance law enforcement's capability to enable passive recording of inmate communication, which will be stored in a database, not to be listened to unless there are reasonable grounds to do so. Information that appears to threaten an individual or the safety of the facility staff or that is related to a crime or potential crime would be included in these reasonable grounds. Otherwise, privileged conversations will remain privileged; for example, conversations between an inmate and an attorney.

If we look at this bill in its entirety, it is not without, again, some pushes and pulls to where the debate goes. I think the bill does do a decent job of trying to balance public security while recognizing both a person's right to have some personal time with their lawyer as well as a right to communications which shouldn't be listened to. You can see that the amendment allows for the ability of our justice system to listen in on the communications of prisoners. It has been established by the Supreme Court that prisoners already have a lowered expectation of privacy. This being the case, I think this bill genuinely balances public concern for inmates, people who have had difficulty with the law and are continuing to have them, I guess, through informants or otherwise, or for people who are coming into communication with them to continue nefarious deeds.

4:10

Now, I don't know how prevalent this is, but I'm assuming that since other jurisdictions in the province have done so – and the Supreme Court did make that ruling that there is a lessened expectation of privacy by prisoners – that this is somewhat to be expected.

I am somewhat concerned – and I wasn't able to fit an amendment into the language – that some people who may be caught by this bill are people who are going to be spending time in our facilities and are not actually guilty of a crime yet. That is worrisome for me. It is worrisome for me from the standpoint of the basis of innocent till proven guilty, that these people, until such time as they are guilty, should not have their conversations recorded.

Now, that being said, I am in favour, once that has passed, of inmates having their conversations at least passively recorded so that if there are situations where there's a reasonable suspicion of them, then if necessary to stop a crime or to stop the planning of a crime, these tapes can be played to find out if those suspicions were warranted. Again, we're dealing with a very delicate balance here between, I guess, protection of society as well as the ability for people to listen in on what are private communications. I know that some others have some opinions on this.

However, at this point in time I'm prepared to support this bill. I wish there was a mechanism to hive out those people who haven't been found guilty of a crime, and maybe there's a way that the government could look at doing this. But right now, in order to err on the side of safety, I'm willing to say that this bill for me represents at least a moderate step that tries to balance these difficult issues in the name of public safety.

I thank you very much for allowing me to have the opportunity to speak. I'm certain we'll hear from others on this bill. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague, who as the official critic for this area in our caucus sort of sets the tone and the direction that caucus would go in. It's very kind of him to allow me to contradict him, well, at least to push back a little bit.

I have spent a lot of time becoming familiar, or at least trying to, with the amount of surveillance that we have in our society now. Generally, that sort of monitoring, let's call it, tends to fall into two areas. One is marketing, and one is surveillance. You know, they've now got those chips that they put in your clothing when you buy them, and when you go out and you walk by the store that sells that kind of apparel next time, they know that you're walking by in one of their outfits, and they can phone your cellphone and ask you to pop in because there's a sale on that kind of jacket that you like. Those are called radio frequency identifiers. That's right: RFIDs. So there are lots of ways for sort of putting something on somebody and monitoring their activities or their movement.

As I say, some of it's used for marketing. You know, you have a choice as an individual to say, "No, I'm not going to pop in and buy that jacket because I have another one like it" although it can be pretty persuasive, and there are lots of studies out there and many PhDs have been earned on advertising and the effect of it. Let's face it: it's successful.

The second kind of monitoring you get is surveillance, and I have a lot more trouble with this. I prefer to think of most of our citizens as pretty law abiding, pretty decent people who are just trying to get about their own lives. I understand that there are people that are not law abiding and are not trying to get on with their lives; they're trying to take something from mine. But I think that when we have a technology that is advancing so fast on us that we cannot keep up with it, we've got to be very careful when we pass legislation that gives pretty unfettered control to any government or any body of authority to be able to use monitoring methods on parts of our population. It can get away from us pretty quickly and move far beyond what the legislation anticipated before we could even get in here in some cases and get the legislation back up to deal with it. This is an ongoing argument, but most of us have not lost the right to privacy.

I would argue that even going about your life in a public place should not make you subject to surveillance by authority figures. I don't think it's right that there are cameras in some areas. It's not the taking of the image. See, people always say: well, if you've done nothing wrong, you've got nothing to be afraid of; what's your problem with it? Well, you may well have done nothing wrong, but you may not be in the room when that information is interpreted. You may not have the opportunity to pop up and say: actually, my boss knew that I was out on the street at 2 o'clock in the afternoon going for a coffee at Tim Hortons. The person's wife may not know why they were out in the afternoon going to Tim Hortons at 2

o'clock, and there could be problems there. That individual doesn't get to be in the room when that data is interpreted, and that's a big part of the problem.

I think we've had a couple of changes here. To me they look like they're interlocking or they could interlock. We've had a change in the way our new remand centre is being built, the new remand centre that's in north Edmonton in which, in fact, there will be no direct, face-to-face meetings between inmates and anyone except for their legal representatives. All communication – and I'm making those finger quotation marks again – all of that communication will fall under this bill. Their MLA could go out to visit somebody that's an inmate in a remand centre and will now be also included, also captured, in that monitoring of whatever that inmate is doing because they're not a legal representative, and the only one that's cut out of this or set aside is their legal representative. We're now setting up a remand centre in Edmonton in which all of that communication could be and I'm sure will be captured under this bill, and I think that's problematic.

I think the fact that you're dealing with people who are in a remand centre who are not convicted in a court of law – and that's the dividing line we make. I will point out yet again that a very high proportion of the people that we have in remand centres are people who are dealing with a mental illness and did not have an address. That is why they end up in the remand centre, because one of the criteria is: do you have a fixed address where we can come and find you?

If you're homeless or you're out on the streets for a mental illness . . . [interjection] Well, it will get much worse with Alberta Hospital releasing a number of people, and they're trying to move them into the community because as soon as they go off their meds, they don't return home to their group home, et cetera, et cetera. They're out in the street. They get picked up for vagrancy. Guess what? No fixed address. Yahoo. You're in the remand centre, and any communication that you have with your social worker, with your family member, all of that now is going to be done by video conferencing, where they can monitor it, all of which is subject to this act.

Right there that technology has already moved ahead of what I see being talked about in the debate around this bill. Now, maybe the government is very aware of it. Maybe they planned this. Okay. Fair enough. But fess up that you intended to do this. I think it's wrong that the taping of family members that are visiting people that are not convicted – they are remanded; they're not an offender – are subject to this taping.

4:20

As well, we have to be very careful with the implementation of something like this that we don't subject 90 per cent of the people in order to catch 10 per cent of them. And we do that a lot, where we put in legislation that is going to cover a whole bunch of people. We're just trying to get at a smaller percentage that we're trying to catch, but we cast that net wide enough to catch everybody. I think that's wrong of government to be treating their citizens as though they've done something wrong and subjecting them to that kind of surveillance. And it's surveillance.

There are no limits in this act on how long that surveillance can go on, how long the information is kept, and who is going to look at the information. When I say information, I'm covering what they call communication in this act. A number of these clauses are exactly the same as what we had before, but they were specific to telephone calls. Now "telephone calls" has been removed. Let me give you an example:

that the telephone calls are or will be made to a victim as defined in section 14.3(1) or to another person who would be likely to consider the telephone calls intimidating or threatening.

Okay. That same section reappears as:

that the inmate communication is or will be made to a victim as defined in section 14.3(1) or to another person who would be likely to consider the inmate communication intimidating or threatening.

So the telephone call stuff has been taken out. It's identical except for now we call it communication, and that's repeated in almost all of the clauses that are in this bill. All of the old stuff, telephone calls out, communication in. That covers everything. That covers e-mails. That covers video conferencing. It covers Skype. It covers voice over Internet protocol. It covers every kind of communication that that person's involved with. I mean, an argument could be made that it covers your tattoos because that's a form of communication in saying who you are and what you do. I know I'm getting some funny looks, but it's true. Communication: tattoos would cover for that in some places.

There are no limitations put on how much of this information is going to be collected on an individual, how long it's kept, for whom, who looks at it, who gets to interpret it. Can this pop up 25 years from now in a different trial being used out of context for somebody? Don't know. I have trouble with this bill as a result of that.

I understand that we have a huge problem with gangs now and that we are struggling, casting about trying to find ways to control gang activity and that gang culture inside of our prisons from operating inside of our prisons and remand centres the same way it operates outside. I understand that, and I agree that we need to test a lot of different models to try and find what is the best thing for that. But I'm not sure that this bill does this. I think that in trying to deal with the gang problem, we've thrown a net way too wide and captured far too many other people with a technology that we can't control and that is moving so fast that limitations we fail to put in this act could cause us deep problems down the road. I think it was probably a good idea at the time, but there wasn't enough scrutiny and thought that went into this.

I appreciate what the member for Calgary-Buffalo has said and his comments on it. He is the lawyer; I'm not. You know, he has signalled to our caucus that we should be supportive of this bill, but I want to put my concerns on the record while we are talking about the principle of this bill because I think the principle may be all right, but the implementation of it as described in this act is deeply flawed.

There were a couple of criteria that were in place previously that don't appear anymore. Before what we had was: "Subject to the regulations, the director of a correctional institution may direct . . . where the director believed on reasonable grounds." Those three have now disappeared and don't appear as a trio together again, where all three criteria must be met. It's down to two in most cases and one in some cases. I think we are creating some problems here for ourselves. We're disrespecting our public, and we need to put some limitations on that kind of surveillance.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to that. I appreciate it very much. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Do any other members wish to speak?

[Motion carried; Bill 58 read a second time]

Bill 59

Mental Health Amendment Act, 2009

[Adjourned debate November 3: Dr. Sherman]

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

Dr. Taft: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'll keep my comments ever so brief in light of the time of day. This piece of legislation is an adjustment that I think is part of a very important process for helping us as a society come to terms with how we manage people with mental illness. It's a complicated issue. There's not going to be any final, perfect solution to how we deal with it. But it's, in my view, a bill that's taking steps that need to be taken and that are worth considering, so I think we should move this bill along.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms Blakeman: I don't. But I didn't the first time, so I'm just being consistent. I will take the opportunity of this bill in Committee in the Whole to be able to draw out some of the concerns that I see repeated here and allow it to go through second reading today. But I hope that it stays in Committee of the Whole without being rushed through with unseemly haste next week so that I do get an opportunity to speak to it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 59 read a second time]

Bill 60

Health Professions Amendment Act, 2009

[Adjourned debate November 3: Mr. Quest]

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

Dr. Taft: Well, Mr. Speaker, we considered filibustering on this one, but I don't think we will.

I think this is, again, part of a larger process that we're aware of, expanding the role of health professions, recognizing that the nature of health care delivery is rapidly evolving with midwifery, acupuncture, and so on. I'll keep my comments to that because I think we want to move this along before we run out of time this afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 60 read a second time]

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

Mr. Zwozdesky: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been another invigorating afternoon of great debate and great ideas and suggestions. In that mode and in that vein, I would therefore move that we call it 4:30 and adjourn the House until 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:28 p.m. to Monday at 1:30 p.m.]

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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., passed)
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., passed)
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., passed)
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., passed)
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)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 26, 2009; SA 2009 c11]
- 5 Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (Griffiths)**
First Reading -- 17 (Feb. 11 aft., passed)
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., passed)
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)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c12]

- 7 Public Health Amendment Act, 2009 (Liepert)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft., passed)
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)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c13]
- 8 Feeder Associations Guarantee Act (\$) (Groeneveld)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft., passed)
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., passed)
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)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 26, 2009; SA 2009 c9]
- 10 Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act (Dallas)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft., passed)
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.), 980-83 (May 5 aft.), 1118-20 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1407-08 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 cS-23.5]
- 11 Fisheries (Alberta) Amendment Act, 2009 (VanderBurg)**
First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 11 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 362-63 (Mar. 11 aft.), 891-92 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 983 (May 5 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1408-09 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c22]
- 12 Surface Rights Amendment Act, 2009 (Berger)**
First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 11 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 383-85 (Mar. 12 aft.), 892-95 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1120-21 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1409 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c31]
- 13 Justice of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009 (Redford)**
First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 11 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 385 (Mar. 12 aft.), 895 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1121-22 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1409 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c27]
- 14 Carbon Capture and Storage Funding Act (\$) (Knight)**
First Reading -- 138 (Feb. 19 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 208-10 (Mar. 3 aft.), 884-89 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 921-22 (Apr. 30 aft.), 1114-18 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1409-11 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 cC-2.5]
- 15 Dunvegan Hydro Development Act (Oberle)**
First Reading -- 105-06 (Feb. 18 aft., passed)
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., passed)
Second Reading -- 385-86 (Mar. 12 aft.), 919-20 (Apr. 30 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1122 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1411 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 1, 2009; SA 2009 c30]
- 17 Securities Amendment Act, 2009 (Fawcett)**
First Reading -- 106 (Feb. 18 aft., passed)
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)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 26, 2009; SA 2009 c14]
- 18* Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Implementation Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Stevens)**
First Reading -- 161 (Mar. 2 aft., passed)
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., passed)
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)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 cL-2.5]
- 20 Civil Enforcement Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 161 (Mar. 2 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 767 (Apr. 22 aft.), 1265 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1329 (May 26 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1412 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c18]
- 21 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2009 (\$) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 283 (Mar. 9 aft., passed)
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., passed)
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., passed)
Second Reading -- 735 (Apr. 21 aft.), 1195 (May 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1329-30 (May 26 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1527-28 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force January 1, 2010; SA 2009 c29]
- 24 Animal Health Amendment Act, 2009 (Griffiths)**
First Reading -- 303 (Mar. 10 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 735-36 (Apr. 21 aft.), 969-70 (May 5 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1246 (May 25 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1412 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c17]

- 25 Teachers' Pension Plans Amendment Act, 2009 (\$) (Evans)**
First Reading -- 283 (Mar. 9 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 767 (Apr. 22 aft.), 970-72 (May 5 aft.), 1105-06 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1167-69 (May 13 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1447-49 (Jun. 1 eve., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force September 1, 2009, with exceptions; SA 2009 c32]
- 26* Wildlife Amendment Act, 2009 (Mitzel)**
First Reading -- 303 (Mar. 10 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 736 (Apr. 21 aft.), 1265-68 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1330-31 (May 26 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1412-13 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c36]
- 27* Alberta Research and Innovation Act (\$) (Horner)**
First Reading -- 466 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 767-69 (Apr. 22 aft.), 1003-06 (May 6 aft.), 1094-98 (May 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1170-73 (May 13 eve.), 1229-40 (May 25 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1507-10 (Jun. 2 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 cA-31.7]
- 28 Energy Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (McFarland)**
First Reading -- 467 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 769-70 (Apr. 22 aft.), 1006-07 (May 6 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1246-49 (May 25 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1413 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009, with exceptions; SA 2009 c20]
- 29 Family Law Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 401 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 851-52 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1268-69 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1358-60 (May 27 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1528 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c21]
- 30 Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2009 (Drysdale)**
First Reading -- 401 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 736-37 (Apr. 21 aft.), 1269-73 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1360-63 (May 27 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1528-30 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009, with exceptions; SA 2009 c35]
- 31* Rules of Court Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 402 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 852-53 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1273-75 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1711-13 (Nov. 3 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1773-74 (Nov. 5 aft., passed)
- 32 Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act (Horne)**
First Reading -- 467 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 853 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1275-80 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1365 (May 27 eve.), 1449-55 (Jun. 1 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1524 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 cA-31.5]
- 33 Fiscal Responsibility Act (Evans)**
First Reading -- 545 (Apr. 7 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 853-54 (Apr. 28 aft.), 972-79 (May 5 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 998-1003 (May 6 aft.), 1109-14 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1526-27 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 1, 2009; SA 2009 cF-15.1]

- 34 Drug Program Act (\$) (Liepert)**
First Reading -- 882 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 979-80 (May 5 aft.), 1014-15 (May 6 aft.), 1194-95 (May 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1384-87 (May 27 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1524 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2009 cD-17.5]
- 35 Gas Utilities Amendment Act, 2009 (McFarland)**
First Reading -- 591 (Apr. 9 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 854 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1280-81 (May 26 aft.), 1344-45 (May 27 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1387 (May 27 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1524-25 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c24]
- 36* Alberta Land Stewardship Act (\$) (Morton)**
First Reading -- 818-19 (Apr. 27 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 882 (Apr. 29 aft.), 1134-40 (May 13 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1371-84 (May 27 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1503-07 (Jun. 2 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 cA-26.8]
- 37 Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment Act, 2009 (\$) (Evans)**
First Reading -- 701 (Apr. 20 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 854-55 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1106 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1187 (May 14 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1406 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c15]
- 38 Tourism Levy Amendment Act, 2009 (Evans)**
First Reading -- 702 (Apr. 20 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 855 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1106 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1187-88 (May 14 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1406 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c34]
- 39 Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2009 (Evans)**
First Reading -- 702 (Apr. 20 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 855-56 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1107-08 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1188-90 (May 14 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1406-07 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009, with exceptions; SA 2009 c33]
- 40 Alberta Personal Income Tax Amendment Act, 2009 (Brown)**
First Reading -- 702 (Apr. 20 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 856 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1108 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1190 (May 14 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1407 (May 28 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009, with exceptions; SA 2009 c16]
- 41 Protection for Persons in Care Act (Brown)**
First Reading -- 766 (Apr. 22 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 856 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1345-50 (May 27 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1387-90 (May 27 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1525-26 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 cP-29.1]
- 42 Gaming and Liquor Amendment Act, 2009 (Anderson)**
First Reading -- 734 (Apr. 21 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 857 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1350-58 (May 27 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1455-60 (Jun. 1 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1525 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c23]

- 43 Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2) (Griffiths)**
First Reading -- 850 (Apr. 28 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 883 (Apr. 29 aft.), 1149-53 (May 13 aft.), 1155-61 (May 13 eve., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 1365-71 (May 27 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1497-99 (Jun. 2 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c28]
- 44* Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act, 2009 (Blackett)**
First Reading -- 850 (Apr. 28 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 883-84 (Apr. 29 aft.), 1007-14 (May 6 aft.), 1036-38 (May 7 aft.), 1140-47 (May 13 aft.), 1161-66 (May 13 eve.), 1173-74 (May 13 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1283-84, 1294-1329 (May 26 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1460-80 (Jun. 1 eve., passed on division)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c26]
- 45 Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2009 (Redford)**
First Reading -- 933-34 (May 4 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1098-1103 (May 12 aft.), 1147-49 (May 13 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1240-46 (May 25 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1510 (Jun. 2 aft.), 1523 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c19]
- 46 Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act (Quest)**
First Reading -- 966 (May 5 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1706-07 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1708-10 (Nov. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1716-17 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1772-73 (Nov. 5 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1852-54 (Nov. 17 eve., passed)
- 47 Appropriation Act, 2009 (S) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 1049 (May 11 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1085-94 (May 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1166-67 (May 13 eve.), 1169 (May 13 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1190-94 (May 14 aft.), 1195 (May 14 aft., passed on division)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 26, 2009; SA 2009 c8]
- 48 Crown's Right of Recovery Act (Liepert)**
First Reading -- 1049 (May 11 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1706 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1710-11 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1735-42 (Nov. 4 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1843-47 (Nov. 17 eve.), 1897-99 (Nov. 18 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1899-1900 (Nov. 18 eve., passed)
- 49 Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2) (Lukaszuk)**
First Reading -- 1426 (Jun. 1 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1500-01 (Jun. 2 aft.), 1707-08 (Nov. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1713-16 (Nov. 3 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1733-35 (Nov. 4 aft., passed)
- 50 Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Knight)**
First Reading -- 1426 (Jun. 1 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1501-02 (Jun. 2 aft.), 1816-36 (Nov. 17 aft.), 1866-86 (Nov. 18 aft.), 1887-96 (Nov. 18 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1917 (Nov. 19 aft., adjourned, amendments introduced)
- 51 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Redford)**
First Reading -- 1700 (Nov. 3 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1770 (Nov. 5 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1847 (Nov. 17 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1900 (Nov. 18 eve., passed)

- 52* Health Information Amendment Act, 2009 (Rogers)**
First Reading -- 436 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 436 (Mar. 17 aft., reinstated), 437 (Mar. 17 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Health), (May 25 aft., reported to Assembly)
Committee of the Whole -- 1284-94 (May 26 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1526 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c25]
- 53 Professional Corporations Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Weadick)**
First Reading -- 1546 (Oct. 26 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1742-46 (Nov. 4 aft.), 1837-40 (Nov. 17 eve., passed)
- 54 Personal Information Protection Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 1569 (Oct. 27 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1746-51 (Nov. 4 aft.), 1770-71 (Nov. 5 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1847-51 (Nov. 17 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1901 (Nov. 18 eve., passed)
- 55 Senatorial Selection Amendment Act, 2009 (Webber)**
First Reading -- 1546 (Oct. 26 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1751 (Nov. 4 aft.), 1765-70 (Nov. 5 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1851-52 (Nov. 17 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1901-02 (Nov. 18 eve., passed)
- 56 Alberta Investment Management Corporation Amendment Act, 2009 (Evans)**
First Reading -- 1633 (Oct. 29 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1703 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1771-72 (Nov. 5 aft.), 1840-42 (Nov. 17 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1918-22 (Nov. 19 aft., passed)
- 57 Court of Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009 (Weadick)**
First Reading -- 1633 (Oct. 29 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1703 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1842-43 (Nov. 17 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- (Nov. 19 aft., passed)
- 58 Corrections Amendment Act, 2009 (Griffiths)**
First Reading -- 1642 (Oct. 29 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1703-04 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1923-25 (Nov. 19 aft., passed)
- 59 Mental Health Amendment Act, 2009 (Sherman)**
First Reading -- 1666 (Nov. 2 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1704-05 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1925 (Nov. 19 aft., passed)
- 60 Health Professions Amendment Act, 2009 (Quest)**
First Reading -- 1642 (Oct. 29 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1705 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1925 (Nov. 19 aft., passed)
- 61 Provincial Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (Lukaszuk)**
First Reading -- 1666 (Nov. 2 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1705-06 (Nov. 3 aft., adjourned)
- 62 Emergency Health Services Amendment Act, 2009 (Liepert)**
First Reading -- 1866 (Nov. 18 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1917 (Nov. 19 aft., adjourned)
- 201 Traffic Safety (Vehicles with Unlawfully Possessed Firearms) Amendment Act, 2009 (Hehr)**
First Reading -- 106 (Feb. 18 aft., passed)
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., passed)
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., passed)
Second Reading -- 408-16 (Mar. 16 aft.), 829-31 (Apr. 27 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1053-64 (May 11 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1209-15 (May 25 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c10]

204 Provincial-Municipal Tax Sharing Act (Blakeman)

First Reading -- 498 (Mar. 19 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 831-32 (Apr. 27 aft.), 934-41 (May 4 aft., defeated on division)

205 Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure (Third Party Advertising) Amendment Act, 2009 (Anderson)

First Reading -- 649-50 (Apr. 15 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 941-46 (May 4 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 1215-22 (May 25 aft.), 1427-33 (Jun. 1 aft., passed on division)
Third Reading -- 1787-93 (Nov. 16 aft., passed)

206* School (Enhanced Protection of Students and Teachers) Amendment Act, 2009 (Forsyth)

First Reading -- 621 (Apr. 14 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1433-38 (Jun. 1 aft.), 1547-55 (Oct. 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1793-1800 (Nov. 16 aft., adjourned, amendments agreed to)

208 Life Leases Act (Mitzel)

First Reading -- 1208 (May 25 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1555-59 (Oct. 26 aft., adjourned)

209 Children's Services Review Committee Act (Chase)

First Reading -- 1610 (Oct. 28 aft., passed)

Pr1 Beverly Anne Cormier Adoption Termination Act (Anderson)

First Reading -- 376 (Mar. 12 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1480 (Jun. 1 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1502 (Jun. 2 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1532 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c37]

Pr2* Caritas Health Group Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Elniski)

First Reading -- 376 (Mar. 12 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1480 (Jun. 1 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1530-31 (Jun. 3 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1532 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 1, 2009; SA 2009 c38]

Pr3* Les Filles de la Sagesse Act Repeal Act (Dallas)

First Reading -- 376 (Mar. 12 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1480 (Jun. 1 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1502 (Jun. 2 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1532 (Jun. 3 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 4 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 4, 2009; SA 2009 c39]

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MacDonald
Marz
Notley
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