



Province of Alberta

The 27th Legislature  
Third Session

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The Honourable Kenneth R. Kowalski, Speaker

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

### The 27th Legislature

#### Third Session

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## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 2, 2010

[The Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** Good afternoon.

Let us pray. Let us keep ever mindful of the special and unique opportunity we have to work for our constituents and our province, and in that work let us find strength and wisdom. Amen.

Please be seated.

### Introduction of Visitors

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I'd like to introduce to you two gentlemen who are currently in the Speaker's gallery. The first gentleman is Giuseppe Filippo Imbalzano. If he would rise, please. Mr. Imbalzano is a retired diplomat for the government of Italy. He served in a number of postings throughout the world. A good friend of the province of Alberta, he served in this province as vice-consul for his government from 1991 to 1995. He is a commander in the Italian Navy Reserve and is here in Edmonton visiting with the honorary president of the Alberta branch of the Italian Naval Association, Mr. Vito Spadavecchia – if he would rise as well, please – who is a long-time resident here in the city of Edmonton and a good friend to all. He's a retired mechanical engineer with the Italian navy and merchant navy. Our guests are good friends of ours, and I'd ask that the members provide them with a warm reception here.

Hon. members, also in the Assembly today is a large group of individuals who play a key role in the democratic process in the province of Alberta. These individuals, 75 of them, are staff who work at our constituency offices. They often provide the first point of contact for our constituents, and they certainly represent our offices in this Assembly wherever they are. These special individuals are participating in the winter constituency employee seminar, which is an opportunity for all to visit and become updated in terms of what's happening. We'll receive them with great joy and honour this evening as I host a dinner for them. Seventy-five constituency employees from throughout the province of Alberta, your personal representatives: I'd ask them to all rise and receive the warm welcome of the Legislature. [Standing ovation]

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** The hon. Deputy Premier.

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions this afternoon. It truly is an honour to start with an introduction of two individuals from Lethbridge College, Dr. Tracy Edwards and Mr. Randy Jespersen. Dr. Edwards is the president and CEO of Lethbridge College and chair of the Council of Presidents of the Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutes, otherwise known as AACTI, and she's doing a great job at the college and a fabulous job as president of AACTI.

Effective September 2010 Randy Jespersen was appointed board chair for Lethbridge College. He is a distinguished alumnus of the college and has recently retired from his position as president and CEO of Terasen Inc., primarily a natural gas utility and alternative energy service provider in British Columbia. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the experiences that he's had over his number of years have certainly endeared him to Lethbridge College and certainly

made him one of their stars. He continues to have connections in southern Alberta, and each year you will find him in Taber, helping with harvest on the family farm.

Mr. Jespersen and Dr. Edwards will make a formidable team, I'm sure you would agree. They're both in the members' gallery. I see they've risen. I'd ask all members to give them the warm traditional welcome of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I have one other if I may. It's an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members a group of gentlemen who this spring attended the St. Albert Housing Society's second annual homestyle breakfast. There was an auction held to see who would come and have sandwiches with me in the office and discuss things of relevance to Alberta. These gentlemen are Alistair Hazewinkel, director of finance, and Mr. Reid Lillico, president and COO of the Commonwealth Corporate Support Services Group Canada Ltd., otherwise known as the Commonwealth Group; Mr. David Woodman, regional managing partner of Meyers Norris Penny, consisting of 2,300 team members across Canada with their head offices in Calgary; and Mr. Bob Walker, vice-president of Ledcor Construction. With roots firmly planted in the oil patch, Ledcor is a leader in sustainable building practices and techniques and an entrepreneur in resourcefulness, accounting, and innovation. They are in the members' gallery, I believe, and I would ask that they now rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security.

**Mr. Oberle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise and introduce to you and through you to the hon. members of the Legislature here a friend and a business associate of my wife, Mr. Jim Shortt, who is a mortgage broker with Dominion Lending in Edmonton. He's a resident of Edmonton and a Rotarian. With him is my wife, Debbie, who is an agent with Dominion Lending. Mr. Speaker, should you have any borrowing needs, feel free to give them a call. I invite all to give them the warm traditional welcome of the House.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the staff of the government members' caucus. We are all dependent on our legislative assistants and our research and communications branch to help us navigate our way through sessions such as this one. I know that I speak for all my caucus colleagues when I say thank you for all the hard work you have done and continue to do for us. I ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly. [some applause]

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

**Mr. Benito:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly a group of young people who are here from the Alberta Youth Congress: John Sulit, chair and CEO; Johnny Mio; Deseray Mason; and Stephanie Ross. They currently have started touring around Alberta from school to school, making presentations about the congress and bullying. The Alberta Youth Congress also believes that this province is the best place to invest in and has the best publicly funded health care system in Canada. They are seated in

the members' gallery, I believe. I would ask that they rise and received the traditional welcome of this Assembly.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Johnson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise and introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly a very good friend to me visiting us here today, David Olson. David is my cousin, more like a brother, whom I grew up with. Thanks to great parents and great grandparents we had a fantastic childhood. He's been away from Canada the last 12 years working in the IT and communications industry in the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands. It's great for me to have him here. I think he's in the members' gallery, and I'd ask him to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

**Mrs. Leskiw:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly some members of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations. This council is co-chaired by the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and myself. The council met this morning here at the Leg. to brainstorm some ideas that were presented a month ago with our counterparts from Saskatchewan. We're working hard to set directions for the years to come.

They're seated in the visitor's gallery, and I would ask them to stand as I introduce them. Dr. Ehor Gauk is past chair of Osvita medical project and a professor emeritus of pediatrics and neurology at the University of Alberta. Ken Korchinski is a retired vice-president and Edmonton regional manager at UMA Engineering. Mr. Korchinski is actively involved in initiatives to develop opportunities in Ukraine and Poland. Dr. Roman Petryshyn is the founder and director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan College and is instrumental in opening a Grant MacEwan office in Kiev. Ed Piasta is involved in the promotion and organization of business investment ventures in Ukraine both as a participant and as a legal counsel. Edith Zawadiuk is a director of Friends of the Ukrainian Village and past president of the Kalyna Country Eco-museum, and she's been involved in 4-H agricultural projects in Ukraine. I would ask the Assembly to give them a traditional warm welcome.

1:40

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

**Mr. Kang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Connie Whiteley, Brian Johnson, and Yvonne Byer. These individuals have been directly affected by the shoddy construction of their homes and have been pressing the government for over two years to protect new home and condo buyers by implementing stricter regulations and making warranties mandatory. They remain hopeful that the government will catch up to the other provinces such as Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia and provide greater protection for its citizens. They have risen. I would ask all the members to extend the traditional warm welcome of this House to my special guests.

Thank you.

### Members' Statements

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

### International Human Rights Day

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. December 10 is International Human Rights Day and marks the signing of the universal declaration of human rights by United Nations members in 1948. The declaration arose directly from the experience of the Second World War and represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are entitled.

Mr. Speaker, each year a different focus is encouraged on Human Rights Day, and this year the UN has launched a campaign called Speak Up, Stop Discrimination. This campaign highlights and promotes the achievements of human rights defenders and encourages all global citizens to speak out against discrimination in all forms.

On Human Rights Day I encourage all Albertans to reflect on what we can do to prevent and stop discrimination in our communities. Discrimination based on race, gender, age, religious belief, sexual orientation, or any other protected ground is unacceptable in a free, fair, and democratic society. Mr. Speaker, Alberta's diversity is our strength. By combating discrimination and helping to build welcoming and inclusive communities, we create a society that benefits everyone.

It is important to note, however, that although we are recognizing this day, the effort to combat discrimination is a year-round initiative, and it's an initiative that involves not just organizations and levels of governments but every single human being and every single member of a free and democratic society. It comes from the core of every human being's actions. It's not a war against discrimination but a movement to spread love, peace, freedom, and respect from one human being to another human being. Such actions should not be left to just the top. These movements and the greatest human rights movements I've witnessed in my life have been on account of a single individual at a time.

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

### Labour Protection for Paid Farm Workers

**Ms Notley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta has a shameful record, letting working people pay the price of unsafe workplaces. Too many workers suffer injuries or health problems related to workplaces, and far too many families lose loved ones. The NDP and labour organizations have raised concerns about this for many years. The Auditor General has made strong recommendations about how poorly Alberta does in this area. For those who work on farms and other agricultural settings, the story is especially terrible: 389 deaths, 62 of them children, over the past 15 years.

Many people have observed we seem to have tougher laws and penalties for farm animals being mistreated than we do for workers in that same location, but workplace dangers faced by farm and agriculture industry workers are amongst the greatest of any occupation. The astonishing thing is that there is no protection under the Occupational Health and Safety Act or the Workers' Compensation Act for these people. Only Alberta in all of Canada permits this irresponsible reality. A provincial judge has expressed concern about this in the course of an inquiry into a death, and last year alone 13 people died on the job on farms.

The recent announcement of this government that this shameful situation will be addressed by little more than education is utterly inadequate. Colouring books at community fairs and dust-covered posters at the local seed plant will not change what is happening. This government made nearly no effort to talk to actual farm workers before making its latest inadequate pronouncements. It's time to stop listening only to employers. Government has a duty to

ensure that workers can have confidence that health and safety are not sacrificed so they can earn a living. Making occupational health and safety laws and penalties apply in the agricultural industry will be quite manageable for employers if there is a well-designed phase-in plan beginning with the largest employers.

Farm workers have the security of this protection everywhere else in Canada. Well-designed, comprehensive education is needed but not good enough. An advisory committee as a response to the unending record of death . . . [Ms Notley's speaking time expired]

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

#### Raymond J. Nelson

**Mr. Vandermeer:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to a respected businessman, a visionary, a successful entrepreneur, a philanthropist who had a sincere passion for his community and his country, a family man, a community leader, a true Albertan, a mentor, and a friend. Many will remember Mr. Ray Nelson as the founder along with his brother of the Nelson Lumber Company and Nelson Homes.

Ray was much more than a businessman. He was a true humanitarian, giving of his time, energy, and expertise to many directorships. He never stopped thinking of ways to improve and grow his community. Ray Nelson was sincere in making his community a better place. Over the years his charity commitment and support extended as well to worthy causes and projects well beyond the borders of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Ray Nelson was a deeply spiritual man, often remarking that one could not serve God without serving mankind. He sought practical ways to exhibit his great passion and personal faith, including playing an integral role in the formation and ongoing success of the annual Alberta Premier's prayer breakfast. I had the pleasure of working with him on the prayer breakfast since 2001, so I am well aware of his past leadership skills and also his passion.

He lived by his own motto, that the greatest wealth is the freedom to choose. Ray Nelson chose to effectively bring worthy ideas to reality for the betterment of his fellow man, and he did so with quiet humility and integrity.

At the age of 79 he was the oldest recipient of a heart transplant. At the age of 84 he sold his shares in his business with a 10-year noncompete clause. Before he signed the papers, he looked up and said: you know, 10 years is a long time.

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

#### National Safe Driving Week

**Mr. Xiao:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. December 1 to 7 marks National Safe Driving Week and serves as a reminder to drivers to operate their vehicles in a responsible and safe manner. This message is particularly important now that winter has arrived and the holiday season is just around the corner. We all know that winter driving is perilous, with slippery roads and reduced visibility. In these conditions we need to leave earlier and slow down and not tailgate. Arriving five minutes earlier is not worth risking your life or the lives of others.

During National Safe Driving Week we need to make time to inspect our vehicles and ensure that they're ready for winter driving. By this time we should have changed to winter tires, if possible, and made sure our cars are equipped with roadside emergency kits if the worst were to happen.

This government has always taken the issue of safety on Alberta's roads seriously, but it also falls to individual drivers to make safe

decisions on the road. I urge all Albertans to drive safely this holiday season.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to wish all of the Legislature staff, my colleagues, and all their family members a merry Christmas and happy holidays. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in the new year, the Year of the Rabbit.

Thank you.

#### Oral Question Period

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

#### Health Quality Council

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Health Quality Council is the only body charged with measuring the quality and efficiency of the health care system. It's the only watchdog on the health care system, but it cannot initiate investigations at its own discretion. It takes direction from the minister of health. To the minister of health. In February the minister of health requested that the Health Quality Council investigate the botched H1N1 response. The report was supposed to be released months ago. How can you say that the quality council is independent when the report has been delayed for months by this government's meddling?

1:50

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Mr. Speaker, that's absolutely not true. I spoke with the Health Quality Council yesterday. They said they had just about finished their report, and it will be sent along very soon. I'd ask you to retract those derogatory remarks against the Health Quality Council, who's job it is to ensure that safety and quality are looked after.

Thank you.

**Dr. Swann:** Mr. Speaker, the Health Quality Council can only investigate at the request of the minister or the Health Services Board. Since Albertans want truly independent quality assessments, why will the minister not give them the power to initiate investigations where they see cause, such as the 322 cases compromised by care in one emergency room over one month?

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Mr. Speaker, the Health Quality Council of Alberta is involved in many different ways: with respect to recent issues in emergency rooms, for example; the two reviews that are going on following some unfortunate incidents. They've been involved. They've had their input. They are highly respected and highly regarded in that way. The legislation at the moment stands the way that it is.

**Dr. Swann:** Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the minister we're talking to. It is quite within his realm to change that. It's clear that the Health Quality Council does not have the independence it needs. Will the minister build trust in Albertans and change the reporting relationship of the Health Quality Council so they report directly to this Legislature?

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Mr. Speaker, it's a suggestion that I'm prepared to take under advisement, and I thank the member for raising it in a civil tone.

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

### Publicly Funded Health Care

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week the minister of health said that he didn't author the document which reveals the government's real plan to introduce two-tiered, American-style health care. To the minister of health: why won't you reveal who did author this document that lays out the real plan?

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Mr. Speaker, I already said that that is a departmental document that reflected views, opinions, comments, and ideas by Albertans, so you might say that it came from a variety of sources right across the province. All that the department did was co-ordinate all of that, put it into one document, and said: here's what Albertans said. We looked at the document, and I said that there are things in here that we can do and things that we can't do. It's that straightforward. We can't violate the Canada Health Act, and we can't violate our own legislation.

**The Speaker:** The hon. leader. [interjections] Did the hon. member for Edmonton-Centre want to do this question instead?

**Ms Blakeman:** It's coming.

**Dr. Swann:** My question is to the Premier. The five-year plan that was released by the minister this week makes reference to phase 1 and phase 2 of the Alberta Health Act, just like the leaked document. Both mention consolidating the five core health acts, but only the leaked document reveals the true intent of this legislative change. How can the Premier deny the solid proof of this long-standing agenda to privatize health care?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, Bill 17 ensures that all Albertans will have their say in the health care system. That means that whenever any new ideas are introduced, they will have an opportunity to respond and to support or oppose any changes. I would sooner, you know, consult with Albertans on what they want to see in their health care system as opposed to dealing with various ideologies. I think this is an opportunity, a great opportunity, for all Albertans to get involved.

**Dr. Swann:** Mr. Speaker, this Premier has said he will consult with Albertans before making changes to the health care system. What consultation existed before the 2008 decision to blow up the health care system and make the most radical changes to health care in our history? Actions speak louder than words. You, sir, have lost the trust of Albertans. You've certainly lost the trust of health professionals in this province. I believe you've lost the confidence of most of this Legislature. I will not give him the opportunity to ask another question . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Premier has the floor.

**Dr. Swann:** No further questions, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Well, you ran out of time anyway.  
The hon. Premier.

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what the public is looking at, that kind of theatrics. I can tell you that all the theatrics and all of the 27 hours of debate never moved one person through emergency any faster or provided cancer treatment any faster. We're going to stay the course, and we're going to get the job done.

**The Speaker:** Now, do I take it there is no third Official Opposition main question? Oh, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, please.

### Arts Funding

**Ms Blakeman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The minister of culture yesterday argued that arts funding had been increasing. Given that two years ago funding was \$76 million, last year the funding was \$67 million, and this year it's \$56 million, could the minister explain how this is an increase?

**Mr. Blackett:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know where she gets her numbers from. Look at *Hansard*. I did not say that we increased funding. We said that we have increased funding since 2005 to 2010. That includes the 16 per cent reduction that was dealt out in March 31st of this year.

**Ms Blakeman:** Sounds like a decrease to me.

Back to the same minister: given that the minister has reversed planned cuts to two programs, artists affiliated with municipalities and artists funded by the artists and education program, would the minister add two more programs to that list and reverse the cuts to artists affiliated with universities and the cuts to cultural industries?

**Mr. Blackett:** Well, Mr. Speaker, right now we are in the budget deliberation process through our caucus and with my government colleagues. We haven't made any determination about budget, but as the hon. member knows, we will give that information as the budget is brought forward. At this particular point in time we're not able to make that kind of commitment.

**Ms Blakeman:** Well, except you've already done it twice. I thought maybe you could do it a couple of more times.

My final question to the minister is: given that every other minister defends their department's programs, why does this minister of culture defend the cuts to his ministry's programs?

**Mr. Blackett:** Mr. Speaker, I defend our programs. Creative industries create \$4.5 billion of gross domestic product. Our government contributes some \$60 million towards arts and culture. We are the third-highest per capita contributor to arts of any provincial government in the country, third only to Ontario and Quebec. We support our artists. We had \$200,000 towards our artists to give them a stage at the Grey Cup here last weekend. We spent \$6 million in the Cultural Olympiad for the last three years.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

### Health Care System

**Mr. Boutilier:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in this House the Premier told Albertans: "There is no crisis in health care." How the leader of this province can say something that's so out of touch with what Albertans are thinking is beyond my comprehension. I invite him to visit emergency rooms and our hospital wards with overflowing patients and waiting hours that are beyond belief in terms of the time. Will he look those patients in the eyes and apologize to them?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, I stand by my word. I said yesterday, "There is no crisis." There are challenges, obviously, in various components of delivering health care in the province, but to say that there is a crisis is a complete disservice to the hundreds of profes-



sionals that we have in this province that are delivering services every day. Every day people access emergency rooms, babies are born, cancer is treated, the shortest waiting list now for heart transplants or heart surgery: all of those things are very, very positive in the province.

**Mr. Boutilier:** Well, that explanation is just simply not good enough for Albertans. The only MLA who's an ER doctor had indicated that it was a crisis, other doctors have said it's a crisis, but you're in denial. You have to guard against self deception. All you have is a five-year plan, a Christmas wish list. I want to give the Premier, in fairness, another opportunity to retract his statement that there is no crisis in health care.

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, to say that there's a crisis in health care ignores all of the good work that's being done in the province, whether it's at the Mazankowski heart centre, whether it's in all of the clinics that have been opened recently in Edmonton and Calgary, the two world-class children's hospitals. I mean, we're doing things there that other provinces just simply can't. People are coming here from other provinces for certain surgeries that can't be done in their province, and, like I said before, one of only three burn units in all of the world is here in the city of Edmonton.

2:00

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Boutilier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in the newspaper the AMA's Dr. Paul Parks and Dr. Felix Soibelman wrote a letter that said, "The crisis has not abated." If the Premier is saying that there is no crisis and these leading medical doctors are saying that there is a crisis, I know who I would believe, and I think I know who Albertans would believe. To the Premier: are you prepared to stand by your assertion that there is no crisis in health care and tell Dr. Parks and Dr. Soibelman right here, right now that they're wrong?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, as I said, there is no crisis. You know, just recently the Canadian Institute for Health Information released a report that reconfirms the fact that Alberta by far is the most attractive place in Canada to attract physicians. Over the past decade we've seen an increase in physicians, an increase of over 52 per cent. That's two and a half times more than the Canadian average. They're all coming here to the province because it is the most attractive place to perform their professional duties, right here in the province.

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

#### Fall Session Encapsulation

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. This very short session has been a disaster for this PC government. Despite emergency room doctors warning of an imminent collapse of emergency room services, Alberta Health Services' leadership falling apart, and massive confusion in the system, the Premier yesterday denied that there was a crisis in health care. My question is to the Premier. How did you get so far out of touch with Albertans?

**The Speaker:** Well, if this has to do with government policy, go ahead.

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, I think today and the last few days

there have been letters written to various newspapers, especially the *Edmonton Journal*. People have been watching the last couple of weeks in this House and disagree with some of the positions taken by the opposition. They have a job to do, I guess, but part of that job is not to create a situation where we put fear into people that they may not be able to access any health services in this province. We have a very good system. It needs improving. It will. We have the money in place.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This session has seen the ejection of the Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark and his subsequent persecution. Albertans have overwhelmingly rallied to his defence and reacted to the government's treatment of him with disgust. My question is to the Premier. Why do you condone actions against dissident MLAs that most Albertans find reprehensible?

**Mr. Stelmach:** There were no actions against any MLA.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Well, the Premier is also out of touch with reality.

This Premier not only ignores the appeals of front-line health employees, expels anyone who points this out from his caucus, but he has imposed closure on debate in this session of the Legislature on more bills than in any other session in recent memory. My question is to the Premier. How did it come to pass that basic principles of democracy and decency have been so trampled as to be almost unrecognizable?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, obviously, that member has a very short memory, but that's for him to deal with on his own. I can tell you that in the last number of weeks in this House there have been 27 hours of debate. I invite all Albertans to read the transcript of *Hansard*. Just read some of the things that have been presented by the opposition. I want to know where, in any of that debate, it actually moved one more person quicker through emergency or improved cancer treatment in this province.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Bow.

#### New Home Warranty Program

**Mr. Kang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is failing homeowners on construction codes not enforced through a home warranty scheme that is both deficient and lacks financial transparency. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: why are the financial statements for the Alberta New Home Warranty Program not available to the public, sir?

**Mr. Goudreau:** Mr. Speaker, we're working hard to develop various solutions to ensure the integrity of new homes that are being built in the province. We want to ensure that new homes, basically the single largest investment that individuals will make in their lifetime, are being built right. We recognize that there are a number of solutions out there that affect a number of people and organizations, and we need to continue to work with them. Those include groups like homeowners themselves or municipalities or builders.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Kang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister didn't answer my question. I was asking: why are the financial statements not being released to the public?

To the minister again: what was the Alberta New Home Warranty surplus last year, sir?

**Mr. Goudreau:** Mr. Speaker, I will have to look at the New Home Warranty numbers. I'm not sure exactly where those numbers are, but those numbers should be available to the public, and I see no reason why they would not be released.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Kang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Out of the claims made, how many claims are paid out under the New Home Warranty Program?

**Mr. Ouellette:** Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that there are a number of claims that are being made against the New Home Warranty Program. Again, I don't have those actual numbers. We recognize that often individual actions within homes will trigger certain concerns within the home. Let me use an example. If somebody installs, for instance, a hot tub in a home without proper ventilation, they'll create some of their own . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Bow, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

#### Secondary Suites

**Ms DeLong:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. Studies show that increasing the supply of secondary suites can intrinsically address the availability of affordable housing, a game changer for the poor. However, the reality is that some residents have several concerns. As this seems to be an urban issue, what has the minister done to reduce the anxiety that some Calgarians have with secondary suites in their neighbourhood?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question for urban Alberta in particular. The issue of secondary suites has come to my office recently. First and foremost, I believe in the private property rights of the individuals who do own the suites but also of the neighbours. We are working with some municipalities on this issue. Let's face it, though. It's expensive to live in Alberta, particularly in the city of Calgary, and we need a variety of affordable housing options.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms DeLong:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question to the same minister. A lecture on private property and agreeing that secondary suites are important for the rental market does not address the concerns local residents have regarding congestion and other issues. I ask you again: what has this minister done to overcome these concerns?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you. Again, Mr. Speaker, we are working with local municipalities, but this is largely a local issue to work out. We

want to get out of the way and help local municipalities arrive at the solution that's best for them. Let's face it again. What works in Calgary might not work in Fort McMurray or in Grande Prairie or in Red Deer. You get my point.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms DeLong:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last question to the same minister. My alderman is concerned with the existing number of noncompliant secondary suites in our area. How does your policy on affordable housing encourage construction that is, number one, safe; number two, wanted by the local residents?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. First off, we have an RFP process throughout this entire province. We're mandated to create 11,000 affordable housing units by 2012, we're doing so in an economical fashion for the taxpayer, and \$97,500 is our average cost per unit. A few years ago the Ministry of Municipal Affairs actually underwent a safety code study from 2006, and we're working on these issues but on an individual basis that works for the local community.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo, followed by the hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Calmar.

#### Government Employee Credit Checks

**Mr. Hehr:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Privacy Commissioner issued an investigative report finding that Alberta Justice had been conducting unlawful credit checks on its own employees without their knowledge or consent. To the Minister of Justice. Alberta's privacy law for government has been in place for 15 years. How could this breach have happened? Is it that you don't train your employees, or do you simply allow your employees to break the law?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Ms Redford:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first thing I'll say is that I have incredible confidence in the employees that work in the Department of Justice and serve this province. The second thing I will say is that the reason we know that this is a public issue is because this was part of the annual report of the Privacy Commissioner. It was a matter that arose out of normal operations last year in maintenance enforcement. It was brought to the attention of management and the Privacy Commissioner. We acknowledged the error immediately. We took every step recommended by the Privacy Commissioner to deal with it, and the Privacy Commissioner in their annual report actually said that we took all appropriate steps and had no further recommendations.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Hehr:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question again for the Justice minister: if your staff doesn't know that they can't surveil department employees without legal authority, what else don't they know? Are they also breaching the privacy of other members of the public?

2:10

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, this will be a short answer. Maintenance

enforcement does a tremendous job for families, people, and children in this province. It was an incident that happened, it was investigated, all appropriate steps were taken, and I have confidence in the people that work in my department.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Hehr:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Has a full audit been done of your department to see whether any other privacy complaints have arisen?

**Ms Redford:** Actually, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had read the whole report and the recommendations, he would have seen that that was one of the recommendations. It was done, and we're fine, thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Calmar, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

### Separate School System

**Mrs. McQueen:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A former education minister, David King, has launched a website and a petition calling for a referendum on abolishing publicly funded Roman Catholic and Protestant schools in the province of Alberta in favour of a single public system. The president of the ACSTA, and I'm proud to say a constituent and good friend of mine, has contacted me, asking the minister for his position. To the Minister of Education: can he please explain the history and constitutional rights of separate school boards in Alberta?

**Mr. Hancock:** Mr. Speaker, clearly, in Alberta Albertans have the rights to minority denominational education and minority language education, and that is described in and protected by the Canadian Constitution. We cannot compare different provinces in the country in that regard because different provinces had different educational systems in place as they entered Confederation, and as they entered into Confederation, the constitutional rights that their citizens had at the time were enshrined. So the 1905 Alberta Act enshrined those rights for Albertans, both minority faiths and minority languages.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mrs. McQueen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is one out of three provinces in Canada with religion-based separate schools, so my next question to the same minister: is there any plan to look at changing ours, and is the minister in support of this change?

**Mr. Hancock:** The short answer, Mr. Speaker, is no. We're not planning to change the rights of Albertans. That would require a constitutional amendment. There is no apparent interest in Alberta. We'll see what comes from Mr. King's petition, but I see no reason to change a system that is working very well. We are working at transforming the system to do even better in the future, but that change will not eliminate choice for Albertans to choose the kind of education that works well for their students.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mrs. McQueen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the same minister. Mr. King criticizes the separate education system for the exclusion of children from classrooms and adults from the separate school boards based solely on religion. So my question is:

please clarify how our separate education system is, in fact, reflective of Canadian values like multiculturalism, inclusion, and diversity?

**The Speaker:** Is that opinion or government policy? Proceed.

**Mr. Hancock:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it's actually also a matter of Alberta law. Section 3 of the School Act requires that every school in Alberta, all education programs in Alberta "reflect the diverse nature and heritage of society in Alberta, promote understanding and respect for others and honour and respect the common values and beliefs of Albertans." Also, in section 3(2) the School Act provides that the doctrines of racial or ethnic or religious superiority or persecution cannot be promoted in our schools. So we not only protect the freedoms of Albertans and promote the values of Albertans, but we also encourage the diversity of Albertans.

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

### School Utilization Formula

**Mr. Chase:** Mr. Speaker, to its credit the newly elected Edmonton public school board placed a two-year moratorium on school closures. The government's combined failure to update its school space utilization formula to reflect learning commission class size reductions and its ongoing refusal to either repair aging schools or build desperately needed new ones has contributed to overcrowding, unnecessary school closures, and school shortages in rapid-growth areas like Airdrie and Leduc. To the minister: when will you fix the formula?

**Mr. Hancock:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we are talking with stakeholders in the education system about our funding formulas. We're also talking about what kind of schools we should be building in the province for the future. It's all part of Inspiring Education, discussing what kind of education system we need to have to make sure that Alberta students are well prepared to be global citizens and local citizens, to be participants in the global economy and the local economy. That's the very activity we've been engaged in for the last two years. It's an ongoing process. There's no single point at which there's a light switch flipped and everything is perfect, but we have an ongoing discussion.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member, please.

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you. I think this government is having trouble finding the light switch.

Space utilization formula. Until such time as you fix the faulty space utilization formula, will you at the very least place a province-wide moratorium on school closures? They're directly related.

**Mr. Hancock:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is under the delusion that the space utilization formula plays a large role in the process today. It does not. Since we brought in the class size formulas, in fact, a number of different things in the past four or five years, certainly, space utilization is one of the trigger points. We want to know how well a school board is using the physical assets that it has on behalf of the students in their jurisdiction before we add more spaces and places, but it's not the be-all and the end-all in the process. First and foremost, the safety of the students and the health of the students is there, and then accommodation . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. member. [interjection] The hon. member.

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you. The space utilization is 10 years old. It doesn't reflect the Learning Commission's recommendations.

Given that there is a 40 per cent recessionary discount on materials and labour, why aren't you finally addressing the \$2 billion plus schools repair bill and building the new schools needed for rapid-growth areas such as Airdrie and Leduc?

**Mr. Hancock:** And Beaumont and Medicine Hat and Fort McMurray and a number of other places in the province. In fact, as I've said in this House a number of times, I've put together a plan that shows what we need to do in terms of new schools, in terms of improving the schools that are aging and that we still need and, yes, phasing out those schools which are no longer needed in the program. We're working with school boards to make sure we have the right kind of places and the right kinds of spaces. Then the next piece, of course, is to find the funding because Albertans are very interested also in the appropriate allocation . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie and then the hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

#### Private Vocational Institution Credits

**Mr. Bhardwaj:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Hundreds of Alberta students choose to attend private vocational colleges as a valid option for their postsecondary studies, an option that allows students to fast-track their careers. However, some of these students want to continue their learning at publicly funded institutions, but many cannot transfer the credits they earned in the private colleges. My questions are to the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. Why don't publicly funded postsecondary institutions like the University of Alberta recognize credits earned at private vocational colleges?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do recognize private vocational institutions. They have a very important role to play in Campus Alberta. Access is very important. Choice is very important. Not all things fit all models of students; different strokes for different folks kind of thing. Students that are applying to a publicly funded institution have the opportunity to present their transcript. The institutions within Campus Alberta are the ones that determine whether or not the training that they've had at that private vocational school is applicable.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member, please.

**Mr. Bhardwaj:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My first supplemental to the same minister. I'm talking to a lot of my constituents regarding this, and they have concerns. Do you consider the training at private accredited vocational colleges equal to the training earned at publicly funded institutions?

**The Speaker:** Again, is that opinion or government policy?

**Mr. Horner:** Well, Mr. Speaker, our department does monitor these private vocational institutions, and we also work with Campus Alberta to try to ensure that we have as much transferability within the system as possible. But remember. A private vocational institution is usually driven by training provided for the economy, for employers, for various other things. So the program, to compare apples to apples, sometimes is a bit of a challenge. The institutions

will look at individual modules within those programs. Again, it's up to the individual institutions and students to do their homework.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member, please.

**Mr. Bhardwaj:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My final supplemental to the same minister: are there any plans to have private vocational colleges align more closely with the publicly funded institutions in Campus Alberta?

**Mr. Horner:** Well, Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, we are working on that right now. The hon. Member for Lethbridge-West, who's the parliamentary assistant in this department, is actively engaged in reviewing the private vocational education programs within the province and within the system, and we'll be talking about that as a Campus Alberta group very, very shortly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

#### Long-term Care Beds

**Ms Notley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's strategy to bury their agenda for health care privatization in more five-year plans isn't fooling anyone. If they really wanted to address ER wait times and health care chaos, they would add long-term care beds and somewhere between 500 to 1,000 mental health beds. It's clear that this government is more concerned with public relations than it is with doing what's right for Albertans in need. So how can the minister of health expect anyone to believe his plan when it ignores the two key issues of mental health and long-term care beds?

2:20

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Mr. Speaker, it's very straightforward. We've worked out a plan that involves doctors and pharmacists and nurses and Health Quality Council people, and of course leading the charge was Alberta Health Services with my Department of Health and Wellness. The result of all of that and the result of listening to a lot of Albertans who said, "Build us more continuing care facilities" is why we're adding up to about 1,400 this year, next year another thousand, the year after that another thousand. It's a very aggressive and ambitious plan, probably the largest per capita in Canada.

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, continuing care is not long-term care.

Now, Dr. Paul Parks stated that more than half of the people in acute-care beds in big city hospitals are waiting for long-term care, not other forms of continuing care. He affirmed what this party has been saying for years, that by offering chronically ill seniors only fancy condos with housekeeping, you ensure more chronically ill seniors in acute-care hospital beds. Why won't the health minister take the cotton out of his ears and commit to hard numbers for long-term care beds?

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Mr. Speaker, some of the beds I just referred to are long-term care. Why don't they just be patient until they all get finished? In the meantime, let's also remember that we're increasing home care funding. One of the largest increases to any part of the Alberta Health Services budget is to increase it by 7 per cent, well over \$400 million. When you put the whole picture together, they're spending about \$30 million per day on health care in this province. Phenomenal.

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, to the minister of health. Albertans

deserve to know how many of the hundreds and hundreds of beds they keep bragging about every day are long-term care beds. If he cannot tell Albertans how many of those beds are long-term care beds, will he just give his job over to someone else who can?

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Mr. Speaker, it might be time for that hon. member to switch to decaf.

The fact is that there are some specific details that someone else asked for; I said I would try and get that information for them. Meanwhile, Alberta Health Services is compiling that information that was requested earlier, and as soon as they provide it, I'll try and give more detail. The important thing here is that we're building continuing care facilities, and we're having people stay there to receive the services.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill.

#### AIMCo Investments

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. AIMCo has assets under its management of over \$70 billion. Twelve billion dollars of these assets are externally managed. Last year these externally managed assets shrank in value by over \$542 million. By law the minister of finance is responsible for AIMCo, this Crown corporation. My first question is to the minister of finance. Given that this government signed up these external managers to manage this \$12 billion pool of assets, why are their investment costs so high?

**Dr. Morton:** Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report that, in fact, internalizing those investment decisions has significantly reduced the cost of outside consultants. If the hon. member consults the report more closely, he'll see that.

**Mr. MacDonald:** The report is right here, Mr. Speaker, and the minister of finance is wrong.

Given that this loss of \$542 million was in the last year, how do you explain that AIMCo had to pay \$169 million in total investment costs, much more than for the \$58 billion that was managed internally?

**Dr. Morton:** Mr. Speaker, the relevant figures are the reduction in external consulting costs, which have gone down repeatedly in the last two years that AIMCo has taken over.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, they're excessive, and the finance minister surely should know that.

Now, again, why would you give, specifically, a \$25 million performance fee to managers who on their watch saw this pool of money shrink by over half a billion dollars? Why would they get a \$25 million bonus whenever they did such a poor job of managing pensioners' assets and even this government's assets?

**Dr. Morton:** Mr. Speaker, again, the hon. member should read the report carefully. AIMCo in the 2009 year outperformed the market in all of its investment portfolios.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore.

#### Road Density Thresholds

**Mr. Fawcett:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Road density is frequently recognized in conservation circles as a canary in the coal mine for

human impact on natural ecological systems and, likewise, an important factor in the recovery plans for both the grizzly bear and woodland caribou. All my questions are to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. Can the minister commit to this House that the road density thresholds will be taken into account in the development of the regional plans which are required under the Alberta Land Stewardship Act?

**Mr. Knight:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that many factors relevant to environmental conservation would be taken into account in these plans, but the regional plans are high-level, broad-based plans, and they do not and will not get down to the level of dealing with things like road density. The regional plans will support the plans that we have with respect to the caribou and grizzly bear recovery plan that we have. Nevertheless, the species recovery would deal with road density issues.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Fawcett:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister commit to ensuring that any road density thresholds apply to all linear features available to motorized vehicle use such as gated roads, cut lines, power lines, or decommissioned roads, not just open-route density?

**Mr. Knight:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we don't intend to create an across-the-board regulatory definition for linear features or for motorized access. It's very, very difficult. The thing for threatened species like the grizzly bear and caribou: it's better dealt with when we do this on a site-specific case. So there won't be a broad-based creation of regulatory definition for these linear characteristics.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Fawcett:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the same minister: are there any barriers, financial or other, including all linear features, that exist for determining road density thresholds?

**Mr. Knight:** Well, again, Mr. Speaker, I think it's worth repeating that we're not going to create a regulatory definition with respect to thresholds at a broad level. If you look at motorized vehicle access, there are a lot of examples where the access needs to be there, and in certain circumstances it's impossible or very difficult for us to map the access capability of things like small motorcycles and that sort of thing. We'll continue to work on these things in specific situations.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose.

#### Southwest Calgary Ring Road

**Mr. Hinman:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has failed in so many ways this year. Our finances are a mess, our health care system is crumbling, and they could not even negotiate a right-of-way so that southwest Calgary would actually have a ring road. My constituents of Calgary-Glenmore as well as the rest of the residents of southwest Calgary are upset with this government. They have failed them and demand this government get the job done right. Chief Big Plume has just been re-elected with a 90 per cent support. To the Minister of Transportation: are you going to reopen talks to solve the ring road dilemma, or have you simply abandoned this project?

**Mr. Ouellette:** Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very important project to

this government, and it's very important to the city of Calgary. We're working in partnership today with the city of Calgary's transportation, and we're working on moving the project forward.

**Mr. Hinman:** Given the arrogance and the incompetence over there it shouldn't surprise us that you thought you could simply talk to the band council of the Tsuu T'ina and that that would be enough. Clearly, this has failed because you left the Tsuu T'ina people and their elders as well as the federal government out of the loop. Will you make some concrete plans to bring everyone to the table this time? Who are you going to invite?

**Mr. Ouellette:** Mr. Speaker, needless to say, this hon. member doesn't listen to anything we talk about on this side of the House, so why would he even deserve our giving him an answer? But because we're such good guys on this side of the House, I will tell him that we're working towards making progress, and I'm not going to second-guess what the city of Calgary and our officials are doing in bringing together a solution.

**Mr. Hinman:** He has no answer. He's incompetent, and he's arrogant.

Mr. Speaker, it is only when you are not sincere about negotiations that you will give up in hopelessness. That is exactly what this government has done. This process was flawed and weak from the start. Will the Minister of Transportation commit to fixing this problem, or will the residents of southwest Calgary have to wait for a Wildrose government to do the job and get it right?

**Mr. Ouellette:** Mr. Speaker, he doesn't even deserve an answer. You want to talk arrogance? We just heard arrogance coming right out of whatever you call his mouth.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Dual High School and University Credits

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This Assembly has heard me speak on several occasions about innovation in education, ideas like dual credit and real-world learning opportunities. I have gone further and found a postsecondary institution willing to offer high school students in Forest Lawn and Lester B. Pearson free postsecondary courses. Will the Minister of Education assure me that these students will receive high school credit for these postsecondary courses?

2:30

**Mr. Hancock:** Mr. Speaker, dual credit courses are actually a great way to encourage students to finish their high school and bridge to postsecondary. We know that 80 per cent of the new jobs coming forward in future years are going to require postsecondary education, so we want to encourage that. Of course, we're working on protocols relative to dual credit courses. We have some of them in place already, and we're working on doing more of them in our system.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased the minister is willing to consider doing more of them. However, I would like to know whether, at present, this postsecondary that

stepped up to the plate to offer courses for these two high schools, whether these students will receive credit for these courses.

**Mr. Hancock:** I'm not familiar with the specific circumstance, but I can say this, Mr. Speaker: we have a dual credit working group between Education, Advanced Education, and Employment and Immigration working on expanding the programs offering dual credit courses. Of course, it's a partnership between postsecondaries and high schools to do it. We do have right now a moratorium on locally developed courses for this year while we revise our curriculum processes under Inspiring Education, so there may be a problem in this year or within the next short while approving locally developed courses that are outside the current spectrum.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member, please.

**Mr. Bhullar:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm delighted to hear that work is being done in this area. I would only wish that work would be sped up in this specific area so that students can get results sooner. We have a profound education system, so I would just want to make sure that we continue to have one of the best performing education systems in the world. To the same minister: what can the minister offer students in high school today if not these particular results?

**Mr. Hancock:** Mr. Speaker, of course, that's one of the real challenges. As we're trying to redesign the education system to make sure that we have the education system of the future, we have to continue to do things today to help students today. I can commit to this hon. member that we're prepared always to look at any new and innovative way of providing better opportunities for our students. We'll look at any proposal that comes forward. While we have an overall moratorium on locally developed courses for this year, we're certainly willing to look at innovation on a case-by-case basis.

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

#### Seniors' Pharmaceutical Plan

**Ms Pastoor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's seniors' pharmaceutical plan was announced in December 2008, changed in April 2009, and delayed indefinitely in March 2010. Seniors are still wondering when and if their medication bills are going to increase. To the minister of health: will you give Alberta seniors the news that they want to hear, that the seniors' pharmaceutical plan will be scrapped?

**Mr. Zwodzesky:** Mr. Speaker, I met with a number of seniors and senior advocacy bodies. They asked us to hold back and have some increased dialogue with them, and that's what we're doing.

**Ms Pastoor:** Well, Mr. Minister, this is not Shumka, so I want you to quit dancing around the issue and show Alberta seniors that you really have been listening. Tell them today what's really going on.

**Mr. Zwodzesky:** Well, I did. Thank you for referencing my more agile days. I feel pretty good today, too.

The short answer is, honestly, hon. member, just like I told you. There are some issues there that they wanted us to address, to have a little deeper think tank with them before we moved forward, so that's what we're doing. There are some regulatory things that

might require some attention. There might be some legislative things that require attention. We've looked at that as well. In the meantime, seniors will continue to receive the outstanding coverage they have.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms Pastoor:** Thank you. Again to the same minister. The idea really was not welcomed, and there was certainly a huge push-back from seniors. They showed their fear and their opposition. Will the minister admit that the plan was wrong and that something else should be thought about?

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** No, Mr. Speaker, that's not the issue. The issue is that there are some issues that they have that they want to be further consulted on, and that's what we're doing. In the meantime, we've lowered the overall cost of drugs for people in various plans, and we will continue to address issues of efficiency through that method.

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

#### Public Library Services

**Ms Woo-Paw:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of our public libraries are the focal point of community life. In 2008 an MLA committee on the future of public library services in Alberta was created. After consulting 11 communities throughout the province, the committee proposed 18 recommendations, and the government accepted 15 of them. All of my questions are to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Of the 15 recommendations that the government committed to, how many of them have been implemented?

**Mr. Goudreau:** Mr. Speaker, the government has implemented several of the 18 recommendations. For example, we've significantly increased the operating grant funding to library boards, and we've increased the bandwidth to public libraries through the Alberta SuperNet, and we've taken a much broader leadership role in public library policy and planning. As a government we're developing an integrated library policy to guide decision-making, strategic planning, and investment.

**Ms Woo-Paw:** Well, how will the minister ensure that the library experience continues to improve in our province so that Albertans can take advantage of the excellent library resources that our province has?

**Mr. Goudreau:** That's an excellent question. We're developing a provincial public library technology plan that will improve access and make more digital resources available. This way we can take advantage of technologies to improve service and reduce duplication. It's also worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that we're collaborating with key partners to increase services to print-disabled Albertans, our francophones, the aboriginal communities, and our new Canadians.

**Ms Woo-Paw:** My last question is to the same minister. How does your ministry work with other departments to support learning initiatives for children in Alberta?

**Mr. Goudreau:** Mr. Speaker, libraries are a key component of Alberta's strong communities, especially in tougher economic times.

We are working with other ministries to develop a provincial approach to better position publicly funded libraries to meet the needs of Albertans. Our vision is that all Albertans, regardless of where they live, work, or read, will have improved access to information resources and expertise from our publicly funded libraries.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lethbridge-West.

#### Grow Ops

**Mr. Weadick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking to realtors in my community, they've brought up the issue of sick houses created from marijuana grow ops in residential properties. All my questions are for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Mr. Minister, what do we have in place to ensure the safety of these dwellings for home purchasers?

**Mr. Goudreau:** Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, Municipal Affairs is represented on a cross-ministry working group through the safe communities initiative to address issues of houses formerly used as marijuana grow ops. Of course, houses used as grow operations create health and safety hazards that often require expensive remediation, and this working group is finalizing a policy paper and is considering a number of recommendations that will be passed on to us.

**Mr. Weadick:** Mr. Minister, some residents haven't had the luxury of knowing that the home they've purchased has been used for a grow op. What's your ministry doing to help mediate the health problems for these people?

**Mr. Goudreau:** Mr. Speaker, the ministry is focused on ideas for improving building inspections and standards for remediation of grow-op housing. I can assure the member that remediation and enforcement along with health and safety are key areas that we are looking at very seriously.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Weadick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an increasing problem according to our realtors, and it's growing very quickly. What is your government going to do about this problem?

**Mr. Goudreau:** Mr. Speaker, we recognize that grow ops contribute to creating unsafe communities, and that's why we're taking a cross-ministry approach to ensure that this is given the proper direction it needs. My ministry along with Health and Wellness, the Solicitor General, Public Security, and Justice are working together on the best way to address a very complex issue.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, that concludes the question period for today. Nineteen members were recognized, 114 questions and responses.

At 3 p.m. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor will visit the House, so we're going to just continue with the Routine forthwith without a break.

2:40

#### Members' Statements

(continued)

##### St. Mary of the Lake Catholic School

**Ms Calahasen:** Mr. Speaker, every now and then we see gold achieved as a result of people working together. That's the case of

one of my many schools in Lesser Slave Lake, and that's St. Mary of the Lake Catholic school, which has students from preschool to grade 12. Of course, they wanted to see their students be successful in all aspects of their lives. Despite all of its challenges this school took the view that its students mattered, that parents and the community needed to be involved and be active participants, and that the student's individuality and culture were celebrated.

And, yes, success. A recent survey by Alberta Education showed that St. Mary's students scored excellent in a number of areas last year: for being safe and caring, preparing students for lifelong learning, involving parents, and continually improving and achieving high scores on standardized tests.

To the board, the superintendent, the principal, the teachers, the parents, the Catholic community, and especially to the students, congratulations on achieving your academic goals. May you keep up the great work.

Thank you.

#### **Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley Constituency**

**Mr. Hehr:** Mr. Speaker, most people see this Legislature as a source of constant partisan attacks and bickering. That's the way our democratic system is set up, and to be honest, that's probably the way it works best. We're all here to reflect the diversity of our province, and we're not always going to agree. In fact, when we disagree, it's our sworn duty to fight for our respective positions with all our strength and ability. Yet at the end of the day we're all Albertans, and we share many goals and values.

Despite our bickering, sometimes this Assembly is home to some surprisingly touching moments of humanity. Yesterday, outside the glare of the television cameras for question period, I witnessed one of these moments. I'm speaking, in particular, of this Legislature's common desire to pay tribute to a great Albertan, Grant Notley, by renaming one of our constituencies in his honour. This could have easily degenerated into partisan manoeuvring, but in this case everyone recognized the value of moving forward together. Yesterday the actions of the hon. Government House Leader and the hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona moved me with their classy handling of the situation.

As we say goodbye to this place for a few weeks and prepare for the holidays, I hope we can keep the holiday spirit and the value of mutual respect in mind. Democracy is the ultimate victory of civilization over savagery. I am grateful that we settle our differences with words, even harsh ones, rather than the violence that is so common in other parts of the world. We have so much to be thankful for, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

#### **International Volunteer Day**

**Mr. Dallas:** Mr. Speaker, International Volunteer Day is celebrated globally every year on December 5. This important day was established by the United Nations General Assembly to commemorate the contributions and dedication of volunteers world-wide. Volunteerism is a source of community strength, resilience, and solidarity. It brings positive social change by fostering respect, equality, and participation of all.

Albertans have a rich history of volunteering and community involvement. Volunteers can be found on the front lines of all of our community services, including health care, heritage, the arts, disaster relief, sports, and the list goes on. There are over 1.4 million volunteers in Alberta. Tomorrow, in light of International Volunteer Day, this government is recognizing six inspiring Albertans for their dedication to their communities during the 11th annual Stars of

Alberta volunteer awards: Ms Shaughnessy Fulawka from Lac La Biche, Mr. Danny Guo from Edmonton, Mrs. Chris Burton from Lethbridge, Ms Joanne Roberts from Fort McMurray, Mrs. Olivia Butti from Edmonton, and Mrs. Maureen Willis from Cochrane.

I encourage the members of this Assembly and all Albertans to join me in thanking Alberta's volunteers and to use Sunday as an opportunity to reflect on what more each of us can do to make a difference in our communities.

### **Introduction of Bills**

#### **Bill 223**

#### **Health Statutes (Canada Health Act Reaffirmation) Amendment Act, 2010**

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to request leave to introduce Bill 223, the Health Statutes (Canada Health Act Reaffirmation) Amendment Act, 2010.

Bill 223 is a substantial piece of legislation to secure public health care in Alberta. The bill interprets the Canada Health Act to ensure that key principles such as comprehensiveness, universality, and portability, vital to all Albertans, are strengthened. It would amend several Alberta acts in doing this.

The provisions of this bill address what Albertans are really saying they want, things the NDP caucus heard in its health hearings, with meaningful content and not vague platitudes. This bill would help ensure the mess we're seeing with health care services in Alberta could not happen. These provisions include an explicit prohibition on extra billing. It would ensure no health facility could provide preferred access to insured services for those who pay. The law already prohibits such preferred access to insured surgical procedures. The bill would extend that sensible protection to all insured health services. It would guarantee access to real long-term care for those medically assessed as requiring it.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years important health services have been moved out of many communities, forcing some people to go to Edmonton or Calgary for treatment. This bill would require the government to set out which services will be available in regional facilities throughout the province.

Bill 223 expands insured health services by requiring the minister to present to the Legislature a comprehensive plan, including cost estimates, to meet two key objectives to improve health care: a prescription drug program that would ensure access to drugs is not impeded by cost and insured coverage for all dental services for those under 18 years of age except those solely for cosmetic purposes. An effective public health service would ensure that services are not only publicly funded but as much as possible publicly delivered as well. This bill would ensure that within five years all insured surgical procedures would be delivered in public or not-for-profit facilities.

The sustainability of our health system has been threatened by lack of planning for infrastructure, capital spending, and human resources. Bill 223 would establish a health planning council so that planning is co-ordinated with clear timelines.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill would make the health care system more accountable by bringing transparency to the health budget and ensuring the public is consulted through elected regional health advisory bodies.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about the health services that Albertans need and desire. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 223 read a first time]



## Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** Can we be brief today? I'd like to give you some numbers before we get to the appointed time.

Athabasca-Redwater.

**Mr. Johnson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table the appropriate number of copies of the program used November 26, 2010, for the commander-in-chief's unit commendation for the 1 PPCLI Battle Group Task Force 1-06 as presented by Canada's Governor General at Edmonton Garrison, which I attended. This unit, known as Task Force Orion, consists of 1,200 soldiers. The commander-in-chief's unit commendation was created on July 3, 2002, in recognition of outstanding services by units of the Canadian Forces under direct fire in times of conflict.

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

**Ms Notley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the appropriate number of copies of 130 letters signed by Albertans concerned about proposed changes to our health care laws. They ask that the government instead consider ways of strengthening public health care along the lines of what is in the bill just introduced by the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

**Dr. Morton:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House that I have already provided the government's 2010-11 second-quarter fiscal update to all MLAs. I've also made the fiscal update public as required by section 9 of the Government Accountability Act. The Government Accountability Act requires the government to table a quarterly fiscal update no later than 60 days after each quarter. Accordingly, I wish to table the 2010-11 second-quarter fiscal update, which serves as the amended fiscal plan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hinman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table the appropriate number of copies of an amendment to Bill 24, Carbon Capture and Storage Statutes Amendment Act, 2010. Unfortunately, the amendment will not be discussed due to the government invoking time allocation to limit debate and force a vote on Bill 24. It's a shame that the debate on Bill 24 was cut short considering all the . . .

**The Speaker:** Okay. Let's go on with this. The debate is over.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling letters from Patsy Price of Calgary; Barbara Slade from Grace Martin school in Edmonton, that serves non English-speaking refugee children; Dr. Alvin Finkel, a professor at Athabasca University; Marnie Schaetti, formerly with Project Read, Claresholm, the Association of Literacy Coordinators of Alberta, and Literacy Alberta; Miranda Bestman, an ESL teacher from Edmonton; Julia Melnyk of Calgary; and Dr. Eric Stockton of Calgary, all urging the minister of advanced education to recognize the immense value of the unique publication English Express and requesting that he reinstate the funding for this treasured publication.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

2:50

## Tablings to the Clerk

**The Clerk:** I wish to advise the House that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk. On behalf of the hon.

Mr. Snelgrove, President of the Treasury Board, pursuant to the Conflicts of Interest Act the report of selected payments to members and former Members of the Legislative Assembly and persons directly associated with Members of the Legislative Assembly, year ended March 31, 2010.

On behalf of the hon. Ms Redford, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, pursuant to the Legal Profession Act the Law Society of Alberta 2009 annual accountability report.

## Projected Government Business

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

**Ms Blakeman:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'd be very interested in knowing whether the Government House Leader had any projected government House business for us for any week, whether it be next or not.

Thank you.

**Mr. Hancock:** Mr. Speaker, I think it's very obvious to all members of the House that the business on the Order Paper has for the most part been concluded, with the exception of Bill 29, which will remain on the Order Paper. I anticipate that we might adjourn the session in accordance with the standing orders this afternoon after the appearance of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

## Statement by the Speaker

### Sessional Statistics

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, in a few moments from now the Lieutenant Governor will be arriving. I'm assuming that this is going to be the last day of this fall session, so I'd like to give you some numbers with respect to what you have accomplished in the year 2010. These numbers should be current to basically midnight last night, when essentially you left.

The number of sitting days that we had in the year 2010 – that is, from February 4 to December 1 – was 50, including today, which included seven evening sittings. Last year, in 2009, there were 64 days, with 10 evening sittings.

The number of minutes this year was approximately 14,864 – that's pretty specific – compared to 17,446 minutes in 2009. The number of hours not including today was 248 hours, compared to 291 in 2009. The number of words spoken by members in the 2010 sitting was 2,100,000, just a bit beyond that, compared to 2,320,000 for 2009. The number of words spoken during the November 24 evening sitting, as a number of you asked and I said we didn't have that number yesterday, was 167,471.

Interestingly enough, standing committees seem to be increasing in activity. The number of words spoken by members in standing committee meetings this year was 1,310,219, compared to 1,188,234 in 2009. The number of committee meetings, again, to date has dramatically increased from last year. It's 170 hours plus. Last year it was 141.

Dramatic changes in the question period in terms of allowing members to participate and having members participate. In 2010 there were 17 occasions, and there were 18 sets of questions and answers, compared to 11 in 2009. There were 21 occasions in 2010 with 19 sets of questions and answers, compared to one a year ago. This year there were seven occasions on which 20 sets of questions and responses occurred. In 2009 there were zero days. So there's a very dramatic increase in the number of members that are basically participating. We're averaging 108 questions and responses per day.

The total number of questions and answers for 2009 was 6,170. This year, in 2010, it was 5,284. This year, as I said, we're averaging 108 questions and responses per day. Last year, in 2009, it was 96. That is a very significant increase. The greatest number of questions and answers that we've ever had in one question period was on March 22 of this year, when there were 121. In the past: 108 on three occasions.

The number of government bills that received royal assent to date is 15, with another 13 scheduled to receive royal assent this afternoon. That would be 28 bills in 2010, compared to 62 last year. The number of government bills left on the Order Paper in 2010 is one compared to zero last year. The number of private member's public bills that received royal assent this year is two, the same as in 2009. That makes 48 private member's bills that have now taken place.

You may be interested in some history of all-nighters, seeing as you were involved in a very historic one this year. The first all-nighter actually occurred on October 8, 1913. In 1913 the Assembly convened at 3 in the afternoon, sat till 6 o'clock, and then went from 8 p.m. to 3:15, and that was viewed as an all-nighter. Mind you, that was 1913. We've had a number of all-nighters over the years. The first, basically, all-nighter that went beyond 3:15 occurred on December 7, 1981. That was the same day that Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, the anniversary of it anyway, just a few years' difference. That one began at 2:30 p.m. and ended at 5:27 p.m. the following day. It was 981 minutes, or 16 hours.

The second all-nighter took place on November 9, 1993. A couple of members in the House were here at that time. There's only one person in the House here from the 1981 one, but there are a couple here from the one on November 9, 1993. The afternoon sitting started at 1:30 p.m. and ended at 5:30 p.m., with the evening sitting starting at 8 p.m. and then ending at 4:11 p.m. the following afternoon. So 24 hours and 11 minutes.

The third all-nighter took place May 28, 2001. There were a number of individuals here. That one went for 25 hours and 18 minutes. Then on May 9, 2007 – a large number of you were here – it went to 10:45 a.m. the following day. So 19 hours and 45 minutes.

The fifth one took place on December 4, 2007. That was a long one. The afternoon sitting began at 1 p.m. and went to 6 p.m. The evening sitting began at 8 p.m. and lasted till 5:53 the following afternoon. So that was 26 hours. That was a 108-page *Hansard* as compared to the 132-page *Hansard* we did the other day.

Of course, the most recent one, 25 hours and 30 minutes, we've already talked about. In order of precedence the length of the sittings breaks down as follows: the December 4, '07, one at 26 hours, and then you go down to the lesser ones I've already talked about. There was a great amount of time spent in 2010, not so much in days but certainly with respect to those other matters of time.

## Orders of the Day

### Royal Assent

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor will now attend upon the Assembly.

[The Premier and the Sergeant-at-Arms left the Chamber to attend the Lieutenant Governor]

[The Mace was draped]

**The Speaker:** As we await the return of the Premier with His Honour, I thought that I would read a poem for you. It's called *Season's Greetings*. It was written by the Member of the Provincial

Parliament for Oshawa in the province of Ontario and given in the Ontario Legislature. As this gentleman is not a member of our House, I can mention his name. His name is Mr. Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP for Oshawa. He recited this in the Ontario Legislature.

'Twas just weeks before Christmas and all through the House,  
The members were scurrying for the rise of the House.  
And the pages all stood firm in their place,  
guarding and watching our ominous mace.  
Now the Speaker just stood for a quieting therein,  
calling "Order! Order!" as he said with no grin,  
"I know all are restless, with shouting and posturing about,  
but it's order we'll have or I'll toss you straight out."  
Then the members, they seated and they listened with care,  
in hopes an agreement soon would be there.  
Now the sergeant is seated with sword at his side,  
maintaining the order that he does with such pride.  
And Hansard, yes, Hansard, and the words that they know,  
for who has said what, with the occasional show.  
The Clerk being seated and advising the Chair,  
reviewing petitions and order questions with care.  
Then the House, it did rise, and the members went home,  
leaving the Speaker just standing and being alone.  
But it's the House, yes, the House, or the chamber you see  
that influences generations, many yet to be.  
Then the doors, they are closed, and the lights put on dim,  
awaiting a time once again, when all shall begin.

3:00

[The Sergeant-at-Arms knocked on the main doors of the Chamber three times. The Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms opened the doors, and the Sergeant-at-Arms entered]

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** All rise, please. Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor awaits.

**The Speaker:** Sergeant-at-Arms, admit His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** Order!

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Colonel (Retired) Donald S. Ethell, OC, OMM, AOE, MSC, CD, LLD, and the Premier entered the Chamber. His Honour took his place upon the throne]

**His Honour:** Please be seated.

**The Speaker:** May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has at its present sittings passed certain bills to which and in the name of the Legislative Assembly I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

**The Clerk:** Your Honour, the following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed.

- 16 Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving) Amendment Act, 2010
- 17 Alberta Health Act
- 18 Government Organization Amendment Act, 2010
- 19 Fuel Tax Amendment Act, 2010
- 20 Class Proceedings Amendment Act, 2010
- 21 Wills and Succession Act
- 22 Family Law Statutes Amendment Act, 2010
- 23 Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2010
- 24 Carbon Capture and Storage Statutes Amendment Act, 2010
- 25 Freehold Mineral Rights Tax Amendment Act, 2010

- 26 Mines and Minerals (Coalbed Methane)  
Amendment Act, 2010  
27 Police Amendment Act, 2010  
28 Electoral Divisions Act

[The Mace was uncovered]

**The Speaker:** Please be seated.  
The hon. Government House Leader.

[The Lieutenant Governor indicated his assent]

**The Clerk:** In Her Majesty's name His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** All rise, please.

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier left the Chamber]

**Mr. Hancock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would move that the Assembly do now adjourn, and I advise the House that pursuant to Standing Order 3(4)(b) the session would be recessed.

**The Speaker:** Merry Christmas, and be safe.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:05 p.m. pursuant to Standing Order 3(4)(b)]



## **Bill Status Report for the 27th Legislature - 3rd Session (2010)**

**Activity to December 02, 2010**

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 Alberta Competitiveness Act (Stelmach)**

First Reading -- 4 (Feb. 4 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 123-24 (Feb. 16 aft.), 135-37 (Feb. 16 aft.), 137-42 (Feb. 16 aft.), 257-67 (Feb. 23 aft.), 286-98 (Feb. 24 aft.), 317-20 (Feb. 25 aft.), 403-09 (Mar. 10 aft.), 414-15 (Mar. 10 aft.), 434-40 (Mar. 11 aft.), 487-89 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 519-27 (Mar. 17 aft.), 556-61 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 660-61 (Mar. 24 aft., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 25 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2010 cA-14.9]

### **2\* Professional Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 (Woo-Paw)**

First Reading -- 64 (Feb. 10 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 124-25 (Feb. 16 aft.), 430-34 (Mar. 11 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 489-92 (Mar. 16 aft., passed with amendments)

Third Reading -- 678 (Mar. 25 aft., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 25 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 25, 2010; SA 2010 c7]

### **3 Fatal Accidents Amendment Act, 2010 (Weadick)**

First Reading -- 64 (Feb. 10 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 125 (Feb. 16 aft.), 137 (Feb. 16 aft.), 317 (Feb. 25 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 413-14 (Mar. 10 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 492 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 25 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 25, 2010; SA 2010 c6]

### **4 Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Amendment Act, 2010 (Olson)**

First Reading -- 188-89 (Feb. 18 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 280 (Feb. 24 aft.), 410-12 (Mar. 10 aft.), 489 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 529-32 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 678-79 (Mar. 25 aft., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 25 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 25, 2010; SA 2010 c4]

### **5 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2010 (\$) (Snelgrove)**

First Reading -- 213 (Feb. 22 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 247-49 (Feb. 23 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 280-86 (Feb. 24 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 312-17 (Feb. 25 aft., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 1 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 1, 2010; SA 2010 c1]

### **6 Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2010 (Bhullar)**

First Reading -- 213 (Feb. 22 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 280 (Feb. 24 aft.), 412-13 (Mar. 10 aft.), 489 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 527-29 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 679-80 (Mar. 25 aft., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 25 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 25, 2010; SA 2010 c5]

- 7\***      **Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 (Redford)**  
First Reading -- 311 (Feb. 25 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 402-03 (Mar. 10 aft.), 492-503 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 533-37 (Mar. 17 aft.), 561-62 (Mar. 18 aft.), 769-82 (Apr. 14 aft.), 850-62 (Apr. 20 aft.), 869-76 (Apr. 20 eve., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 878-84 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2010 c8]
- 8**      **Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment Act, 2010 (Griffiths)**  
First Reading -- 334 (Mar. 8 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 429-30 (Mar. 11 aft.), 503 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 532--33 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 680-81 (Mar. 25 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Mar. 25 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 25, 2010, with exceptions; SA 2010 c2]
- 9**      **Local Authorities Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 (Johnson)**  
First Reading -- 576 (Mar. 22 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 615-16 (Mar. 23 aft.), 735-43 (Apr. 13 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 798-804 (Apr. 15 aft.), 868 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 878 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 22, 2010; SA 2010 c9]
- 10**     **Victims Restitution and Compensation Payment Amendment Act, 2010 (\$) (Redford)**  
First Reading -- 486 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 518 (Mar. 17 aft.), 618-20 (Mar. 23 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 682-83 (Mar. 25 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 876-77 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 22, 2010; SA 2010 c12]
- 11**     **Witness Security Act (Drysdale)**  
First Reading -- 486 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 518 (Mar. 17 aft.), 620-24 (Mar. 23 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 683 (Mar. 25 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 877 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2010 cW-12.5]
- 12**     **Body Armour Control Act (Quest)**  
First Reading -- 486-87 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 518-19 (Mar. 17 aft.), 624-28 (Mar. 23 aft.), 743-49 (Apr. 13 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 862-65 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 885-87 (Apr. 20 aft., passed on division)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2010 cB-4.8]
- 13**     **Securities Amendment Act, 2010 (Morton)**  
First Reading -- 552 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 616-17 (Mar. 23 aft.), 681-82 (Mar. 25 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 865-67 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 877 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2010 c10]
- 14**     **Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2010 (Ouellette)**  
First Reading -- 552 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 617-18 (Mar. 23 aft.), 682 (Mar. 25 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 867 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 877-78 (Apr. 20 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 22, 2010; SA 2010 c11]
- 15**     **Appropriation Act, 2010 (\$) (Snelgrove)**  
First Reading -- 576 (Mar. 22 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 608-15 (Mar. 23 aft.), 627-28 (Mar. 23 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 643-60 (Mar. 24 aft., passed on division)  
Third Reading -- 675-78 (Mar. 25 aft.), 684 (Mar. 25 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Mar. 25 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 25, 2010; SA 2010 c3]

- 16\***     **Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving) Amendment Act, 2010 (Johnston)**  
First Reading -- 763 (Apr. 14 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 956-67 (Oct. 26 aft.), 980-81 (Oct. 27 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 991-98 (Oct. 27 aft.), 1013-20 (Oct. 28 aft.), 1113-17 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1135-42 (Nov. 4 aft.), 1191-96 (Nov. 15 eve.), 1227-28 (Nov. 16 aft.), 1247-52 (Nov. 16 eve., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 1283-84 (Nov. 17 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA2010 c23]
- 17**     **Alberta Health Act (Zwozdesky)**  
First Reading -- 1010-11 (Oct. 28 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1072-85 (Nov. 2 aft.), 1210-23 (Nov. 16 aft.), 1236-47 (Nov. 16 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1274-83 (Nov. 17 aft.), 1409-26 (Nov. 23 aft.), 1440-65 (Nov. 23 eve.), 1480-98 (Nov. 24 aft.), 1499, 1534-99, 1613-30 (Nov. 24 eve.), 1704-12 (Nov. 30 aft., passed on division)  
Third Reading -- 1712-16 (Nov. 30 aft.), 1724-39 (Nov. 30 eve., passed on division)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA2010 cA-19.5]
- 18**     **Government Organization Amendment Act, 2010 (Evans)**  
First Reading -- 916 (Oct. 25 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 984-90 (Oct. 27 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1107-11 (Nov. 3 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1225-27 (Nov. 16 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force Dec. 2, with exceptions; SA2010 c19]
- 19**     **Fuel Tax Amendment Act, 2010 (Griffiths)**  
First Reading -- 916 (Oct. 25 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 981-84 (Oct. 27 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1224-25 (Nov. 16 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1304-05 (Nov. 17 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force Dec. 2, with exceptions; SA2010 c18]
- 20\***     **Class Proceedings Amendment Act, 2010 (Drysdale)**  
First Reading -- 1032 (Nov. 1 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1065-66 (Nov. 2 aft.), 1100-01 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1229 (Nov. 16 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1427-28 (Nov. 23 eve., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 1599 (Nov. 24 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA2010 c15]
- 21**     **Wills and Succession Act (Olson)**  
First Reading -- 1033 (Nov. 1 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1066-67 (Nov. 2 aft.), 1101-03 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1229 (Nov. 16 eve.), 1365-66 (Nov. 22 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1438-39 (Nov. 23 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1599 (Nov. 24 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA2010 cW-12.2]
- 22**     **Family Law Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 (Redford)**  
First Reading -- 1033 (Nov. 1 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1067-70 (Nov. 2 aft.), 1103-06 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1229-30 (Nov. 16 eve.), 1366-67 (Nov. 22 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1439-40 (Nov. 23 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1599-1600 (Nov. 24 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA2010 c16]
- 23\***     **Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2010 (Weadick)**  
First Reading -- 1012 (Oct. 28 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1070-72 (Nov. 2 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1111-13 (Nov. 3 aft., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 1227 (Nov. 16 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA2010 c22]
- 24**     **Carbon Capture and Storage Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 (\$) (Liepert)**  
First Reading -- 1033 (Nov. 1 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1099-1100 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1180-91 (Nov. 15 eve.), 1268-70 (Nov. 17 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1385-96 (Nov. 22 eve.), 1679-88 (Nov. 29 eve.), 1717-24 (Nov. 30 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1739 (Nov. 30 eve.), 1766-67 (Dec. 1 aft.), 1771-84 (Dec. 1 eve., passed on division)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force Dec. 2; SA2010 c14]

- 25 Freehold Mineral Rights Tax Amendment Act, 2010 (Liepert)**  
 First Reading -- 1033 (Nov. 1 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 1100 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1175 (Nov. 15 eve., passed)  
 Committee of the Whole -- 1223-24 (Nov. 16 aft., passed)  
 Third Reading -- 1303-04 (Nov. 17 eve., passed)  
 Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force Dec. 2; SA2010 c17]
- 26\* Mines and Minerals (Coalbed Methane) Amendment Act, 2010 (Liepert)**  
 First Reading -- 980 (Oct. 27 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 1012-13 (Oct. 28 aft.), 1106-07 (Nov. 3 aft.), 1175-80 (Nov. 15 eve., passed)  
 Committee of the Whole -- 1430-38 (Nov. 23 eve., passed with amendments)  
 Third Reading -- 1600-02 (Nov. 24 eve., passed on division)  
 Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force Dec. 2; SA2010 c20]
- 27\* Police Amendment Act, 2010 (Oberle)**  
 First Reading -- 1098 (Nov. 3 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 1133-34 (Nov. 4 aft.), 1230-33 (Nov. 16 eve.), 1266-68 (Nov. 17 aft., passed)  
 Committee of the Whole -- 1602-13 (Nov. 24 eve.), 1667-74 (Nov. 29 eve., passed with amendments)  
 Third Reading -- 1674-79 (Nov. 29 eve., passed)  
 Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA2010 c21]
- 28\* Electoral Divisions Act (Redford)**  
 First Reading -- 1098 (Nov. 3 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 1134 (Nov. 4 aft.), 1233-36 (Nov. 16 eve.), 1270-74 (Nov. 17 aft., passed)  
 Committee of the Whole -- 1428-30 (Nov. 23 eve.), 1499-1534 (Nov. 24 eve.), 1756-63 (Dec. 1 aft., passed with amendments)  
 Third Reading -- 1764-65, 1767-69 (Dec. 1 aft.), 1784-96 (Dec. 1 eve., passed on division)  
 Royal Assent -- (Dec. 2 aft.) [Comes into force on day writ issued, with exceptions; SA2010 cE-4.2]
- 29 Alberta Parks Act (\$) (Ady)**  
 First Reading -- 1131-32 (Nov. 4 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 1265-66 (Nov. 17 aft.), 1285-1303 (Nov. 17 eve.), 1368-85 (Nov. 22 eve., passed)
- 201 Workers' Compensation (Firefighters) Amendment Act, 2010 (Rogers)**  
 First Reading -- 154 (Feb. 17 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 213-27 (Feb. 22 aft., passed)  
 Committee of the Whole -- 577-85 (Mar. 22 aft., passed)  
 Third Reading -- 709 (Apr. 12 aft., passed)  
 Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2010 c13]
- 202\* Mandatory Reporting of Child Pornography Act (Forsyth)**  
 First Reading -- 154 (Feb. 17 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 336-48 (Mar. 8 aft., passed)  
 Committee of the Whole -- 586-89 (Mar. 22 aft.), 698-704 (Apr. 12 aft.), 705-09 (Apr. 12 aft., passed with amendments)  
 Third Reading -- 819-25 (Apr. 19 aft., passed)  
 Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2010 cM-3.3]
- 203 Municipal Government (Local Access and Franchise Fees) Amendment Act, 2010 (Fawcett)**  
 First Reading -- 311-12 (Feb. 25 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 709-10 (Apr. 12 aft.), 825-32 (Apr. 19 aft.), 836-37 (Apr. 19 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Community Services), (Oct. 27 aft., reported to Assembly, not proceeded with)
- 204 Fiscal Responsibility (Spending Limit) Amendment Act, 2010 (Anderson)**  
 First Reading -- 271 (Feb. 24 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 922-28 (Oct. 25 aft.), 1036-44 (Nov. 1 aft., defeated on division)
- 205 Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act (Quest)**  
 First Reading -- 916 (Oct. 25 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 1044-46 (Nov. 1 aft.), 1155-63 (Nov. 15 aft., passed)
- 206 Utilities Consumer Advocate Act (Kang)**  
 First Reading -- 1012 (Oct. 28 aft., passed)  
 Second Reading -- 1163-69 (Nov. 15 aft.), 1345-52 (Nov. 22 aft., defeated)



- 208 Recall Act (Hinman)**  
First Reading -- 1033-34 (Nov. 1 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1352-57 (Nov. 22 aft., adjourned)
- 217 Election Statutes (Electoral Reform) Amendment Act, 2010 (Taft)**  
First Reading -- 1701 (Nov. 30 aft., passed)
- 220 Tailings Ponds Reclamation Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 (Blakeman)**  
First Reading -- 1753 (Dec. 1 aft., passed)
- 223 Health Statutes (Canada Health Act Reaffirmation) Amendment Act, 2010 (Mason)**  
First Reading -- 1810 (Dec. 2 aft., passed)
- 230 Anti-Idling Act (Taylor)**  
First Reading -- 1701 (Nov. 30 )
- Pr1 Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Act (Weadick)**  
First Reading -- 366 (Mar. 9 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 732-33 (Apr. 13 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 749 (Apr. 13 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 804 (Apr. 15 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 22, 2010; SA2010 c25]
- Pr2\* Canada Olympic Park Property Tax Exemption Amendment Act, 2010 (DeLong)**  
First Reading -- 366 (Mar. 9 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 733-35 (Apr. 13 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 749-50 (Apr. 13 aft.), 768 (Apr. 14 aft., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 804 (Apr. 15 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 31, 2009; SA 2010 c24]
- Pr3\* Lamont Health Care Centre Act (Horne)**  
First Reading -- 366 (Mar. 9 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 735 (Apr. 13 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 768-69 (Apr. 14 aft., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 804 (Apr. 15 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 22 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 22, 2010; SA 2010 c26]



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