



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, March 10, 2016

Day 3

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Second Session

Wanner, Hon. Robert E., Medicine Hat (ND), Speaker
Jabbour, Deborah C., Peace River (ND), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (ND), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Anderson, Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (ND)	MacIntyre, Donald, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W)
Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (W)	Malkinson, Brian, Calgary-Currie (ND)
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Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)	McCuaig-Boyd, Hon. Margaret, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (ND)
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Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (ND), Deputy Government House Leader	McKittrick, Annie, Sherwood Park (ND)
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Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)	Miller, Barb, Red Deer-South (ND)
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Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (ND)	Phillips, Hon. Shannon, Lethbridge-West (ND)
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Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (ND)	Rodney, Dave, Calgary-Lougheed (PC)
Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (W)	Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (ND)
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Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)	Schmidt, Hon. Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (ND)
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Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W), Official Opposition Deputy House Leader	Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (W)
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Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (ND)	Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)
Hunter, Grant R., Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)	Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (ND)
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Jean, Brian Michael, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (W), Leader of the Official Opposition	Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (W)
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (ND)	Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (ND)
Kleinstauber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (ND)	van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (W)
Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (ND)	Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (ND), Deputy Government Whip
Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (ND)	Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)
Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (W)	Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (ND)	Vacant, Calgary-Greenway

Party standings:

New Democrat: 54 Wildrose: 22 Progressive Conservative: 8 Alberta Liberal: 1 Alberta Party: 1 Vacant: 1

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Kazim	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 10, 2016

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly 19 students from St. Angela elementary school. They're here to observe the proceedings today, so please act accordingly, everyone. They're with Mr. Richy Trinh, their teacher. St. Angela's is just a great school, and I'm so proud to have them here today. If they could stand and receive the warm welcome of the Legislature.

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

Mr. Fildebrandt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly students from the grades 7 and 8 class of the Rosemary school from the beautiful village of Rosemary, Alberta, led by Mr. Blumell and Brent Meyer and accompanied by seven teachers. These students have joined us today, and they are actually the very first people I've introduced to this Assembly. Rosemary is a beautiful village about 30 kilometres northwest of the city of Brooks. I'm so pleased to be joined by them today. Please give the students and teachers and parents the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Ms Kazim: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It is my honour to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly the students, teachers Ms Carla Samuelson and Ms Schmitz, and parents Mr. David Zebak, Mr. Jason Wax, and Mr. Jamie Marino from Nellie McClung elementary school. Nellie McClung elementary school is a highly reputable school, and the residents of Calgary-Glenmore are rightly proud of it. The teachers, staff, and parents work very hard to provide quality education to the students. I experienced this firsthand when I did a session on politics in the classroom. I'm very pleased that the same students are here today with us to learn about politics by actually experiencing it. I would like to request that the students, teachers, and parents from Nellie McClung elementary school rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of this Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other school groups to be introduced?

Seeing none, the hon. Minister of Environment and Parks and minister responsible for the climate change office.

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my delight to introduce today to you and through you Mr. Dan Balaban, who joins us here today in the Chamber. Mr. Balaban is a formidable wind energy entrepreneur. As company founder, president, and CEO of Greengate Power Corporation, he is responsible for over 1,500 megawatts of wind projects on 200,000 acres of private Alberta land. That's a greenhouse gas emission reduction of 3 million tonnes per year. Known as Canada's wind energy cowboy, Mr. Balaban is changing the way Canadian energy is produced, proving

that innovative green energy technology is not only environmentally responsible but highly profitable. As Alberta continues to diversify our economy, Mr. Balaban is committed to working with our government to make Alberta North America's wind energy leader. I ask that Mr. Balaban rise to receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Minister of Infrastructure, do you have a guest?

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly a proud, hard-working Albertan, Brent Morton. Mr. Morton hails from Rothesay, New Brunswick, originally but has called Alberta home for the last 10 years. He helps build our province as a welder with pipefitters local 488. I would ask Mr. Morton to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Highwood.

Mr. W. Anderson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is indeed an honour and a privilege to introduce to you and through you two distinguished individuals to this House. These gentlemen work for and serve the people of Okotoks, which is one of the two major urban centres in my constituency. Rick Quail is the chief administrative officer for the town. He's a committed, prudent, and extremely valuable member of the town's team and someone I am proud to call a friend.

Here also today is Okotoks' mayor, Bill Robertson, or, as everybody calls him, Mayor Bill. Mayor Bill is a very popular teacher in Okotoks and is now a natural in his role as mayor. Mayor Bill was one of the first people to call me and congratulate me on my election last May. I remember because he told me: now go to work and get my water pipeline. Since then he has guided me through developing strategic relationships with his fellow council members and the inner workings of the town of Okotoks. This year, with the dedication and hard work of thousands of townfolk, Okotoks has been nominated as one of the top nominees for Kraft Hockeyville. Voting is this Sunday, and I encourage everybody to vote for Okotoks.

I consider both Rick and Bill and the other members of the town council friends. I look forward to mutual, beneficial business and personal relationships. I ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Legislature.

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

Mr. Stier: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Today it certainly is an honour for me to rise and introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly some great councillors and a mayor in my area. Also, I'd like to make mention of the two folks that were just announced, because Okotoks is my hometown, and I'm so proud to have them here as well.

But to go on, I'm here to introduce and welcome Rick Everett, the mayor of the town of Nanton, and Jamie Cutler, a recent addition to my list here from Claresholm. Both Jamie and Rick bring a bright, fresh, and well-organized approach to operational aspects and lifestyle to the good folks in both of their towns. I've really thoroughly enjoyed working with both of their councils. It's a pleasure, really, to have them here today for their first time, and I'm sure they're enjoying this. I would now like to ask Mayor Rick Everett and Councillor Cutler to please stand and enjoy the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, you have some visitors you'd like to introduce?

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to introduce to the Assembly, for those of you who haven't met them yet, four very important men in my life. The first that I want to mention is Reg Basken, who has been a long-time member of our party. He was party president during some of our difficult times, and when I said that I was running for school board, he immediately took a sign and helped me out. So it means a great deal. Of course, I wouldn't be here if I didn't have that great start. Thank you, Reg.

I also have three guests in the Speaker's gallery, Madam Speaker. Those are three former MLAs from our party. The first, Alex McEachern, represented an area very similar to the part of the city that I represent now. He was very recently the president of the riding association and has always been, through many decades, committed to volunteering, donating, and keeping the values of social democracy alive and well in Alberta. So thank you to Alex.

As well, Raj Pannu was the leader of the party when I first got involved. He was a professor at the university, and when I asked him for some life advice, he said: get involved in politics. He wished he would have started before 65, and he thought we needed a lot more women involved. I have to say that I think his vision has come to life in this Assembly today.

1:40

The third introduction is a very good friend, Ray Martin, who was a member of this House many times, a leader of our party, and who stepped up when we, of course, faced a tragedy, losing the current Premier's father. He did a great job for our party, and he also continues to do a great job representing Albertans on the Edmonton public school board. I had the honour of working for him and with him, and now I get to work for him again as a member of this Assembly.

Thank you very much to all four of you for your support over the years. Please rise.

The Deputy Speaker: It's always an honour to have former members of this Assembly with us here in the House.

The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly from the town of Two Hills His Worship Henry Neufeld, the mayor of Two Hills. As a business owner as well as the mayor of Two Hills I'm sure he could provide this Chamber with some insight into the economic situation that faces our province and businesses and individuals every day.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to make a plug for my hometown of St. Paul, which is also in the running for Kraft Hockeyville, so please vote on the 13th.

Mr. Neufeld is a very innovative man who has some great ideas for diversifying the economy in our area. We look forward to working with the various departments of this government to get some of those innovative projects off the ground as soon as possible. I'd like to ask him now to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Ms Ellen Campbell, a friend of mine, a fellow cyclist, and an instructor at the CCI-LEX Cultural Connections Institute.

With her today are some of her students: Maria Dumont, a student from Quebec who has work experience as a hairdresser and health care attendant; Felipe Ganz, a kinesiologist from Chile who is hoping to study physiotherapy at the University of Alberta; Diego Palma, a Chilean high school student who hopes to study medicine; and Gan Zhihui, an English tutor from Harbin, China, who is seeking work in Edmonton while her husband is pursuing his PhD. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

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

Mr. Nielsen: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a thrill today to be able to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a wonderful organization from my constituency, KARA Family Resource Centre. KARA is a nonprofit organization that was formed in 1984 by a collaborative of 16 community agencies and individuals who identified a need for services to low-income single mothers. Today KARA provides numerous programs and services to many families at no cost, and I'm very proud to have them in my riding of Edmonton-Decore. Visiting us today from KARA are Pam Doubleday, executive director, and Rick Thomas, director. I would now ask that they please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce three great Albertans, one of whom is Ron Brochu, who ran for the Liberal Party in Edmonton in the last election and is staying with us, strong. He's bringing with him Léo and Henriette Laverdière. They're former farmers from the francophone hamlet of Girouxville, located in the Smoky River-Peace region of Alberta. Always leaders in their community, their ability to work together as a team, not to mention Léo's tenacious work ethic, led them to be recognized in the 1960s as a model farm by the department of agriculture here in Alberta. Now in their retirement, Léo and Henriette live in Edmonton at the Saint-Thomas Health Centre in Bonnie Doon. Will the three of you please stand and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Loyola: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm honoured today to introduce to you and through you two members of the global education program at the University of Alberta, director Nancy Hannemann and global education co-ordinator Lisa Lozanski. Ms Hannemann has been a strong advocate for human rights in this province and in this country for her entire life, and I'm proud to call her a friend. Ms Hannemann and Ms Lozanski co-ordinate the well-known International Week at the U of A, which continues its 31-year-long quest for a better world, to understand global issues that define our era and to connect people who can and will make a positive difference. I ask the members of this House to provide them with the customary traditional warm welcome. Please stand.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's an honour and a privilege today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislature Ms Laila Goodridge. Laila was a candidate for Grande Prairie-Wapiti for the Wildrose. She's a hard worker on a campaign. In fact, her hard work on my campaign got me here. Of

course, she didn't quite make it. She put a little more energy in my campaign than her own. Laila, if you could stand up and receive the warm welcome of this House.

Members' Statements

Watershed Management

Mr. Westhead: Madam Speaker, our government is committed to the protection of our headwaters and species at risk. Healthy watersheds, sustainable resource development, and responsible recreational activity are not mutually exclusive. Planning for watershed health must always be a primary consideration.

In making these complex decisions, we will take a thoughtful, measured, and respectful approach. We must also ensure that First Nations have access for traditional land use and preserve constitutional treaty rights. Our government's action to protect the Castle wildland and provincial park in southwestern Alberta embodies these goals.

Water security is a common denominator that we simply cannot ignore. As author and naturalist Kevin Van Tighem articulates: water does not come from the river; it comes to the river. He observes that a river is a product of its watershed. It is the landscape that produces the water, which in turn determines water quantity, quality, and its rate of discharge.

The constituency of Banff-Cochrane contains one of the most significant watersheds for western Canada. The water this landscape produces supports nearly 3 million people, including agricultural and industrial users. The landscape itself supports good local jobs through the tourism, television, and film industries.

Clearly, we must make prudent and responsible land-use decisions now to safeguard water security into the future. To accomplish this goal, we are designing a parks management and tourism strategy for southwestern Alberta. This will involve months of engagement with local communities, Albertans, land users, and First Nations. Broad consultation is necessary in order to get it right. I am proud to be part of a government that is taking its responsibility to the environment seriously.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Highwood.

Water Management in Okotoks

Mr. W. Anderson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. One of the most urgent issues facing the residents of Highwood and in particular Okotoks is access to a sufficient amount of water to accommodate the dramatic growth of this community. With the town's current water supply at full capacity immediate action is required to move critical infrastructure projects forward, including much-needed schools, to attract investment, and encourage and establish businesses to grow.

Okotoks' proactive approach to water conservation has been recognized by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which awarded Okotoks in 2015 the sustainable communities award for water conservation. The town of Okotoks and the residents have done all they can to use their water allocations wisely. Unfortunately, it is no longer enough. Further action is required.

Okotoks understands that provincial capital funds need to be considered in the context of co-ordinated regional priorities. As a member of the Calgary Regional Partnership Okotoks helped to develop CRP's 10-year capital investment plan. The first step of this comprehensive program is for the construction of a water pipeline from the city of Calgary to Okotoks. The proposed water pipeline was designed to extend and meet the needs of the MD of

Foothills and the adjoining communities of Turner Valley and Black Diamond. The proposed water pipeline has the full support of the city of Calgary and will ensure that no additional withdrawals from the Sheep or Highwood rivers will be used, as a clean and secure water supply will be withdrawn upstream from Calgary's sewage effluent release.

This regional approach will ensure the protection of critical agricultural land while meeting the growth requirements of the region. The Okotoks water pipeline is shovel ready, and its construction will create jobs and economic development during this time of economic instability. This government has the opportunity to put its words into action and support the construction of this water pipeline. I'm sure that as this government reviews the town's application, it will see the value of this infrastructure project. I urge this government to act and act now. Build this pipeline.

Thank you.

1:50

Oral Question Period

The Deputy Speaker: The Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Job Creation

Mr. Jean: With 80,000 full-time jobs lost under the NDP government thus far, Alberta families expected a plan from this government on how to get Albertans back to work. That plan was revealed on Tuesday, and now the experts are weighing in on the NDP's flagship economic initiative. One calls it, and I quote: an act to allow a minister to do ministerial stuff. End quote. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business calls it a skeleton of a job-creation framework. Can the Premier explain why, after a year of making so many promises to Albertans for some kind of jobs plan, she still has not delivered one?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In fact, we have made quite a bit of progress with respect to the development of our jobs plan. Acting on the advice of David Dodge, we increased our investment in capital in order to create more jobs, and that's something which, in fact, is about a \$9 billion larger investment than would have happened under the plan of the Official Opposition. So that's part one.

Part two was that we established a new ministry and we introduced programs last fall that involved introducing more access to capital as a result of consultations and requests from business leaders. But we have more.

Mr. Jean: Certainly, I think that a lot of businesses are really excited about this and that it will help: that was the jobs minister that said that last fall as she revealed a \$180 million job subsidy program. A week ago the economic development minister's office said that the program was still going ahead. Well, it seems like the Premier's press secretary has a better handle on the government agenda than the front bench because she told a columnist just yesterday that after creating a grand total of zero jobs, the program has been cancelled. Can the Premier please explain who has the correct information, her minister or her press secretary?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As members of the Assembly know, over the course of the last 10 months the price of oil has dropped much more significantly, and the duration of that drop has been predicted to go on much, much longer, so we're

dealing with a different economic situation. As a result, we thought it was prudent to carefully examine all of our programs to make sure that they are the best programs to deliver the most and the greatest number of jobs. As a result, we are reviewing that program because that's our job, to make sure that we get the best program out, and you will see more in the budget.

Mr. Jean: Albertans were told last fall that the job subsidy program would create 27,000 jobs. They were told that it would begin in January. When the Wildrose actually questioned the effectiveness of the program, the NDP told Albertans that the Wildrose was wrong. Six months later the job subsidy program has been scrapped by the NDP, but the layoffs have continued. We went from a bad plan to no plan. Can the Premier explain to the tens of thousands of unemployed Albertans why she spent time raising money in Ontario for opponents of Alberta's jobs instead of developing a plan to create jobs for Albertans right here in Alberta?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As I've said, we have developed a plan. We are working on a plan. There are many elements of the plan that we've already rolled out. I was able to announce an excellent diversification opportunity earlier today, and the specific elements of that job plan will become clear when we introduce the budget. There are monetary items to it, and we can't talk about it before then, but we expect that members on that side will probably be saying good things about it when they see it.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, second main question.

Energy Policies

Mr. Jean: Thank you. The Premier's carbon policies and other electrical grid experiments are putting people out of work and will lead to much higher power bills for every single Albertan. Instead of creating an environment favourable to job creation, the government's top priority is a policy that leads directly to the shut down of mines and power plants that sustain communities like Hanna all across the province. What does the Premier have to say to the community of Hanna and the families who live there whose futures are very much in doubt as a result of her ideological agenda?

Ms Notley: Well, Madam Speaker, I would begin by saying that fearmongering doesn't help anybody. When it comes to the announcement by TransCanada, let's be very clear. They are trying to work their way out of a power purchase agreement as a result of a loophole that's the size of seven different large trucks that was negotiated by the previous government. That being said, the price of coal has gone down a great deal, so that's the situation that we're dealing with now. But right now those coal plants will continue to run, those jobs will continue to be there, and reliability will continue. No one should suggest otherwise, and to do so is irresponsible.

Mr. Jean: After TransCanada cancelled the major power contracts because of NDP policy, the Energy minister said that it would have little impact on consumers. Well, the former head of Alberta's Balancing Pool said that those changes will put Alberta power consumers on the hook for an extra \$500 million per year. That means higher power bills for every single Albertan, for seniors, the unemployed, struggling business owners. All will feel the pinch

when they can least afford it. This is life under the NDP. What does the Premier have to say about this?

Ms Notley: Madam Speaker, blaming the fact that the price of coal is low on the NDP is almost as ridiculous as blaming the fact that the price of oil and gas is low on the NDP. This is a function of the oversupply of energy in the market. This is the free market that those folks over there love so much. That's what we are dealing with right now. This is a result of it not being profitable anymore to sell coal energy within this market. So we will manage it. That's exactly what we will do because that's our job. But as I say again, fearmongering helps nobody.

Mr. Jean: What we're not seeing is any plan to deal with the huge challenge faced by consumers when it comes to electricity costs: that was the now Premier in 2012. Four years later the situation for many Albertans is much, much worse. Thousands are unemployed, and this government is about to implement a policy that will lead to power bills that families just can't afford. Why won't the Premier step back and think about all the damage her ideological agenda is causing for those she used to advocate for just a few short years ago?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think the member opposite is referring to our climate leadership plan, which is an excellent opportunity for me to talk about the fact that today in Washington the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States are talking about implementing a plan which is in fact a complete and total replication of the plan developed here in Alberta by industry, by energy leaders, by environmental groups under this government's leadership. It is something of which this government and all Albertans should be very proud.

Government Caucus Calgary Office

Mr. Nixon: Madam Speaker, today we released information that shows that some time after the need for a by-election in Calgary-Greenway the government set up a secret outreach office in northeast Calgary. This office is staffed by taxpayer funded NDP campaigners and former Leadnow activists. Their actual roles are shady at best. In Ottawa the NDP got in big trouble for just this thing. Simple question for the Premier: was the Premier involved in setting up a secret satellite office in northeast Calgary in the lead-up to the by-election?

Ms Notley: You know, Madam Speaker, at a time of serious economic struggles for the people of Alberta throwing poorly researched, mudslinging tactics is a ridiculous use of this opposition's time. You know what? This office was so secret that it's on a government of Alberta website, right above the listing for your staff, who apparently are also secret to you.

2:00

Mr. Nixon: Orange is clearly the new blue, Madam Speaker.

In the Members' Services Committee a week ago I asked about this office. The answers we got made it seem like this office didn't exist. In committee the answers caused the Speaker to declare that this office didn't exist. The chief government whip looked mighty relieved. But this office does exist; we've been there. Will the Premier tell us what sort of public outreach can be done with such a secret office, and if nothing is wrong, why hide it?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I've just noted, we haven't hid it. But, you know, I will say this. This is common practice. When the Liberal caucus was the Official Opposition, they actually had a caucus office in Calgary, which is a reasonable thing to do. But you know what? I would suggest that the Wittle Rose might want to think also about having a caucus office in Calgary since they're clearly not spending their money on either spell-check, proofreading, or research.

Mr. Nixon: Madam Speaker, when Albertans threw out the previous government, they knew we might get weird economic decisions with the NDP, but we all expected the government to be more honest and ethical than the last one. But what did we get? We got a Premier that is under two ethics investigations, that bans union and corporate donations but attends \$10,000-a-plate union and corporate fundraisers. Now we have secret offices in the neighbourhood of a by-election. Was this what the Premier meant when she said that Albertans deserve a government they can trust?

Ms Notley: Madam Speaker, notwithstanding the indignant volume of the last question, I believe that I've answered this question. This issue's not secret. Caucus offices are often in different jurisdictions. I would suggest that it's a good way to reach out to communities where you don't have a whole lot of representation, and I suggest that maybe you consider it.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. leader of the third party.

Pipeline Construction

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday at the AUMA breakfast in front of many municipal leaders the Premier boasted about getting some form of agreement with other Premiers on Energy East. While you were in Vancouver, did you manage to meet one-on-one with Premiers Clark and Wall, our closest neighbours and allies, and can you tell Albertans what progress you made with them on getting Alberta's energy to tidewater?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. In fact, meeting with Premier Wall is not really part of the need to get energy to tidewater because he's already onside of that, so that's good. I did have conversations with Premier Clark, and we are going to have additional conversations, as the member probably knows. Some of it was reported already in the media. I think there are some opportunities for us to work with them, and we will continue to do that because it's our view that while Energy East is an important project, I would love to see success and progress with respect to Kinder Morgan as well, and I think there may be some opportunities there.

Mr. McIver: Well, it wasn't in the throne speech, but it's interesting when another Premier gets told that they're not important.

Given that just a year ago you, Premier, were against Alberta's pipelines and took a strong position and now you seem to be selling yourself as the champion of pipelines, when you explain this complete turnabout position to other Premiers, how much of a hindrance will your previous position be in securing their co-operation now to access tidewater?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the member opposite knows, my previous position was that the Keystone pipeline was simply going to be another mechanism to sell to the very market

which is now our competitor, so it wasn't necessarily in our best interest. My position with respect to the Gateway pipeline was that with the many, many conditions applied to it, it was just not likely to happen in the near future. My position always had been that Kinder Morgan was an excellent opportunity and should be pursued, and that's always been my position, as with Energy East. Indeed, I believe we have made great progress, and I look forward to making more.

Mr. McIver: Well, it appears the Premier is on the road to Damascus.

Later today, Madam Speaker, I will table two media reports from before we had an NDP government. In those reports it indicates that Ontario's Premier gave unconditional support to Energy East. Since then, since we've had an NDP government, the Premier has added conditions. To our Premier: how do you explain to Albertans that you've actually gone backwards on this file since becoming Premier?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I suspect that those previous reports were not actually accurate because that's not the way Ontario had been previously, but they have moved forward. I've had, more importantly, very productive discussions with Premiers across Canada since that time, and the understanding of the need for that pipeline is growing, and it's becoming even more clear as everybody experiences the results of the drop in the price of oil and the results of Alberta struggling. Premiers in every other province are seeing it in their provinces as well, so they're starting to understand more and more the urgency of this issue.

The Deputy Speaker: My apologies, hon. members. I just need to confirm. Hon. Premier, you had a document. You will be tabling that in the House?

Ms Notley: Oh. Which one? This one?

The Deputy Speaker: Yes. Just a reminder that props are not appropriate, and anything that's brought against would need to be tabled. Thank you.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Government Policies

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Now, the budget is delayed again this year, and Albertans are wondering why in this very difficult time the government is waiting to release its plan. Maybe they don't want to hurt their chances in the Greenway by-election. Perhaps they're waiting for the federal budget, or maybe – maybe – it's because they don't want to embarrass their federal cousins at the national NDP convention to be held here in Edmonton the weekend of April 8. Given that last year's budget was delayed to boost the federal NDs' election chances, I think we know why this budget is delayed. To the Premier: will you commit to moving up the release of the budget so Albertans know how your government plans to address the fiscal crisis?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. No. My Minister of Finance has indicated that the budget will be introduced on April 14, and that's when it will be introduced. But I think it's really important to understand that eight of the last 14 years the budget has been introduced and passed after March 30, so that's quite common. It's not an uncommon timing for it to be done this way,

particularly because the federal budget was put back by a week, so we need to get a sense of what's happening there before we finalize the numbers.

Mr. Clark: Thank you. Well, no budget means no solutions. Albertans are hurting and looking for solutions. I happen to have some solutions, and so do our neighbours in Saskatchewan. Premier Brad Wall suggested that tackling the orphaned well problem is a great way to get people back to work and very quickly while solving a big environmental problem. Now, currently Alberta has a backlog of orphan wells that no longer have an owner but still need to be reclaimed. To the Premier: will you add to the orphan well fund to get Albertans with oil field experience back to work while solving a big environmental problem for our province?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. You know, it is interesting, and to be honest, I think there is some merit, personally, to the proposal that was put forward by Premier Wall on that issue. The first thing that, of course, we need to be very, very clear about is that we have a strict polluter-pay policy in Alberta, and we do not want to be subsidizing or somehow watering that down. That being said, we also know that there are a number of abandoned wells where there really is no polluter left, unfortunately, and it may well be the case that in terms of immediate infrastructure investment and immediate ability to get people back to work this is something worthy of consideration.

Mr. Clark: Thank you for that answer, Madam Premier. That's an encouraging answer, and I hope you follow through on that.

Now, you talked about industry's responsibility to reclaim wells, but the fees already charged burden many producers, especially smaller producers. There are about 705 orphan wells in Alberta, but the orphan well fund only has enough money to reclaim about 40 every year, which means it will take nearly 20 years to clear that backlog. Unfortunately, because of the downturn, the total number of orphan wells is likely to go up. To the Premier again: will you commit to a four-year plan to clear the backlog of orphan wells while service costs are low, fixing the problem and getting Albertans back to work?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There's no question that this is a very important issue. It's a liability, quite frankly, that has accrued over decades and decades of neglect and inaction, and it's probably not something that can be cleaned up in four years specifically given the current fiscal restraints that we're operating under, but we're very aware that it's a critically important issue. The AER is working with oil and gas producers on this issue. We've asked for advice on it, and we hope to be able to make some important steps forward in the near future.

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

2:10 Workplace Safety and Employment Standards

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the past year we have seen tragic incidents happen with employees on the job in regard to gas station attendants and convenience store employees. To the Minister of Labour: what action is the government taking to prevent incidents like these happening again?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Madam Speaker. These are indeed very tragic situations, and they should be preventable. My heart goes out to the families that have been impacted by injuries and deaths on the job. Workers should be able to go to work, do their job, and come home safely. On March 1 we announced a review of 200 work sites, gas stations, and convenience stores across Alberta by occupational health and safety inspectors, and this review will help inform our next steps.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Minister. Madam Speaker, I think I speak for everyone in the House when I say that the safety of Albertans, especially while at work, needs to be a top priority of this government. Given that every day that goes by without a concrete action from our government is another day we are leaving vulnerable Albertan workers at risk, will the minister commit to introducing worker safety legislation this spring?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Protecting workers and preventing deaths is a top priority for this government. One concrete action that we will be taking immediately is through those 200 work-site inspections. The inspectors are empowered to write orders on the spot, including stop-use and/or stop-work orders or other orders as necessary. We are committed to working with our stakeholders to review the results of this survey and determine the next steps that way.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Minister. Madam Speaker, given that it's been quite some time since Alberta's labour laws have been reviewed and updated, will the minister consider including a thorough review of occupational health and safety and employment standards to reflect the needs of Alberta's most vulnerable workers?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We do want to make sure that Alberta is the best place to come to work in Canada and in the world. That means ensuring that there are good, modern standards in place that are fair for workers as well as for employers. Unfortunately, some of our labour legislation hasn't been reviewed in over a decade, so I am committed to reviewing these laws in a sure-footed way and bringing back to our partners and bringing them to the table so that when we do introduce changes, we can do it properly.

Chief Adviser on Labour Negotiations

Mr. Fildebrandt: Madam Speaker, yesterday I asked this government some questions about why they hired one of the AUPE's top negotiators to be their new chief adviser on labour negotiations. The government couldn't help but congratulate themselves on a job well done, to the disbelief of even some of their own supporters. I believe that this is a serious conflict of interest. Albertans believe that this is a serious conflict of interest. The Finance minister himself even hinted to the media that this might in fact be a conflict of interest. Will the Deputy Premier finally admit that this is a conflict of interest?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Madam Speaker. A conflict of interest may arise if a person is able to use confidential information from their past employment. In these circumstances a conflict of interest will not arise because Mr. Davediuk will not be in a position to use that confidential information as he won't be at the table for anything that

he was directly involved in before. As well, our government has a code of conduct that governs all of our employees, and we trust that the public service will continue to act impartially.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Given, Madam Speaker, that he's going to be at the same table sitting right across from his former comrades – I'm sure that Mr. Dave diuk is a wonderful person and great negotiator. He might have even served on both sides of the table over his career. But it is unheard of and totally unacceptable for a labour negotiator to move from one side of the same table while negotiations are currently under way one day to the next. Does the Premier . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, we do not have lengthy preambles on the supplementals. Please get to your question.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Given that the Premier needs to recognize that her actions have severely damaged Albertans' confidence that this government will negotiate on the side of taxpayers and not their government-sector allies, will the Premier finally stand up and defend her actions to this House?

Ms Gray: As is common in the labour relations world, Mr. Dave diuk has experience on both sides of the table, over 28 years' experience in labour relations and contract negotiation. Those who know him know that he is fair and firm. He is an asset to our team as we go toward reaching fair bargaining with our public-sector employees.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Madam Speaker, given the NDP's plan to have a big union negotiator negotiate big union contracts – he received a big union endorsement yesterday. The brass at the AFL are so terrified of the government's tough new negotiator that they even put out a press release praising the government's new hire. Premier, the big unions love this appointment; they couldn't be happier. The NDP are stacking the deck and laying the groundwork for sham negotiations.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, I need to remind you again: no preambles, please.

Go ahead, hon. Minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Madam Speaker. To bring some experience to this conversation, University of Alberta labour law professor Eric Adams said: it doesn't strike me as illogical to think that somebody who had been working at a high level for the AUPE might be extremely good at negotiating and bargaining with the AUPE, based on that knowledge; switching his orientation and his objectives at the bargaining table from one side to the other is not unheard of and, in fact, can be quite effective.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Job Creation Tax Credit Program

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just a few short months ago this government sang the praises of their job creation tax credit. According to their own website it was supposed to create 27,000 new jobs and be up and running "as soon as possible after the election to support immediate job creation." I guess 10 months and counting is considered "as soon as possible" on the government side, but I suggest that it is an eternity to unemployed Albertans. To the minister of economic development: how many jobs have directly been created by the job creation tax credit?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I'll thank the member for the question. In the last 10 months there's been a significant, continued drop in the global price of oil, which is affecting not only workers and businesses in our province but as well is having a profound impact on communities around the province. Our government is doing our due diligence to ensure that the program we roll out will in fact meet the objectives that we've stated. Unlike the opposition, who would prefer that we just throw things out the door, our government is going to take the time to get it right.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Minister, I hope that we're not waiting for the not quite ready for prime time *Seinfeld* bill to solve problems.

Again to the minister: given that this plan has created no jobs except yours, actually, and according to various reports the information for this program is not available and no one has applied – we all make mistakes – will you admit to this House and, more importantly, to the people of Alberta that this highly touted program has been an abject failure?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our government has taken action since last fall in providing supports for, especially, our business communities. We've freed up over \$2 billion in capital available through the Alberta Treasury Branches. We've increased their lending limit by \$1.5 billion. As well, we've injected new money into the Alberta Enterprise Corporation, which invests directly in Alberta companies. We've also allocated money from the heritage savings account to be invested through AIMCo in our economy here in Alberta.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Unfortunately, the money that you've been putting out is nothing compared to the money you've scared away.

Given that this program was costed at \$178 million and given that this program was supposed to be fully functional two months ago, one can assume that that money has been spent without any tangible outcomes. So the government either spent money on a program, with absolutely no results, or the government was being disingenuous when it stated that this program would get off the ground . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, that sounds like a preamble to me. Please get to the question.

Mr. Gotfried: I was giving it. Given that it has to be one of those, Minister, which is it? Disingenuousness or no results?

2:20

Mr. Bilous: Madam Speaker, once again, our government wants to ensure that every dollar that we spend is going toward the outcomes and objectives that we've laid out. We want to work with businesses, municipalities, and industry to ensure that our programs are supporting them and are in fact creating and supporting the job creators. Our government is taking the time to do our due diligence to ensure that every dollar spent is well spent and will achieve those outcomes.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills.

Economic Development

Mr. Panda: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As those of us in this House know, the Minister of Economic Development is new. I'm also the new shadow minister for this portfolio, and I continue to learn what the duties and abilities of the minister are. My question today to the minister is: does he feel that his ministry has the ability to create partnerships that support entrepreneurship and help businesses to grow and succeed?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister of economic development.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll thank the hon. member for his question. Absolutely. The purpose in creating my ministry was for a number of things when the Premier created my ministry last fall, not only to work with the private sector, those that are the job creators, entrepreneurs, and businesses, but to look at ways to set the right conditions in order to attract investment and to provide assistance, again, through the \$2 billion that we've allocated over the fall through ATB, AEC, and AIMCo. As well, Madam Speaker, many of those in the business community have said that they not only need access to capital; they also need mentorship and support.

Mr. Panda: Excellent, minister. I'm glad to hear that those in the department have the ability to help Albertans.

Given that jobs are a key concern for tens of thousands of Albertans, does the minister also have the ability to help working people upgrade their skills, secure employment, and increase the development and production of Alberta innovations?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't think 35 seconds will be long enough to get into many of these. In addition to looking at ways to improve and enhance our innovation system in order to encourage start-ups, encourage Albertans to go and start a business, we're also looking at ways to help businesses grow, whether it's moving from small to medium size, those that are of medium size being export ready. Preparing them to help expand their markets is a critical part of my ministry. You know, quite frankly, I think there's incredible opportunity within our province. Training and apprenticeship is another avenue that . . .

Mr. Panda: Thank you, minister. I'm glad to hear that you feel you're empowered to create jobs.

Given the fact that I just read out phrases from the minister's Bill 1, that has as much information as the ingredients list on a box of Shredded Wheat, and our clients' criteria that he just acknowledged are part of his job, why doesn't the minister get to work and do what he was appointed to do instead of waiting for this useless legislation to be passed?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I think "useless legislation" is quite offensive, and I think the private sector will find that quite offensive where our government is taking action on partnering with the private sector to create jobs.

Quite frankly, Bill 1, again, provides a framework for jobs, investment, and diversification. Already Bill 1 is being praised province-wide. The fact is that not only municipal leaders but others as well want to see that the government is in a position to be nimble, to act quickly, to adapt, and to support the very sectors that create jobs.

Coal-fired Electric Power Plant Retirement

Mr. Taylor: Madam Speaker, the NDP's ideological agenda is costing Albertans. Its \$3 billion carbon tax will discourage investment and destabilize communities. This week TransCanada cancelled contracts with Alberta power plants because of the NDP's carbon taxes, and in my riding Enmax refused to renew the Battle River plant's contracts for the same reason. These cancellations kill job security in rural Alberta. This government promised an adjustment program. When will the minister take real action to help communities?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the question. You know, the fact of the matter is that 12 of the 18 coal-fired electricity plants that we have here in Alberta were scheduled for decommissioning under the federal coal regulations, and the reason for that was their health effects. Those were Stephen Harper's federal coal regulations. The only difference between the Harper federal coal regulation plan and the Notley provincial coal regulation plan post-2030 is that there will be adjustment in those communities, and no one will be left behind by this government, which was not the case when the Official Opposition leader was in government federally.

Mr. Taylor: Given that rural communities are looking for hope and a government that will stand up for them and given that these jobs are not just statistics, empty words won't help. Over 20 per cent of Forestburg works at the plant and the mine, and now these people face uncertain futures, which the NDP can't blame on low oil prices. Can the Minister of Energy explain: why didn't the NDP think of the human cost before deciding to forge ahead with their job-killing carbon tax?

Ms Phillips: Well, Madam Speaker, the plants at Forestburg and Hanna were scheduled for decommissioning under the previous federal government's coal regulations, which were passed for reasons of safeguarding health for the very young and the very old. The fact of the matter is that we have made a commitment to coal communities, which we will have more details about in and around the budget. Finally, I might just add a little bon mot from Mr. Preston Manning, who observed that the carbon tax involves less interference by governments in the marketplace than a cap-and-trade approach. I wonder if maybe that came out over breakfast meetings and some tips were given.

Mr. Taylor: I'll be looking forward to the details.

Given that coal-powered industries are the backbone of communities like Forestburg and given that by killing key industries, the government will kill whole communities like Forestburg and Hanna and that the cancellation of these contracts will cost Albertans an extra \$500 million a year for power, can the minister explain: why does the NDP insist on pushing through risky, ideological policies that will drive up power costs, decimate rural Alberta, and turn our communities into ghost towns?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. First I might observe that this language around killing communities is quite overblown and does not befit the honour of this House. Having said that, we are committed to a thoughtful engagement with communities who are affected by these coal-fired shutdowns,

whether it was under Stephen Harper's federal coal regulations or our post-2030 plan. If the hon. member is so concerned, then perhaps he should bring up the Stephen Harper coal-fired regulations, supported by his boss, that left those communities with nothing.

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

Public and Police Officer Safety

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Madam Speaker. One year ago Shawn Rehn, a chronic offender who was out on bail, shot and killed Constable Wynn and injured Auxiliary Constable Bond. A report on this tragic fatality prompted a review of Alberta's bail hearing system. I was pleased to meet with the Justice minister to offer my input as a former Calgary police sergeant who had been involved with the 2009 task force that resulted in changes to the bail process. To the Justice minister: given that you expected to have the report by the end of February and it is now March, do you have the report, and if you do, will you commit to immediately releasing it?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and to the member for the absolutely critical question. Well, of course, this government committed to do a review of the bail process because we felt it was incredibly important to be sure to balance both officer safety, on one hand, and the rights of individuals brought into conflict with the justice system, on the other hand. As a result, we put in place a process that's taken some time to move forward, and we will be examining the recommendations that have come forward so that we can move forward in a careful and prudent way because these interests are so fundamental.

2:30

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again to the Justice minister: given that the purpose of the bail hearing review was to offer recommendations for improving the system for the sake of public safety and given that the quicker you release the report and act on its recommendations, the more likely you are to protect the public and the police, when will you receive the report, and when you do, will you immediately implement its recommendations to ensure a tragedy like the one that occurred in St. Albert does not happen again? Why the delay, Minister?

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and to the member for the question. Well, of course, it is because these interests are so fundamental and so important and because the safety of our front-line workers and our public is so important to us that we're going to take the time we need to ensure that we understand what the recommendations are and what the best way to move forward is to implement those while safeguarding the rights of offenders.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, second supplemental.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Minister, and thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that a workplace investigation into the shooting found that the RCMP breached federal health and safety rules because the officers' radios could not transmit from inside the casino building and given that other Alberta police services also face radio transmission problems, which can put officers and members of the public at risk – communication is key in these situations, Minister

– what measures have you taken to ensure that all police services in Alberta are able to fully rely on their radios?

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and to the member for the question. Well, of course, the safety of our front-line officers is of paramount importance to this government. All people should be able to go to work and return home safely. The government is in the process of moving forward on the Alberta first responder radio communications system, which is slated to start coming online later this year, and as services transition onto that radio communications service, those communications should be improved.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

PDD Service Consultation

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Members of my constituency in Calgary-Currie, particularly those who are members of or advocate for the disability community, are interested in what the government is doing to ensure that persons with developmental disabilities can live and thrive in their communities with dignity. I was pleased to see that the PDD standards committee recently held public consultations in Westlock; Grande Prairie; Edmonton; Calgary, which I attended and was well attended; Red Deer; Lethbridge; Brooks; and today in Fort McMurray. Through you, Madam Speaker, could the hon. Minister of Human Services please provide an update on the status of these consultations?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. I share Albertans' concerns for the safety of persons with developmental disabilities in their homes and in our communities. I believe that the people are better judges of their problems, and that's why we established that committee and engagement process on these complex issues, to seek direction from the persons with disabilities, their families, and the agencies serving them. So far 700 Albertans have participated in those sessions.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that update. I'm glad to hear that the government is engaging in thoughtful consultation with the disability community. Given that persons with developmental disabilities may face mobility challenges, what is the government doing to ensure that these consultations are accessible to everyone who wishes to share their ideas and solutions?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Member, for raising this important concern. Our government is absolutely committed to ensuring that all members of the disability community who wish to participate have the opportunity to participate. Aside from these face-to-face forums, we have also set up an online portal where so far we have received around 700 submissions. I would encourage all Albertans to weigh in. The cut-off date for that is March 13.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that many Albertans, including the constituents who have brought this issue forward to my office, will be eager to hear the results of these consultations, could the minister please provide an update on what the next steps for this consultation will be?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. Today is the last session. As we speak, it's going on in Fort McMurray, and then the online submission date, as I said previously, is March 13. Following that, I will be receiving a report from the committee, and that report, essentially, will determine the next step and inform our future direction.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Coal-fired Electric Power Plant Retirement

(continued)

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. With the accelerated closure of coal-fired plants and the subsequent cancellation of power contracts this government's environmental policy is running the risk of turning communities like Hanna into an economic wasteland. It has already put hundreds out of work, and it will cost consumers millions of dollars, not including the human cost. Will this government do the right thing and reconsider its plan to accelerate the phase-out of coal?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister of economic development.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I appreciate the hon. member's question. I actually had a conversation with AUMA earlier today, talking about communities that are affected by the phase-out of coal and that our government and my ministry are taking the lead on working with not only our municipal leaders but as well with workers and their families and looking for opportunities for them, whether it's through transition, identifying strengths in their communities and ways that our government can help support a transition.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you again, Madam Speaker. Since the government is blaming the low oil prices for job losses when clearly their risky ideas are putting people out of work, the hundreds of job losses in the Hanna district will rest squarely on their shoulders. To the minister: what is your specific plan to ensure those who lose work because of your risky ideas land on their feet?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think, first of all, I need to clarify the fact that 12 out of our 18 coal-fired facilities would be phased out because of a federal regulation. It had nothing to do with our government. But I'll tell you one thing that differentiates us from the other side of the House. The previous government, the PC government, here in Alberta had no plan – had no plan – to support the communities where the existing facilities are to help them transition. Our government is looking at working with communities around all 18 of the facilities. We have committed to that. I have

made that commitment not only to municipal leaders but to labour leaders and to those communities.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you again, Madam Speaker. Minister, since your economic policies simply don't add up – they're hurting our communities and their economic potential – will the minister table the specific scientific research upon which these policies are based?

Ms Phillips: It's quite interesting that I'm going to have to rise in this House and explain the science of climate change to an opposition caucus, half a dozen of whom ran on a platform of rejecting the science. To further have to explain the science of NOx and SOx in addition to GHGs, nitrous oxide, and sulphur oxide, Madam Speaker, and then to have to explain the health effects of coal-fired electricity to this opposition caucus is a little bit rich when Albertans already understand the science of climate change. They already understand the health effects of coal-fired electricity.

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

Coal Strategy

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm encouraged to see the government follow through on the Progressive Conservative national energy strategy and our climate change framework. What's puzzling, though: the NDP climate action plan released in November spoke of the immediate need to phase out all coal-fired electricity in this province. However, the throne speech reads "a phase-out of emissions from coal power generation, reducing pollution," not a phase-out of coal-fired plants. An important distinction, one would think. To the environment minister: did the throne speech mistakenly avoid stating your government's position on coal, and/or are you stepping away from your NDP climate change plan?

2:40

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for his thoughtful interventions on this matter. I don't have to explain the science to his caucus. It's perhaps why they can't seem to get together.

First of all, I'm sorry, but it's not a PC plan. I have in front of me an op-ed written by Murray Edwards and Brian Ferguson of Cenovus and CNRL that says, "the plan reflects a fundamental shift, acknowledging that polarization and conflict is not constructive," which is, of course, the approach of the Official Opposition.

Now, on this matter of the coal-fired emissions, Madam Speaker, we have said that our quarrel is with the emissions and not the electrons. If there are ways to ensure that there are no emissions, we will look at them.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, that's encouraging because it is clear within the industry, including renewables, that there should be a healthy mix of our energy.

To the Energy minister: given that our coal is sold and exported for other purposes such as metallurgy, can you share with Albertans that you haven't completely vilified coal, its uses, and its importance to Alberta's finances?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Yeah, for sure. Thank you, Madam Speaker and the hon. member. Metallurgic coal is not included in the coal strategy. It is still being sold to any of our customers, so that one is not in. Metallurgic coal is still vital in the manufacturing industries. That is not included.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We've heard lots today about the TransCanada decision to abandon multiple power purchase agreements. Whatever the government's position is, perceived or real, it's important to understand. To the government, the question to the same minister: what specific incentives is this government planning to afford power providers, including those in the renewable sector, to ensure the stability of our electricity system, and how much will it cost Albertans if you can't provide that stability?

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you for the question. Of course, the climate leadership plan outlined a competitive bid process for renewable energy, and we'll have more to say about that through the budget and through consultations with industry through 2016, Madam Speaker, because of course the carbon levy does not take effect until 2017. So we've given ourselves some time to engage thoughtfully on this matter. I thank the hon. member for the question. I will be pleased to update the House on how we are structuring those, likely through budget and also through the fall.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. minister, you had a quote there. Just a reminder that we would like that tabled; your soonest . . .

Ms Phillips: Oh, sure. It was in the newspaper.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Mental Health Review Report

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. At some points in life every Albertan is touched by mental illness and addiction. Released last month, the Alberta report on addictions and mental health highlights the system changes which are critically needed to reduce wait times, improve quality care, and reduce the cost of our current systems of care. There are many concerns that the report does not focus on well-recognized underfunding for mental illness beds and the important role of psychiatrists. Child and adult psychiatrists do play a vital role with severe mental illness along with teams of supporting professionals. However, it's clear that the great majority of mental health and addictions issues could and should be handled by other professionals, including psychologists, family physicians, and their teams.

Furthermore, to improve patient outcomes, there must be a shift of resources upstream into prevention efforts with individuals, families, and communities at risk. Without a dramatic shift in the planning and allocation of resources to identify and reduce risk factors earlier and prevent breakdown, the human and financial toll will continue to rise in Alberta. Alberta Health and the new health board must take leadership and also provide a new planning partnership that includes education, human services, housing, and police.

Two questions must lead the transformation this report calls for. First, how do Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services lead a dramatic change within a massive and entrenched top-down culture let alone include other ministries in a new collaborative planning process? Moving across silos, including critical expertise from the front lines and shifting more resources to prevention, will take extraordinary and courageous leadership. Historic communications difficulties and distrust must be confronted if a new culture of respect is to develop both within Health and across the other ministries.

Second question: how do the primary care networks step up to a larger role as the mental health home for the 1 in 5 people who need ongoing treatment-based, team-based care to be well? Again, Health must take bold leadership with the doctors. The evidence is clear. We can prevent much suffering and death and save millions of dollars annually, but transformative leadership is essential to co-create the patient-centred, team-based preventive care that we urgently need.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

University of Alberta Human Rights Lectureship

Loyola: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Every year the University of Alberta hosts the Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights. This event is envisioned as one of the pre-eminent annual events there at the university and is part of Equity Diversity Inclusion Week. Individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution in the field of human rights and human rights protection are invited to share experiences with students and the public. I was honoured to be part of this team when I worked at the U of A.

Every year this program intends to offer the people of Alberta a good way of celebrating the commitments we undertook as signatories of the United Nations declaration of human rights and to support and nurture our continuing interest and involvement with human rights issues at home and abroad. The program helps us by providing a safe environment to discuss challenging human rights issues. Faculty and staff get an opportunity to learn, question, and participate in events, thereby shaping the world in which we live. The learnings from this program have helped me to design a human rights related project for young constituents in my beautiful constituency of Edmonton-Ellerslie.

This year's Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights will take place on Monday, March 14, at 7 p.m. and will be delivered by Kwame Anthony Appiah, an author, lecturer, and professor of philosophy and law at New York University. His lecture is titled Culture, Identity, and Human Rights. Kwame Anthony Appiah is known for his work on multiculturalism, global citizenship, identity, honour, and religion. He was named as one of *Foreign Policy's* top 100 global thinkers and has taught at famous educational institutions: Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Duke, and the University of Ghana. From 2009 to 2012 he served as president of the PEN American Center, the world's oldest human rights organization.

I invite you all to the Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Syrian Refugee Resettlement

Ms Luff: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Since we last met in this Assembly, Calgary has welcomed hundreds of Syrian refugees to our city, and many of them have settled in Calgary-East. I'm so

proud of Calgarians and east Calgarians in particular for being so welcoming and for making a concerted effort to help our new neighbours feel comfortable and safe in their new homes.

Both the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society and the Centre for Newcomers in my riding have added additional English classes to help address new language challenges, and the Centre for Newcomers is also holding employment information sessions in Arabic.

The Syrian Refugee Support Group is a group of over 1,900 Calgarians who have come together to do what they can to welcome refugees to Calgary. They started out by collecting gently used household items in a warehouse to help in furnishing new homes for refugees, but it quickly became much more than that. People met new arrivals at the airport, found Arabic interpreters, helped with resumé writing, and even spent overnight shifts with a sick baby in the hospital while his mom was in surgery.

I was also pleased to attend an event, held by the Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, welcoming our new Syrian neighbours. It brought together community members and new Syrian families to tell their stories and to meet each other. Around a hundred people attended the event and listened to stories and mingled over food.

There has also been an outpouring of support from everyday people in the neighbourhood, people who have learned that refugee families have moved in next door and took the time to go say hello and ask what they needed. Sometimes this was done via broken sign language, but people went out of their way to take the time to welcome their new neighbours. While there certainly have been some negative incidents and there has been some racism, the events that I have described show that Calgarians are welcoming, friendly, resourceful, and kind. They know that during tough times we are most successful when we help each other.

There will continue to be challenges: housing is a big one; employment in this economy will also be a struggle; children fitting in at a new school. However, I am overwhelmingly encouraged by the work my constituents are doing to ensure that our new neighbours have the best possible start.

2:50 Medical Procedure Wait Times

Mr. Barnes: You may expect to wait in line for a table at your favourite restaurant or wait in line at a supermarket, but waiting months, even years to schedule your medical procedure is something nobody wants. Located just minutes from the Canadian border in northwestern Montana, Kalispell Regional Medical Center offers a wide range of medical and surgical services. Madam Speaker, you may recognize this as a quote, a snippet from one of southern Alberta's biggest radio advertisers.

People cannot access their own system here, and that is a true embarrassment to this government. The 90th percentile benchmark for hip replacement is 182 days. Alberta didn't hit that target even once last year. The south zone, including Medicine Hat, is among the worst in the province. My constituents are waiting close to a year. The benchmark for knee replacements is also 182 days. Province-wide we didn't hit that a single time either. Unfortunately, it won't surprise anyone to hear that we're missing on cataracts, too, while CT scans and MRIs continue to get worse.

Madam Speaker, these are shameful numbers, but please never forget that behind these numbers are people, people who are suffering, people that the system is failing. These are Albertans that can't go to work, costing the economy hundreds of millions in lost productivity. But, again, more importantly, you can't put a price on the lost quality of life and the pain.

Madam Speaker, this government loves to boast about how much borrowed money they're spending. They're noticeably more silent,

though, when it comes to what they've actually accomplished for Alberta patients and their families. When will this government realize that efficiency and effectiveness in health care mean serving patients and not just bragging about dollars? Albertans expect results, not talking points. This is a system in crisis.

We will continue to stand for publicly funded health care that has the patient at the centre, a system that treats Albertans with respect.

Introduction of Bills

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

Bill 201 Election Recall Act

Mr. Smith: Yes, Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure today to request leave to introduce a bill, the Election Recall Act.

Democracy is an amazing system of government, and the idea that the people could rule, that the wishes of the majority through their elected representatives would guide the Legislature is breathtaking in its scope. That the people through their elected representatives would be responsible for creating the laws under which the citizens would live was at one time regarded as a radical proposition. While we live in a representative form of democracy, I believe that the system of democracy that we practise in Alberta can be made to be even more democratic. We need to increase the accountability of MLAs to their constituents and to reduce the power of party discipline. We need to increase citizen engagement in the democratic process.

So it is my pleasure to request leave to introduce a bill, the Election Recall Act.

[Motion carried; Bill 201 read a first time]

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

Bill 202 Alberta Affordable Housing Review Committee Act

Ms Luff: Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I rise today to request leave to introduce a bill being Bill 202, the Alberta Affordable Housing Review Committee Act.

This is a crucial issue for folks in my riding of Calgary-East and, I believe, for folks all across Alberta, and I look forward to discussion and deliberation with my colleagues in the House.

[Motion carried; Bill 202 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. leader of the third party.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have two tablings today. One is a copy of an article from December 3, 2014, where Premier Wynne supported Energy East without conditions when the PCs were in government.

Also, the required copies of the Alberta Energy Regulator's Report 2013-B: Pipeline Performance in Alberta, which indicates that there were nearly 300,000 pipeline sections approved in Alberta at December 31, 2012.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other tablings? The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I have two tablings. First of all, I would like to table a flimsy document, a flimsy pamphlet, which is the last available information on what the Wildrose would do with respect to the budget and the capital plan. This document was from their platform before the election, and it shows that they would cut \$9.4 billion out of the capital plan as currently proposed by the government.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, I have here a document showing that the secret government caucus office in Calgary was hiding in plain sight on a government website just above the bullet for the Wildrose members. This document clearly shows that the secret office was in fact not secret at all.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment and Parks, a tabling?

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of an opinion piece written on February 9 by Murray Edwards and Brian Ferguson – they wrote on behalf of BP Canada, Canadian Natural, Cenovus, Devon, Statoil, Suncor, and Total – in which they articulate that the Alberta climate plan benefited from consultation with a broad range of stakeholders and that it reflects a fundamental shift, acknowledging that polarization and conflict is in fact not constructive.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: I just want to say that it was a true pleasure to have no points of order today. Thank you, all.

Orders of the Day

Committee of Supply

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

The Chair: I'd like to call the Committee of Supply to order.

Interim Supply Estimates 2016-17 General Revenue Fund and Lottery Fund

The Chair: We are at the point in the rotation where we have a question from the Official Opposition to the minister. You've got five minutes. We only have five minutes left.

Mr. van Dijken: Good. Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is: where is the budget? The Finance minister's excuse that other governments fail to get budgets prepared and delivered on time is not an acceptable excuse. Business best practice would have a properly planned and prepared budget in place before the fiscal year begins. The fact that this government has failed to deliver a budget on time is another example of this government's inability to properly plan, prepare, and deliver on what would be normal best practice in the private sector. I would suggest that the Minister of Finance would do well to encourage his department to focus on business best practice and not measure his success by the failures of others.

3:00

Madam Chair, a budget brings certainty to the municipalities and the construction companies that need the work in this construction season. Alberta Transportation is the only department in this interim supply where the capital dollars exceed the expense dollars. Roads and bridges are expensive, but without a transparent list of projects completed and projects ready to go, we don't know what this interim supply is going to be spent on. For me as well as for any other member in this House, a properly delivered budget would

allow me to let my constituents know what they can expect to see get done during this construction season.

Madam Chair, the municipal transportation grant programs allow our municipalities to plan and complete critical infrastructure projects needed in their communities. We know that water and waste-water grants are a huge issue for municipalities, and of the \$173 million in expense how much is directed to municipal water and waste water? As well, how much is directed to the Alberta municipal infrastructure program? How much is directed to the strategic transportation infrastructure program? How much is directed to the green transit incentives program, to municipal transit initiatives, to the municipal water infrastructure grant? How much to the municipal waste-water program? Any money for the water for life program?

Madam Chair, what do I tell my municipal leaders? Do I tell them that they can get ready to start their projects? They have a limited construction season available to them. Good government does not paper over their failures by comparing themselves to other government failures. They call it as it is, a failure of best practice, and they build plans to do better. The failure of not bringing a budget forward on time is not acceptable in the private sector and should not be acceptable here in the public sector. The failure of not bringing a budget forward on time impacts the ability of our stakeholders to properly prepare and plan.

Madam Chair, our taxpayers should not be expected to give the government a blank cheque to spend, a payday loan until a budget is passed. Let's see a real budget and not pass this Band-Aid solution. Let's call this what it is, a failure to bring forward a properly prepared budget on time.

Mr. Ceci: I thought I heard the Premier earlier today in question period say that in the last 14 years there have been 18 interim supply bills. [interjection] Eight. Oh, I'm sorry. Eight. You're right. Math is hard sometimes. Eight in the last 14 years. So, you know, the overblown statement of failure this, failure that, failure everything else is just what I said, overblown. There's no accuracy to it if we look at the last 14 years.

I would like to also point out that the Ministry of Finance in less than a year will produce three full budgets. They produced one for the previous government – in March of last year they produced an interim supply – they produced a full budget for the NDP government in October of last year, and they will produce, with our help, another full budget in just a few short weeks. So the men and women who are doing that work know that they have done extraordinary work to deliver on behalf of Albertans every single day. I also want to . . . [A timer sounded]

The Chair: The rotation now takes us to the third party. You've got about a minute and a half left.

Dr. Starke: Well, thank you, Madam Chair. I had on my watch that actually the time was going to expire, but I do have a question, actually, conveniently, for the Minister of Environment and Parks. I noticed that in the interim supply estimates there was some \$51 million allocated for capital within that, and I'm just curious to know – as you know, Minister, I have a keen interest in Alberta parks and would like to know how that \$51 million in these next two months is going to be allocated.

The Chair: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Yes. Thank you, and thank you for the question. There are some Parks initiatives that are moving forward now that we are in a building season. We are having a look at some of the campgrounds and other facilities through the South Saskatchewan

regional plan, not necessarily this piece, not necessarily the Castle pieces – those are still yet to come – but some of the other pieces around the Kananaskis area. So that is part of it. There will also be some investments in flood recovery and those pieces even within the Parks budget because there's some riparian restoration and other pieces that need to happen. That's what that is about. You know, stay tuned in Budget '16 for further investments in Parks and in our environmental – certainly, watershed management is top priority for us.

Thank you for the question.

Dr. Starke: Does any of the anticipated spending, Madam Chair, include improvements to William Watson Lodge?

Ms Phillips: There are some William Watson Lodge improvements that are happening right now, hon. member. We'll have a little bit more to say about that fairly soon. I will be happy to extend an invitation to you when that happens.

The Chair: Hon. member, I hesitate to interrupt, but the time allotted pursuant to Government Motion 8, as agreed to on March 9, 2016, has elapsed, so I now must put the following questions.

Vote on Interim Supply Estimates 2016-17 General Revenue Fund and Lottery Fund

Agreed to:
Support to the Legislative Assembly \$21,000,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Office of the Auditor General \$3,500,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Office of the Ombudsman \$555,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer \$1,200,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Office of the Ethics Commissioner \$195,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner \$768,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate \$2,207,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Office of the Public Interest Commissioner \$206,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Advanced Education
Expense \$579,334,000
Capital Investment \$184,713,000
Financial Transactions \$57,900,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Agricultural and Forestry
Expense \$304,000,000
Capital Investment \$2,500,000
Financial Transactions \$100,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Culture and Tourism
Expense \$69,000,000
Capital Investment \$350,000
Financial Transactions \$150,000

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

3:10

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:
Economic Development and Trade
Expense \$209,140,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Education	
Expense	\$728,000,000
Capital Investment	\$300,765,000
Financial Transactions	\$1,200,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Energy	
Expense	\$42,000,000
Capital Investment	\$902,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Environment and Parks	
Expense	\$129,379,000
Capital Investment	\$51,584,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Executive Council	
Expense	\$5,969,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Health	
Expense	\$3,440,716,000
Capital Investment	\$3,638,000
Financial Transactions	\$7,000,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Human Services	
Expense	\$780,000,000
Capital Investment	\$2,230,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Indigenous Relations	
Expense	\$11,558,000
Financial Transactions	\$8,162,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Infrastructure	
Expense	\$115,000,000
Capital Investment	\$73,000,000
Financial Transactions	\$8,440,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Justice and Solicitor General	
Expense	\$240,190,000
Capital Investment	\$16,000,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Labour	
Expense	\$36,079,000
Capital Investment	\$120,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Municipal Affairs	
Expense	\$265,232,000
Capital Investment	\$504,000
Financial Transactions	\$61,413,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:

Seniors and Housing	
Expense	\$68,224,000
Financial Transactions	\$1,666,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:	
Service Alberta	
Expense	\$52,530,000
Capital Investment	\$14,120,000
Financial Transactions	\$1,275,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:	
Status of Women	
Expense	\$1,255,000
Capital Investment	\$8,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:	
Transportation	
Expense	\$173,715,000
Capital Investment	\$212,628,000
Financial Transactions	\$14,781,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Agreed to:	
Treasury Board and Finance	
Expense	\$25,090,000
Capital Investment	\$746,000
Financial Transactions	\$1,442,000
Transfer from the Lottery Fund	\$362,770,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

The committee shall now rise and report.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Ms Luff: Madam Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions, reports as follows, and requests leave to sit again. The following resolutions relating to the 2016-17 interim supply estimates for the general revenue fund for the fiscal period from April 1, 2016, to May 31, 2016, have been approved.

Support to the Legislative Assembly, \$21,000,000; office of the Auditor General, \$3,500,000; office of the Ombudsman, \$555,000; office of the Chief Electoral Officer, \$1,200,000; office of the Ethics Commissioner, \$195,000; office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, \$768,000; office of the Child and Youth Advocate, \$2,207,000; office of the Public Interest Commissioner, \$206,000.

Advanced Education: expense, \$579,334,000; capital investment, \$184,713,000; financial transactions, \$57,900,000.

Agriculture and Forestry: expense, \$304,000,000; capital investment, \$2,500,000; financial transactions, \$100,000.

Culture and Tourism: expense, \$69,000,000; capital investment, \$350,000; financial transactions, \$150,000.

Economic Development and Trade: expense, \$209,140,000.

Education: expense, \$728,000,000; capital investment, \$300,765,000; financial transactions, \$1,200,000.

Energy: expense, \$42,000,000; capital investment, \$902,000.

Environment and Parks: expense, \$129,379,000; capital investment, \$51,584,000.

Executive Council: expense, \$5,969,000.

Health: expense, \$3,440,716,000; capital investment, \$3,638,000; financial transactions, \$7,000,000.

3:20

Human Services: expense, \$780,000,000; capital investment, \$2,230,000.

Indigenous Relations: expense, \$11,558,000; financial transactions, \$8,162,000.

Infrastructure: expense, \$115,000,000; capital investment, \$73,000,000; financial transactions, \$8,440,000.

Justice and Solicitor General: expense, \$240,190,000; capital investment, \$16,000,000.

Labour: expense, \$36,079,000; capital investment, \$120,000.

Municipal Affairs: expense, \$265,232,000; capital investment, \$504,000; financial transactions, \$61,413,000.

Seniors and Housing: expense, \$68,224,000; financial transactions, \$1,666,000.

Service Alberta: expense, \$52,530,000; capital investment, \$14,120,000; financial transactions, \$1,275,000.

Status of Women: expense, \$1,255,000; capital investment, \$8,000.

Transportation: expense, \$173,715,000; capital investment, \$212,628,000; financial transactions, \$14,781,000.

Treasury Board and Finance: expense, \$25,090,000; capital investment, \$746,000; financial transactions, \$1,442,000; transfer from the lottery fund, \$362,770,000.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the Assembly concur in the report? All in favour, say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Deputy Speaker: Those opposed? So ordered.

I would like to alert hon. members that Standing Order 61(3) provides that upon the Assembly concurring in the report by the Committee of Supply, the Assembly immediately reverts to Introduction of Bills for the introduction of the appropriation bill.

Introduction of Bills

(reversion)

Bill 2

Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2016

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 2, the Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2016. This being a money bill, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the contents of this bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 2 read a first time]

Consideration of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Mrs. Littlewood moved, seconded by Mr. Westhead, that an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows.

To Her Honour the Honourable Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

[Debate adjourned March 9: Ms Luff speaking]

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member for Calgary-East, you still had a few minutes left. Did you wish to use the time?

Ms Luff: No. Thank you. I cede my time.

The Deputy Speaker: The next member I have on my list is the hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise in this House to speak in support of the Speech from the Throne, and I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about the constituency I represent, my personal journey, why I'm so proud to be a part of this government caucus, and how our policies are going to help those who elected me.

I'd like to begin by recognizing the visitors that I introduced earlier and their stamina in still being here at this point to hear this speech. It means a great deal to me, so thank you. They certainly have played an important role in inspiring me to enter partisan politics and supporting me personally when I decided to do so, whether it be through contributions, door-knocking, helping put up hundreds of signs, all of the above. And, of course, they are Ray Martin, Raj Pannu, Alex McEachern, and Reg Basken. All of these men are my godfathers in the NDP as well as many others that I will mention down the road.

I also had asked Starr Curry to be here. Starr is the president of our women's caucus and has made it her primary volunteer duty to make sure that we get women to run for the NDP and has had that task as a key charge of hers since the early 1980s. Certainly, I really appreciate her support of myself and other women candidates in our party and making that a priority going forward.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Edmonton-Glenora, who elected me last May. Edmonton-Glenora is a dynamic and diverse constituency which includes the neighbourhoods of Westmount, Inglewood – my home neighbourhood – Prince Charles, Sherbrooke, Dovercourt, Woodcroft, North Glenora, Glenora, Grovenor, McQueen, High Park, Canora, Britannia Youngstown, and Mayfield. We are home to people who rent and who own, those who are indigenous and multigenerational Canadians as well as many newcomers who have recently arrived as part of the Syrian refugee initiative.

We are employers and employees, students and teachers, pregnant and parenting teen moms who live in the Brentwood homes, who are supported by the Terra Centre, seniors who live in lodges like McQueen Place, operated by the Greater Edmonton Foundation, working families who are proud to send their children to well-supported schools. We also have three business revitalization zones – 124th Street, Inglewood, and Stony Plain Road – as individuals who are concerned about how the low price of oil is impacting our economy, their livelihoods, and the livelihoods of each other.

We also have many dynamic businesses and cultural and service centres, including the Telus World of Science; small businesses like the Remedy Cafe, Studio Bloom, and the Duchess Bake Shop; big businesses like Safeway and Home Depot; the Woodcroft public library; Jasper Place Health and Wellness; Government House; the Woodcroft public health centre; the Peter Hemingway Fitness and Leisure Centre; the amazing art gallery district along 124th Street; and many top-notch schools that work to help children reach their full potential each and every day.

I was overcome with gratitude by the support that Edmonton-Glenora showed me in May, and I am devoted to serving them to the absolute best of my ability. They told us in May that love is better than fear and that a welcoming and inclusive world is one that they want to continue to build. They told us to support jobs, to support families, to be a government that operates with the public and the citizens of Alberta always top of mind.

I'm proud of my Alberta roots, growing up in the rural communities of Altario, Castor, and Kinuso. My parents were faithful public servants, a teacher and a principal. They instilled a sense of service, a love of learning, and a pride of public education. You won't be surprised to hear that my father did not encourage me to follow his career pathway. As a principal during the deep cuts of the Klein era my dad had to make tough decisions that resulted in staff members being laid off, class sizes increasing, less one-on-one support for students who were falling behind, and he even went so far as to take every other light bulb out of our school.

So when I asked my dad for career advice, he discouraged me from entering teaching because both he and my mom felt incredibly disrespected by that government of the day, and their reward for making very tough decisions, as I just mentioned, was a 5 per cent pay cut to both of them. He told me that if we lived in another province, he might suggest teaching, but Alberta needed macro change before it would be a profession that he would want his daughter to work in. It may not surprise the hon. members in this Assembly that I'm stubborn, however, and that I did follow my own heart and chose to pursue education and a teaching career. I'm so proud that I chose to do so, having an undergraduate and a graduate degree, both from the University of Alberta.

While I was completing my M.Ed., I had the pleasure of getting to know the hon. Raj Pannu. My parents had always told me to work hard and ask people that I respect for advice, so I did just that. As I mentioned earlier, Dr. Pannu recommended that I get involved in politics as soon as possible. I took that as an endorsement for applying for a job and a reference. So I heeded his advice, and I applied for a researcher position at the NDP caucus. Madam Speaker, this was the beginning of my beginning. I had the honour of working for Raj Pannu, Ray Martin, the current Education minister, and our Government House Leader as well as our Premier. Every one of them has made a significant contribution to the people of Alberta through their public service and has supported me personally along my political path, and I am forever grateful.

I am in awe of the opportunity that the constituents of Edmonton-Glenora have provided by allowing me to participate in this Assembly as their representative in creating macro change, that my parents spoke of Alberta needing. Today I'm part of a team that is committed to making tomorrow better than yesterday.

3:30

We know that it is not an easy goal in a province that is very dependent on one industry. We are so fortunate to have a strong oil and gas base, but with price volatility and today's low oil prices, it has never been more important to diversify our economy and to stabilize our public sector so that families can count on the public health care system, that we are so proud of as Albertans, to be there

when we need it, to count on our schools, to fund growth, to ensure that children get the very best start in life, to ensure that everyone here pays their fair share to support our province, our home, as we weather this economic downturn. Albertans are resilient, determined, and we have each other's backs. I have no illusions about how tough things are right now in Alberta. Alberta families know the challenges that lie ahead for themselves and for our government.

But while the choices government makes might be easy in the boom times, the choices government makes when Albertans are hurting are even more important. While government strives to diversify and strengthen our economy to ensure that future Albertans are less vulnerable to drops in the price of oil, while our government invests in job creation and protecting Albertans from exploitative payday lenders, while our government invests in cleaner and stronger energy futures, while our government improves public oversight and stewardship of services and encourages democratic renewal, there is one message that needs to be delivered to Albertans today. Know that I am here to work for you, that our government is here to work for you.

I will be working for you because I will be working for my friends: friends in Kinuso, who are working hard on the farm; friends that I worked with at the university, who continue to serve their students and are so relieved that we haven't seen drastic cuts in a volatile budget cycle like they've lived through so many times before; my friends on the school board like Ray Martin, who is here today, who have many times heard commitments to stable, predictable funding, but we haven't realized them yet. Well, not until last May, Madam Speaker.

Last May the people of Alberta spoke loudly. They had a choice. They had a choice between reliving the life that we lived two decades ago, the one that caused my family so much anxiety and so many other families in Alberta so much anxiety, the reality that we've continued to allow for deferred maintenance to increase throughout the province. We heard that from both sides of the House, how devastating it is that we've got buildings that aren't in the best condition, that our children deserve better, that our hospitals deserve better, and it's true. The only way to get through this is to continue to invest in each other and support each other.

So I'll be working for the kids, working for the teachers that they learn from every day, working for the nurses and doctors their moms and dads depend on to keep their families healthy. I'll be working for my mom, who first taught me what a privilege and responsibility it is to serve the public, a lesson I take to heart every day in this province, and for my dad's memory, who I think would be very proud of me today.

I want to say thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to share my story today and so much gratitude to the people of Edmonton-Glenora for allowing me the honour to serve as their MLA.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Any questions or comments under 29(2)(a)?
The hon. Member for Calgary-Hawkwood.

Mr. Connolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for your very emotional speech. As some of you may know, my mother was also a teacher back in the '90s and before that, even, when there were drastic cuts. I remember being in elementary school, and I think I had a parent-teacher interview in grade 3 or 4, and I expressed my wish to also be a teacher. Both my teacher and my mother said: no, there's no money in that; you should do other things. I was still planning on being a teacher, but sometimes life gets ahead of you, and your plans change on a whim.

I would just like to ask the hon. minister what she – I'd like her to kind of explain a bit more about how the teaching profession has really influenced her life and her ministry and her job now.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What a lovely opportunity. Certainly, I think that the skills that one acquires in an education degree serve you well whether you choose to pursue the classroom or not. I think that investing in postsecondary is always a worthwhile investment, and I have to say that the skills that you acquire even in something that's focused on a very specific job like teacher, I think, are transferable to lots of other sectors.

Actually, I remember on my first day of sociology of education class the professor saying, "Welcome to pre real estate," and that studies had shown that about 10 years into their career as many teachers would be selling real estate as would be practising teachers. I thought that was quite interesting. I think it speaks to the types of skills that you can acquire.

I also think it spoke to some of the realities of the classroom and the pressures that teachers are facing on a daily basis and how those first five years, in particular, can be a real struggle. That's one of the reasons why I'm so proud that we have a government that invested in growth, that invested in supporting front-line education and classroom services. It's hard enough when you're walking into a classroom for the first time with 30 students, but the idea of there being 40 students there was very scary, not just to those new teachers but to the parents of those children in those classrooms. That's one of the reasons why I'm very proud that we worked immediately to restore the funding to education to reverse the decision that had been made by the previous government.

So those are some of my experiences. I know we have many people in this Chamber who have been trained as teachers and as farmers and as lawyers and other professions, and I just think that investment in postsecondary is so fundamental to pursuing a variety of opportunities in life. I'm very grateful that my parents, you know, encouraged me to study and supported me even when I didn't follow my father's direct advice.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other questions or comments under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, I will call on the next speaker. The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to stand today in response to the Speech from the Throne by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor and to take this opportunity to speak to the experiences and values that brought me to stand for election in the fine constituency of Edmonton-Rutherford. I have heartfelt gratitude to the residents of Edmonton-Rutherford for their support of my candidacy and for setting the record in the election for the greatest improvement in percentage vote for any party in a single riding in the spring election. I intend to honour your faith in me through hard work and to ensure that the values and policies you supported will be reflected in the work of this New Democrat led government.

Thank you to all the members of this House for electing me to the position of Deputy Chair of Committees earlier in the year. I believe that my time in that position provided me with learnings that will assist me in my role as MLA for Edmonton-Rutherford. I would also like to thank the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for all their support and kindness toward me during my time as Deputy Chair of Committees. I finally would like to congratulate the Member for Edmonton-Manning for her interesting election to the

role. I know she will perform her duties to the best traditions of honour and impartiality in this House.

I come to this Legislature from a 34-year career as a social worker in the city of Edmonton. That work has inextricably led to my journey to this House. But before I speak to how the values of that profession and my experience with thousands of Albertans seeking to improve their lives has shaped the work I intend to pursue in my role in this House, I would like to tell you about the family that shaped me in my growing years and the family that has sustained me with love and affection for the last 56 years.

My parents came to this great city in 1954 from Saskatoon, where my father had earned both his bachelor of arts and his law degree and my mother had earned a bachelor of arts and subsequently a bachelor of social work from the University of Manitoba. Once they came to Alberta, they adopted their new province with a zeal that was breathtaking. They raised seven children, all of whom went on to university, earning 15 degrees among them.

3:40

My father served on the Edmonton Catholic school board and unsuccessfully ran for the provincial Liberal Party in 1967. He was appointed a judge of the district court of northern Alberta in 1973, the district court of Alberta in 1975, the Supreme Court of the Yukon in 1978, the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories in 1979, and from 1979 to 2003 was a justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta.

My mother, who completed a master's of social work degree from the University of Calgary after raising all seven children, served as the chair of the MacEwan University department of social work and has received numerous awards, including the YWCA women of distinction and an honorary doctorate from St. Stephen's College at the University of Alberta for her work on more than 20 boards and commissions in the city of Edmonton.

From these two, my loving parents, I received many gifts. I have benefited from all of the bounty that Albertans all hope their children will enjoy, but perhaps more importantly they taught me that not everyone was as lucky as me to win the lottery of kind, generous, hard-working parents. Indeed, my father and mother bequeathed to me something much more important than the trappings of my education and career success. They taught me that nothing matters so much as who you are as a person, how you live your life, not acquiring but giving, not being solely concerned with success but finding a way to participate in the injunction to bring justice to this world.

It is said of my family that the children were served politics and Pabulum from the same spoon, much as the young man beside me today. The words and indeed the actions my parents lived by enabled me to see the need to embrace the world with both the open arms and the firm grip of social justice. Taking that lesson to heart, I entered my career of social work with the belief that all people were deserving of the opportunity to achieve, to contribute, and to love but knowing as well that there were many barriers that prevented people from achieving, from contributing, and from loving or being loved.

Fortunately for me, my early career as a child welfare worker for the province of Alberta led me to pursue a master's degree at Wilfrid Laurier University, where I met a wonderful person who would teach me and push me and love me into a deeper understanding of social justice, an understanding of the nature of equal relationships and the role of critical feminist analysis and transforming our exquisite humanness into personal and social transformation: my wife, Kathaleen, who is in the gallery. Together we have raised our children – Antoine, Kate, and Brenndan – and have endeavoured to build upon my parents' gifts of love and

justice in our desire to be a part of the eternal historical movement toward a fair society. Without Kathaleen and my children I would not be here. I would not have the passion in my heart and, apparently, the tears in my eyes and the determination and soul to make this opportunity of being an MLA everything that it should be.

This brings me now to the throne speech, that reminds us that Albertans are an optimistic, entrepreneurial, can-do people and Albertans are community-minded, caring, and neighbourly. Ours is a society of friends. We have each other's backs. We support each other in these times instead of making a bad situation worse. We are people who dream no little dreams, who wish for ourselves only what we desire for all: freedom from poverty, freedom from violence, and freedom from discrimination. We seek reconciliation with our First Peoples, opportunity for our children, and a prosperous, entrepreneurial, diversified economy in which everyone will share. Our expectations are high, and our ability to achieve them is even higher. We have been blessed in this province with exceptional people, unmatched resources, and a political system dedicated to uplifting the whole people.

Reflect for a moment on those words, "uplifting the whole people," spoken by Henry Marshall Tory, the first president of the University of Alberta. He does not say: for the benefit of the fortunate few or for those with a genetic gift of intelligence or good looks or opportunity based on family or race or religion. He reminds us that the focus of whatever we do is the whole people. We have accomplished little if some of us can afford good homes in wonderful communities like Edmonton-Rutherford, but others cannot; if some of us can expect to live healthy lives well into our senior years while others cannot; if some of us reap the benefits of living in the best place in the world, but others cannot.

Now, I know that everyone in this House shares my belief, this belief that what we want for ourselves we also want for others. For the First Session I sat on the side of the House with the members of the opposition, and I've come to respect them for who they are as compassionate men and women, the common values we share, and the obvious fact that they are good people with good hearts, just as I strive to be.

But there is a place where our paths diverge, a place where my 34 years as a social worker have led me to believe some things differently than the members across the way. Simply wanting people to have a share in the benefits of society is not enough. The structures of society have to exist in a manner that invites and, whenever possible, ensures real opportunity and the strengths and resources to enable a true ability to utilize those opportunities. Believing that individuals succeed individually is inconsistent with the life experience of most of us. Every member of this Legislature arrived here not because of their individual effort but because of the contributions of hundreds of others: people who donated significant amounts of money, people who answered phones, people who put up signs, people who knocked on doors and delivered flyers.

Of course, our individual efforts were important, but the greatest MLA could not be an MLA unless the systems and structures of democracy were made available by a community of people with a common purpose. We can celebrate the fact that Alberta is a land rich with opportunity, but we need to understand that the opportunities are not evenly available. When we look at this House, we see only one party with gender parity in candidates and in elected officials. Throughout Canada we see that women represent only 25 to 30 per cent of most Legislatures.

We can choose to believe that women fail to have the individual qualities to get themselves elected, or, more correctly, we can realize that women face a number of barriers that men do not face. Women are met more frequently with behaviours and attitudes

inconsistent with their own way of being. They are less frequently on the minds of decision-makers to be considered for leadership roles, and they face systematic devaluation of their achievements. In social work we call these structural barriers, not barriers intrinsic to the individual but barriers that are ingrained in the order of things around them. Because these barriers exist outside of the individual, they need to be eliminated at the structural level, not at the individual level.

We can achieve gender parity in this House not by hoping somehow that individual women will find the courage to face the odds but by changing those odds, making them even. We know that without government some individuals will do well, and then we can say: "See? The individual succeeds on their own merits." But any analysis will tell you that the success of those individuals isn't random. It isn't based simply on individual merits but on many structural invitations, those factors and the order of things that make success more likely, that invite some people to exceed more frequently than others. We know that you are more likely to attend university if your parents are university educated. We know that you are more likely to save adequately for your retirement if savings are deducted from your paycheque.

Unfortunately, we all know that these structural invitations can be negative ones. We know that if you were raised in poverty, you are more likely to experience periods of poverty in adulthood; if you are anything other than a white male, you are less likely to get elected to the Alberta Legislature. The response to structural problems is structural. We have a healthy nation when we have a systematic universally accessible health care. We have safe working environments when we have systematic worker protections and consistent external inspections. We have equal workforce participation by women when we have affordable, accessible daycare. All of these things are achievable not through isolated individual effort but through social co-operation, a belief in the value of all people, and the creation of societal structures that invite success for everyone.

While some others decry government as an imposition on the citizens of this province, I celebrate government as the fruit of collective community action. I know that I have not succeeded alone, and I know that most people cannot succeed as isolated individuals. I succeed in co-operation with my family, my community of Edmonton-Rutherford, and with the vision and values of the New Democratic government.

3:50

I look forward to a government that understands its role as the voice of common people, not a special-interest group; a government that actively seeks to remove barriers and to increase positive invitations for success; a government that I can believe in with all my heart and soul. To that end, I will dedicate my tenure in this House to those pieces of legislation that make possible the circumstances of success; a focus on a stable, dependable economy without devastating cycles of boom or bust; a focus on establishing a new industry of renewable energy that meets our needs for economic growth while preserving the integrity of our cherished lands, air, and waterways. I will focus on creating those structures that invite the success of our children, that ensure to every extent possible that each child receives the safety and security needed to move forward in the world, where they may find their success in a community among others doing the same thing.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Under 29(2)(a), the hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Nielsen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I must thank the hon. minister for that. I was so excited that I just had to jump up. Thank you for sharing that little peek into the history and the journey coming to the Legislature and the motivation and passion that has brought you here.

I was hoping we might have gotten a little peek into what it's been like since taking over the Indigenous Relations ministry. I wonder if you could share that with us.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the question. I must say that I feel that having been given the opportunity to serve as the Minister of Indigenous Relations has been an extreme privilege. I'm not sure how else to say it. It is a privilege because I've had the opportunity to travel over this great province, to go to the Blood reserve on the very southern end of the province, to the very north in Paddle Prairie and many places in between. I've had the opportunity to meet the chairs of every one of the Métis settlements in this province. I've had the opportunity to meet perhaps almost two dozen chiefs and community members around the province. I visited almost a dozen communities – Enoch and Alexander and Montana, Samson band – all around this province.

There's something that consistently happens when I go to those places. I am received as an equal, trusted human being, with the expectation that I will respond to them in the same way, as equal, trusted human beings. It's a lesson that they give me every single time. It's a lesson that they invite me to remember. I might have the privilege of being here in this position, in this ministry, which truly, I must tell you, is an extreme privilege, and I am received as a representative of this government, but beyond that, they don't want to know that I have a position; they don't want to know that I'm there because I have these privileges. They want to know that I will understand who they are: human beings who have needs and desires to participate fully in this province.

I can't tell you the number of times that people have said to me: "We want to be fully Albertan. We know that we are treaty people; we know that we are members of the Piikani First Nation or the Cree Nation or the Métis Nation." What they also want me to know is: "We are fully members of the Alberta community, and we want to participate in that. We want to participate in that by raising healthy children who will participate in that. We want to participate in that by being members of the business community and help to grow the industry that we need in this province to ensure the future for our children. We want to participate in that by bringing the special gifts that we have, the understanding of ceremony and protocol and respecting our elders and bringing the values and the traditions that we have built up over the years in this province and sharing those values and traditions with the children who have been gifted to us by the Creator."

All of those lessons have continued to make me self-reflect and understand that I stand here as a representative of a government. I've been given the chance to fulfill a role, but it really isn't about me. What it's really about is every single individual in this province being given the opportunity to participate, being given the opportunity to share what gifts they bring, and to benefit fully and equally from the benefits, the glorious benefits, that we have in this province, one of the most fruitful and exciting and dramatic provinces in this country.

We are being invited by the world to pay attention to the issue of the indigenous people in a way that has not happened in the history of Canada up until this point. We have the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples inviting us to consider the truth that is being spoken around the world through the United Nations about indigenous people being neglected and

oppressed, and it's time to invite them in fully as participants in our society.

We've had the round-table, and I had the privilege to go to Winnipeg to represent this province at the round-table on murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, where the stories are so dramatic and heartfelt and, frankly, just disgusting to have to hear. We're invited to hear a group of people who don't scold us and tell us that we are bad people but who say that their hearts are broken. They want those hearts to be healed, and they want us to be a part of that.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: I call on the hon. Member for Airdrie.

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today in response to the Speech from the Throne. Like many of my colleagues here, I was disappointed. I was really disappointed by the agenda that this government laid out on Tuesday. At a time when Albertans are looking for hope, the government promises nothing but more of the same, more risky policies that will hurt Albertans. They're hurting. There's more emphasis on ideology and a continued lack of practical, common-sense solutions, more of the government picking winners and losers, and more reasons for Albertans to fear that the government does not in fact have their back at all.

Albertans are worried, and it's no wonder. The Conference Board of Canada is forecasting that every other province in Canada will grow their economy this year while ours will shrink for the second year in a row. We haven't seen an economy like this since the 1980s, and it shows. The Conference Board is also reporting that consumer confidence hit a new low here just in February.

Our province is hurting, and while good governments recognize that in times of economic distress it must do no further harm, this government can't seem to help itself. It claims that it won't make things worse, but the agenda it has set certainly doesn't provide a road map for making things better. The looming threat of this economy is its effect on Alberta jobs. Since the NDP government was elected, 80,000 jobs have been lost – 80,000 people, Albertans – 26,000 of them just in January of this year alone. This government shirks responsibility for their part in this job hemorrhage and lays everything at the feet of low oil prices. Today we heard new messaging with low coal prices.

Well, of course, nobody blames the government for these low prices, but its response to those prices, its ideological policies and risky economic experiments, are indeed making the situation worse. The NDP climate policies, especially their \$3 billion tax grab, are pushing investors away from our province. We have evidence of this from as recently as this week, when TransCanada announced it would cancel its contracts with three Alberta power plants. As a result, over 250 people will lose their jobs in the community of Hanna and face uncertain futures. The community will be devastated. This government has broken their trust and destroyed their job security.

In terms of electricity costs, the hon. Minister of Energy assured us that the impact of these cancelled contracts would be minimal, but today we heard from the former head of Alberta's electricity Balancing Pool that it could cost Alberta consumers an extra \$500 million a year. I say this loudly so that you might hear it.

TransCanada isn't the only one on the run from Alberta. As my colleague from Battle River-Wainwright raised in this House earlier today, over 20 per cent of the town of Forestburg faces the same uncertain future because Enmax has refused to renew the Battle River power station's contract. Why? Because of the NDP job-killing carbon tax.

4:00

The cost to Albertans of the NDP government is clearly skyrocketing. These companies are being driven away as a direct result of the government's policies, and these jobs are at risk as a direct result of the risky, ideological agenda. And it's not just towns like Hanna and Forestburg that will be punished by this agenda. Families in my own riding of Airdrie and right across this province will feel the pain and not just in higher electricity costs because this tax won't only kill jobs; it will raise the price of consumer goods and cost the typical Alberta family an extra thousand dollars a year. This is before your additional power costs are factored in. This is at a time when people can least afford it, when tens of thousands of people are out of work. Shameful.

This government's approach to this jobs crisis, that it is helping to create, has only given Albertans more reason for concern. What's most shocking is that despite the fact that this jobs crisis is older than this 10-month-old government, they still haven't done a single thing to help Albertans. Not a single thing. You'd be fired. Its failed job subsidy program has created zero jobs. Not only that, but the government made a mistake even creating this program. With its \$178 million price tag, it's just an example of government waste and ineffectiveness.

The Wildrose is listening to businesses. We've been talking to businesses right across this province. Businesses don't want the NDP's failed subsidy program. They want better business conditions. Alberta currently has the most expensive business tax in western Canada. This is a very simple Google search for you, very easy. We also have the lowest investor confidence right now. The Wildrose proposal to lower the small-business tax rate from 3 per cent down to 2 per cent would not only create a better climate for business investment and job creation, but it would send a message that this government is not the enemy of job creators, like you are now. But this government won't listen to common sense. Instead, they are being driven by their ideology and refusing to present viable solutions to Albertans.

This government would have us believe it is fighting for job creation with the first bill it introduced in this House. This bill is so vague. It proposes no concrete solutions, no specific programs, and no real path to job creation. In fact, it is a glorified three-page mandate letter telling the minister to do his existing job. This is just an insult to the tens of thousands of Albertans that are out of work right now. What's worse is that this minister has to tell us to wait five more weeks for any details because his government still can't put a budget together on time. Albertans are anxious, and they're frustrated, and this bill does nothing to reassure them. The government had a real chance to act in good faith for Albertans with this first bill of the session, a chance to regain some broken trust. Instead, it did make things worse by choosing their ideology over sound policy.

The Wildrose is ready to provide strong, common-sense leadership that stands up for Alberta. We are ready to stand in the gap left by this government's failure to put forward a real plan with a real solution for the job crisis situation. In the coming weeks the Wildrose will release a plan that does propose solutions such as reducing small-business taxes, getting out-of-work Albertans skills upgrades, giving some reasons for our energy sector to regain the confidence that the government is their partner, not their foe, specific solutions that will focus on helping Albertans get back to work.

The other thing Bill 1 intends to do is promote economic diversification. Without any details, this doesn't give anybody any confidence since usually this means the government is picking certain industries or businesses and gambling on them to be the next

big thing. Governments who try this almost always fail, and we've seen it in this province before. Not only are the taxpayers left with the boondoggle, but the rest of the economy is discouraged because there's not a level playing field. Governments shouldn't be in the business of picking the economy's winners and losers. The loser almost always ends up being the taxpayer.

What about fighting for the economy we have already instead of trying to roll a boulder up the hill? This government talks about improving market access at home and abroad, but actions speak louder than words. To date this government has done nothing but act against the interests of our most important sector. Despite the Premier's claims that she wants pipelines, she's refused to support key projects like the Northern Gateway pipeline. Northern Gateway is currently being strangled by the federal government's plan to impose a tanker ban on B.C.'s north coast, a ban that will kill almost 1,500 jobs and the billions of dollars of revenue that the pipeline could have created for Alberta. What has the government done to stand up for these jobs? It has said and done nothing to oppose the tanker ban. Not only that, but when the B.C. government opposed the Trans Mountain expansion, this Premier shrugged it off.

Throughout the recent escalations in Energy East's struggle, the Premier seemed more interested in defending Quebec's decision than she did in standing up for Alberta. Energy East is a no-brainer for those who have eyes to see. Right now eastern Canada imports 86 per cent of its oil from foreign countries. More than 10 per cent of Quebec's oil comes from Saudi Arabia and more than 5 per cent of it comes from Nigeria. These are repressive regimes and no more climate friendly than you would think they were. But how is the NDP government making the case for Alberta pipelines? It tried to secure the social licence by announcing it will saddle our energy industry with a carbon tax that severely damages its competitiveness, but continuing opposition in B.C. and Quebec shows that that bid has clearly failed.

Now, the government is trying to convince Albertans that lip service to pipelines is enough, but we recently saw the Premier's real agenda last month when she secretly participated in a \$10,000-a-plate fundraising event for an extreme antipipeline party. Cousins, I think. Instead of lobbying the federal government forcefully to kill the tanker ban and approve pipelines, she prefers to save her strength, asking the feds for handouts, and to focus her government on preparing to diversify the economy by picking winners and losers.

Well, I would note that Alberta's economy is more diversified today than it has ever been. Here's a history lesson. Pay attention. In 1985 the energy sector made up 36.1 per cent of Alberta's \$66.8 billion GDP. By 2013 it made up only 24.6 per cent of our \$331.9 billion GDP.

This diversity in our economy can be seen in other areas such as agriculture, to which this government's agenda barely gives a passing nod. After losing the trust of thousands of Albertans over the Bill 6 fiasco, this is unacceptable. It reveals just another area where the NDP government has failed to put forward a clear plan. Agriculture has been a way of life for many Albertans for over a hundred years, and it's currently sparing much of southern Alberta from feeling the pain of the economic downturn. Yet the farming and ranching families that have helped build our province are still receiving only begrudging concessions from this NDP government.

In fact, after we pushed this government relentlessly to amend its ill-conceived Bill 6, it is still trying to escape accountability to farmers by making consultation meetings extremely difficult to attend. It has scheduled these consultations right in the middle of one of the busiest seasons for farmers. The months of April and May are calving and planting months, when farmers work around the clock to invest in their livelihood for the year. Hardly an

appropriate time to call them away from that important work. Hardly a good way to regain Albertans' trust.

4:10

This is not a good start to this session, and the NDP of past years would have recognized that. When he was in opposition, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood criticized the previous government for putting forward a throne speech that "would fail ordinary Albertans because it had no economic focus, no plan for real job creation." Well, things have come full circle. This NDP government's first basic throne speech makes the same mistakes it once despised in the previous government. Furthermore, this speech sends a message to Albertans that the NDP government would rather stick it's hand out to the federal government than do the actual work of producing solutions for Albertans.

I don't need to tell the House this: Albertans are proud, and Albertans are fiercely independent. But I will point out that yesterday's speech showed Albertans just how much this government betrays their deeply held values, refuses to stand up for Albertans. Have no fear; Wildrose is here. We will stand up for all Albertans. We are here.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Under 29(2)(a), Calgary-Hawkwood.

Mr. Connolly: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'd like to thank the Member for Airdrie for her speech, but it has given me a number of questions. The member talks about social licence, homelessness, job losses, and a number of other things. However, her party has stated that they will not discuss social issues and that if – God help us – they ever become government, they will not legislate on social issues. So my question for the member is: if they will never legislate on social issues, how do they intend to deal with homelessness, jobs, ministries such as Human Services, Seniors and Housing, Culture and Tourism, every ministry that deals with social issues, including the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transportation? These are all social issues, and I have no idea how the Wildrose ever intends to govern if they will not legislate on social issues if they ever become government. So how will you legislate on these social issues when you've promised never to legislate on social issues?

The Deputy Speaker: Does the hon. Member for Airdrie wish to respond or make a comment?

Mrs. Pitt: No.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay. Go ahead.

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. It is certainly interesting to see the member across the way stand up and completely say many untrue statements.

What I would like to ask the member about today – and she touched on this a little bit in her response to the throne speech – is about how her constituents feel about the ethics and accountability of this government across from us. Now, why this applies to the throne speech is that the government has indicated in their throne speech that they will move forward to try to make things more democratic, to make things more ethical, and to do things better than the previous government. That's what they've said in their throne speech. The Member for Airdrie has discussed some of the concerns that she's hearing from her constituents in regard to this. Again – and this is a prime example – what we just saw was a government member step up and say stuff that is completely untrue, and that's disappointing.

But let's talk about some stuff that's going on with this government. Unfortunately, we have a government here that is under ethics investigations yet again for donation problems, and that is the same . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, I need to remind you that we can't discuss a matter that's currently under investigation by the Ethics Commissioner.

Mr. Nixon: So can I get some clarification on that, Madam Speaker? I can't discuss the current ethics investigation that the government is under, but I can discuss the ones that were done. I'll go there, then, Madam Speaker.

We have a government that's already had to cancel previous fundraisers because they did the same actions, that they railed against, as the other government. We have a Premier – the ethics investigation aside – who's travelling to eastern Canada, raising money for a party that works . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Once again I will remind you that this is a matter under investigation by the Ethics Commissioner and cannot be dealt with.

Mr. Nixon: Okay. Thanks, Madam Speaker. How about this? The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler brought forward a very reasonable bill in the last sitting, something that was very similar to what the NDP had asked for as well when they were in opposition. This government killed that bill instead of allowing it to go forward. So they stand here and they say, "Hey, we're going to do things different," and they do exactly what they did in the past.

Mr. Mason: Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation on a point of order.

Point of Order

Question-and-comment Period

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much. According to section 29(2)(a) in the standing orders it says:

Subject to clause (b), following each speech on the items in debate referred to in suborder (1), a period not exceeding 5 minutes shall be made available, if required, to allow Members to ask questions and comment briefly on matters relevant to the speech and to allow responses to each Member's questions and comments.

So the questions or the comments must be relevant to the speech of the previous member, not to the response that was made under 29(2)(a) by another member.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, did you wish to respond to that point of order?

Mr. Hanson: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think that we're approaching the 4:30 hour, and I think that after the functions of this week, tempers are getting a little bit to the point where a member opposite actually flipped the bird over to our side. Thank you very much. We noticed that. [interjections] My eyes are pretty good.

I'll just end with that response. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: I would urge all members to respect the traditions of this House and to treat each other with respect while we're in this Chamber.

Yes, I believe the point of order is valid. I was about to remind the hon. member that it needed to be in response to the Member for Airdrie's comments.

You still have a little bit of time if you want to continue.

Debate Continued

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In response, then, to the Member for Airdrie, who brought up very clearly in her speech concerns that she . . .

The Deputy Speaker: We have another point of order. The hon. Member for Calgary-Hawkwood.

Point of Order Gestures

Mr. Connolly: Sorry. I would just like to clarify that I did not flip the other side off. I made a gesture such as this because I was angry. However, I did not flip you off. If you did perceive it as that, I do apologize. That was not my intention. I was frustrated. I just tried to throw my hand up in the air as a signal of frustration, and I did not try to flip you off.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. member.

Debate Continued

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Madam Speaker. To the Member for Airdrie, who did discuss her concerns about the specific comments about accountability and democratic performance in the throne speech: I'll just ask her how her constituents feel this government is doing so far on that file.

Mrs. Pitt: I would love to speak about and address to this House how my constituents are responding to the current climate in which they find themselves. I have people on a daily basis, when I'm in my constituency, that meet with me. They come in with their resumés, and these are extremely well-qualified people. These are pretty heavy taxpayers. They haven't worked in a year. They can't find work. Nobody will hire them. There's nobody that is willing to help.

Constituents in Airdrie, very few that voted for the NDP government, thought: "Oh, man. This is great. We might – we might – have an adequate health care system in our constituency." We don't see it.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am honoured and humbled to be speaking to you today in response to the Speech from the Throne. I first ask your indulgence to thank some key individuals and groups for providing me with the support to be able to make this speech today. First and foremost, I must thank my family. My wife, Sarah, has endured two elections and many days of being a single parent to our beautiful and brilliant children, Mehna and Kieran. She is not only the Rock of Gibraltar; she is an amazing partner and mother who has taught me the value of looking beyond the status quo and outside of one's comfort zone for wisdom and knowledge. And she's willing to endure a third election.

I have a brief story about how I knew that I had met my life partner in Sarah. We were riding the C-Train home from work one evening when a young man wearing a turban was being verbally

abused by another passenger. Yes, this still happens, Madam Speaker. Sarah confronted the abuser, delivering a lesson in ethnic diversity, tolerance, compassion, inclusion, and ultimately in humility. This is not the only time that Sarah has inserted herself into a situation such as this, but it was at this moment that I knew I had met the one.

4:20

I would like to thank my mother, Suzanne, who has always been there when we needed her and who taught us that strength is found in the family and about the value and importance of having a strong moral centre, which includes looking out for those less fortunate, not that we were of any financial status. I also want to congratulate my mother on her recent retirement from Canada Post. Now she lives in cottage country in Ontario.

My father, Thomas, who passed away far too early, was the epitome of hard work, and he taught me some amazing values that I hold today and will pass on to my children. I asked my mother how they were able to afford putting my brother and me through all the sports that we played growing up and into our late teens. You know, sometimes you don't know these stories until you ask. She said that they made many sacrifices and that there were times when my father had to work two jobs, unbeknownst to us. It's a shame that he was not able to see me graduate from university and see the important role I have as MLA for Calgary-Klein. He would have been very proud.

I also want to acknowledge my brother Chris, who has been my little brother all his life. While I can only hope I paved a good path for him growing up, I hope he knows that his friendship is immeasurable to me today. I'd also like to thank my in-laws, Cynthia and Chanta Somasundaram, who have been very supportive to me and my family. Cynthia is a teacher in Singapore, and Chanta was an oil and gas engineer in Calgary for many years. Sadly, we lost Chanta this past August, and he is greatly missed.

Of course, Madam Speaker, I want to offer an enduring thank you to the constituents of Calgary-Klein, who supported me and put their trust in me to represent them as their MLA. Calgary-Klein includes the dynamic communities of Thorncliffe, Greenview, North Haven, Highwood, Highland Park, Collingwood, Cambrian Heights, Rosemont, Mount Pleasant, Tuxedo Park, Winston Heights, and, of course, my own community of Capitol Hill.

I used to joke that after being impacted by the floods of 2013, when we lived in Erlton, we were looking to move to a community, any community, that had the name "hill" in it. While this is only partially a joke, we were very pleased to move to this amazing community of Capitol Hill. Capitol Hill has Campus Pre-school, which is the oldest co-operative preschool in Calgary. My daughter also attends there, and my son will attend there as well. This preschool was started by a group of female graduate students at the U of C 50 years ago this year, as a matter of fact, as a means of providing affordable daycare while they attended school. Campus Pre-school continues to operate much the same way that it did 50 years ago, where all the parents rotate volunteering to keep costs down. I will be volunteering there again this Friday myself.

Of course, in Calgary-Klein we have one of Calgary's largest inner-city parks, Confederation park, which my family can access right at the end of our street. It's quite wonderful.

These great communities have very active community associations from which I've learned a great deal about the strengths and challenges of these communities as well as what can be accomplished when people work together. One thing I can say about these communities is that I've never seen them resort to NIMBYism. When new projects are presented, they are thoughtful

about what it means, good or bad, and they are always there to help with advice on these matters.

Calgary-Klein is a diverse constituency that starts in the south along 16th Avenue. It's very urban, with many young families in older communities and residential areas living in new infill side by side with one-room bungalows that have residents that have lived there for 50-plus years. It extends north to the more spread out suburban areas, and it also includes several industrial parks that employ many Calgarians without them having to travel to the outer industrial areas. There is a great diversity in income levels, ethnicity, and backgrounds, from long-time residents to new Canadians, but to attend an event in any of these communities is to witness the strength of the collective.

Madam Speaker, the constituency of Calgary-Klein has seen many changes to its electoral boundaries as the city of Calgary has grown. It is steeped in history, and it's had many significant representatives in its boundaries and significant changes in government representation. Some notable individuals include Ernest Manning, a Social Credit Premier who is still distinguished as being the longest serving Premier as well as the youngest Premier in Alberta's history, at the age of 34, not much older than several of this government's caucus. Perhaps we have a future Premier among some of our younger caucus members.

An Hon. Member: For sure.

Mr. Coolahan: For sure.

Liberal Leader of the Official Opposition and eventual Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Grant MacEwan also held this seat between 1955 and 1959. There has also been a Dominion Labour Party MLA, Fred White, between 1921 and 1935 and Aylmer Liesemer, who was a Co-operative Commonwealth Federation MLA from 1944 to 1952. Madam Speaker, there have also been a few Progressive Conservative MLAs in this riding since 1971. In fact, it was redistributed and renamed in 2012 after former Premier Klein, which provides me with great delight when I say that I am the first NDP MLA to represent the great constituency of Calgary-Klein.

While the constituents of Calgary-Klein are diverse and resilient and have seen an economic downturn before, what they haven't seen, Madam Speaker, and something I am proud to be a part of is a government that is working through this difficult downturn in the economy in a way that has the least amount of impact on Albertans in need of support right now. This means not cutting front-line services and not reducing jobs that cripple family incomes and reduce their spending capacity at our local businesses and restaurants. Rather, we ask corporations and the wealthy, who have had – and many acknowledge this – many years in which they haven't paid the same as their counterparts in other provinces.

At the same time, Madam Speaker, our government is working to strengthen Alberta's economy, which will help us weather future economic shocks due to sharp drops in oil prices. We are doing this by encouraging investment in Alberta, not only in the oil sector but in other areas that this province has a competitive advantage in such as agriculture, forestry, and tourism and in other areas where we can build new and dynamic industries.

The Alberta petrochemicals diversification program, that was introduced a few weeks ago, is a great initiative to what many have seen as a problem that perpetuates economic slumps in Alberta's oil sands, and that is that we rely too much on the raw materials for our source of revenue. Madam Speaker, the real money is always in the finished product. We only have to look to the west at British Columbia's forest industry and its many years of shipping raw materials and the incredible negative impact that this played on that

industry. The Alberta petrochemicals diversification program will also help with employing those currently employed in the coal industry as the province begins to wean itself away from this form of energy.

Madam Speaker, I believe that we are looking down the road to a new and prosperous future in Alberta's most important sector. I believe that this government is taking Alberta in the direction to truly have the diversified economy that we've always talked about but have never seen come to fruition. I've had several companies in my office over the last year excited to become part of these new initiatives and part of the new energy sector, companies that are not now in the generation business but see the opportunity to diversify their own portfolios and increase the bottom line of their businesses.

Part of this diversity strategy and bolstering the oil sands through the building of future pipelines is to ensure that our products are seen by the rest of the world as produced in a responsible manner. To this end, Madam Speaker, our climate strategy will help put us back on the map as not only a resource-rich province but a leader in thoughtful energy resources that will not only protect the environment for future generations but also prolong the production

capacity of the oil sands to keep Alberta as a world leader in resource extraction.

In addition, Madam Speaker, this government has committed to investing \$34 billion into the capital plan to help build the roads, schools, and other infrastructure that this province needs. This will not only help alleviate the infrastructure deficit that we have, but it will also help to put Albertans back to work while we get on with getting the oil sands back on track with pipelines built and getting our oil to tidewater and new markets.

Madam Speaker, the risky economic experiments are over. The experiment that suggests tax breaks to wealthy corporations and individuals will somehow manifest in the creation of economic and social equality, that experiment has failed, and it's time to move on. There has been too much emphasis on this aspect over the last 30 years, which has created a vacuum for those not fortunate enough to work in these high-paying industries.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, I hesitate to interrupt, but pursuant to Standing Order 4(2) the Assembly stands adjourned till Monday at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 4:30 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 29th Legislature - 2nd Session (2016)

Activity to March 10, 2016

The Bill sponsor's name is in brackets following the Bill title. If it is a money Bill, (\$) will appear between the title and the sponsor's name. Numbers following each Reading refer to Hansard pages where the text of debates is found; dates for each Reading are in brackets following the page numbers. Bills numbered 1 to 200 are Government Bills. Bills numbered 201 or higher are Private Members' Public Bills. Bills numbered with a "Pr" prefix are Private Bills.

*An asterisk beside a Bill number indicates an amendment was passed to that Bill; the Committee line shows the precise date of the amendment.

The date a Bill comes into force is indicated in square brackets after the date of Royal Assent. If a Bill comes into force "on proclamation," "with exceptions," or "on various dates," please contact Legislative Counsel, Alberta Justice, for details at (780) 427-2217. The chapter number assigned to the Bill is entered immediately following the date the Bill comes into force. SA indicates Statutes of Alberta; this is followed by the year in which it is included in the statutes, and its chapter number. Please note, Private Bills are not assigned chapter numbers until the conclusion of the Fall Sitings.

- 1 Promoting Job Creation and Diversification Act (Bilous)**
First Reading -- 5 (Mar. 8, 2016 aft., passed)

- 2 Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2016 (\$) (Ceci)**
First Reading -- 96 (Mar. 10, 2016 aft., passed)

- 201 Election Recall Act (Smith)**
First Reading -- 92 (Mar. 10, 2016 aft., passed)

- 202 Alberta Affordable Housing Review Committee Act (Luff)**
First Reading -- 92 (Mar. 10, 2016 aft., passed)

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