



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 5, 2016

Day 23

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Second Session

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Party standings:

New Democrat: 54 Wildrose: 22 Progressive Conservative: 9 Alberta Liberal: 1 Alberta Party: 1

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 5, 2016

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Let each of us reflect in our own way. Today we reflect upon Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom ha-Shoah. Today we commemorate the victims of genocide by honouring those lost lives. Let us reflect on the importance of tolerance, respect, and appreciation for all faiths and cultures so there will never be a time in our province that any person does not feel safe to practise their religious beliefs.

I would ask that you join me in a moment of silence to remember all those whose lives were taken unfairly and unjustly.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the students and teachers of l'école Citadelle in Legal, Alberta. One of 19 schools of the north central francophone school division, l'école Citadelle is a K to 9 school. Today's grade 6 class is accompanied by their teacher, Chris Page, and parent chaperones Joanne Pelletier, Dawn de Champlain, Danielle Tardif-Cyr, and Marie-Josée Trudel. I would ask that the class please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly 32 students from Viking school, appropriately located in the town of Viking, which is, by Odin's beard, the hammer of Thor of all communities in the constituency of Vermilion-Lloydminster. These students are here with their teachers: Mrs. Sandra Carter, Mrs. Dianne Kolybaba, and Mrs. Trudy Josephson. We had a wonderful discussion as we were having pictures taken. They're very keenly interested in the ongoing saga, if you like, of what happens here in the Legislature, and they're particularly keenly interested in watching the NDP members who sit on this side of the House, which we have dubbed the Valhalla section. I'd now ask all of my colleagues here in the Legislature to rise and give them the warm traditional welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Are there any other members who have school groups to introduce?

Then the Member for Lethbridge-East.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you the 25 representatives of the child well-being initiative. They are women of the United Church of Canada who have been relentlessly working to raise awareness about child poverty in Alberta. Today every MLA has the opportunity to receive a poverty doll, hand made, with prayers for kids. They ask that you please keep your doll in your office to remind you of the basic needs of Alberta's young citizens and that that must be a priority for this government. Today marks the fourth time they have travelled from throughout the province to the Legislature to share their message

with all of us. I ask this incredible group to stand and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly some very special people I met about a year and a half ago at the beginning of my journey here to this Legislature. This group of dedicated volunteers ran my campaign, co-ordinated volunteers, door-knocked, helped with organizing, and provided much-needed emotional support. I didn't write those last words. I have these amazing volunteers to thank for where I am sitting today, and to be honest, I'm forever grateful for their support. Joining us today are Gary and Lars Hansen, Ben McDonald, Rhonda Whitten, Johanna Flipsen, Kim Slomnicki, and Colleen Copley. I would ask that they rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Klein.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Frances Amery, a teacher at Campus Pre-school, a co-operative preschool in my constituency of Calgary-Klein that is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, which I'll be talking more about in my member's statement today. I ask that Frances now rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore.

Ms Kazim: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Lillian Stewart, Sandra Burgess, and David Jensen from the child well-being initiative in Calgary. About 10 years ago Lillian saw a woman with a baby on the street on a cold winter night in downtown Calgary. After she saw them, she vowed to do something about it, and the initiative to fight against child poverty was born with the collaboration of Sharon Prenevost and some other women. I would like to thank Lillian, Sandra, and David for their hard work towards eradicating child poverty. I'm very pleased that they are here today with us and would request all three individuals to rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly Lynne Fair from my constituency of Strathmore-Brooks. Lynne is also involved with the child well-being initiative. I ask that you and all members of the Assembly give her the traditional warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly a King's University student, Erin Vandenberg. Erin is committed to social justice and public service, and I feel very fortunate that Erin has chosen to work for me during the summer. Erin, would you please rise to receive the customary welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Are there any other guests today?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly four amazing women from my constituency. Apart from being part of the child well-being initiative group that is here today, I have worked with these women on a number of other volunteer issues in my community via the Canadian Federation of University Women and through our shared place of worship with the justice, peace, and social action committee. They are Sharon Prenevost, Mary Shillington, Debora Lebeau, and Sheila Braund. I am honoured to work with them and call them friends. I ask that they please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

1:40

Ministerial Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Wildfire Update

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take an opportunity to share some new information on the wildfires that are currently burning in our province. As you know, fire conditions continue to be extreme across much of the province, with rapidly changing fire behaviour. A fire weather advisory is in effect for the northern regions of the province. Overnight we had 18 new starts, with seven of the fires deemed out of control, including new starts near Slave Lake and High Level. We expect that the fire in Fort McMurray will continue to grow today due to these weather conditions.

At this point, based on the fire activity, our primary goal is to keep the wildfire out of homes and to protect the infrastructure, such as hospitals, key transportation routes, and other critical infrastructure, that'll make it easier for people to return to their community. In the meantime the fire will burn in the forested areas, thankfully away from the community. To be clear, at this time no amount of air support or wildfire fighter support will stop this fire right now because of the extreme fire conditions. At this point it will continue to burn until we see some significant rain. In the meantime, again, we are focused on safety and protecting that core infrastructure.

Weather continues to be a major factor. Cooler temperatures are forecast for today, with lower humidity of 25 to 35 per cent. However, we still expect significant fire behaviour due to increased winds, forecasted to be between 30 to 50 kilometres per hour.

Province-wide there are currently more than 1,300 firefighters on the front lines being aided by 145 helicopters, 138 pieces of heavy equipment, and 22 air tankers. There are currently more than a hundred additional firefighters heading to our province to assist with our efforts. The firefighting efforts are currently focused, again, on protecting the critical infrastructure and residences within Fort McMurray.

The Canadian military is ready to help as well and has sent in helicopters and a C-130 Hercules aircraft. We have additional equipment coming from out of the province, including four air tankers from Quebec that are scheduled to arrive on scene today.

The Canada Task Force 2 military emergency support arrived in Fort McMurray yesterday at 10 p.m. This includes 20 command staff and 20 support staff, providing much-needed support to the emergency staff, who have been working tremendously hard, out of Wood Buffalo.

We are co-ordinating closely with industry to begin moving evacuees from the camps north of Fort McMurray by air. Ultimately, we would like to move people out by way of ground

transportation, although safety remains the first priority, and we will not do that until it is safe to do so.

Three emergency fuel stations are operating in safety rest areas on highway 63, located approximately 60 kilometres south of Fort McMurray, 100 kilometres south at Mariana Lake, and approximately 165 kilometres south of Fort McMurray. Quantities of fuel are limited and will be restricted to motorists who need fuel to get them to the nearest fuel centre.

The reception centre at the Anzac Recreation Centre was vacated due to a mandatory evacuation order. The registered evacuees there have self-evacuated or have been moved by bus to the Northlands centre here in Edmonton. The regional operations centre located in Anzac has been moved back up to its former location near the Fort McMurray airport, which we consider great news at this time.

We continue our efforts to ensure that Albertans are evacuated safely from all areas with mandatory evacuation orders. We are responding in a co-ordinated manner with emergency response workers to ensure we get people out quickly and safely. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, our priority is ensuring Albertans are safe, including our first responders, as fire conditions remain extreme.

Yesterday our Premier visited the Fort McMurray region to view the fire and the devastation. She also visited the emergency operation centre and met with local officials there. The Premier also took time to meet volunteers and evacuees at evacuation centres in Anzac and heard from all of them about the particular challenges that they're facing at this time.

We have enacted a provincial state of emergency within the municipality of Wood Buffalo and continue to work with municipalities, organizations, and businesses to support evacuated residents. The powers granted under the state of emergency allow us to put the necessary actions into place. It also allows the province to evacuate people from the affected areas. It allows us to restore essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies like food, clothing, fuel, equipment, and medical supplies. The state of emergency allows the province to control or prohibit travel to and from the area and to co-ordinate emergency medical and social services and put our own provincial emergency plan into action.

States of local emergency continue to be in effect for the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.

The focus of the Provincial Operations Centre is the stabilization of the Fort McMurray situation and the planning for eventual re-entry into the community. Albertans affected by wildfires should follow the instructions of emergency officials and stay tuned to local media for information and updates as they develop. I encourage all Albertans to follow Alberta emergency alert online or to download the smart phone app to stay informed on emergencies in their areas. Albertans can find the most up-to-date information about this situation at alberta.ca.

Once again we stress that at this time the mandatory evacuation remains in place, and residents of Fort McMurray are not to return to their homes at this time.

Anyone who wants to contribute to assist the displaced residents is encouraged to donate to the Canadian Red Cross at redcross.ca or 1.800.418.1111. Our government has provided \$2 million to the Red Cross so that their efforts can begin immediately, and we have also committed to matching donations from individual Albertans, who have been so tremendously generous already.

Evacuees are encouraged to contact Red Cross themselves at 1.888.350.6070 to register their location. This will ensure that officials know how to reach evacuees to verify that they got out safely, to help with family reunification, and to make sure they have the supports that they need at this time. Evacuees should also

register at a reception centre even if they are not planning to stay there. This will help ensure that our government can get them the supports they need going forward.

For those evacuees with pets I can tell you that many of the reception centres are accepting evacuees and their pets if their pets are in a crate and have food. A number of organizations are providing assistance with food, crates, as well as kennel space.

I would also like to add that mental health support is available by calling Alberta's 24-hour mental health helpline at 1.877.303.2642. Mental health staff are either in place or in transit to a variety of the reception centres right across this province to provide that necessary support.

For those needing to travel highway 63, the highway is open to southbound traffic only. Northbound traffic is restricted to emergency vehicles and other essential travel at the junction of highway 881. There are traffic controls in place at both highway 63 and highway 881, with priority being given to emergency responders. More information and regular updates are available from Alberta's 511 service.

Those Albertans with questions or in need of information can call the government of Alberta's emergency information line at 310.4455. This line is open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Our government is grateful for the responsive support offered and provided by the federal government as well. I'm very thankful for the commitment Minister Ralph Goodale made today to work with us in terms of supporting people with income support, with rebuilding businesses within the region, and, in general, restoring Fort McMurray to functionality and helping them to rebuild. I thank the federal government very much for their commitment to working hard with us on that. All Canadians are standing with Alberta today.

1:50

Our government is also grateful to the energy industry, who have supported this region and this province and its people in good times and now in this crisis. I'm thankful to all of the other Alberta companies who have been tremendously generous in terms of donations to provide supports to the evacuees.

And I'm so very thankful to Albertans. I mean, Alberta's true advantage always has been and always will be our people, and we're seeing that displayed time and time again throughout this crisis. Albertans have stepped up to provide money, to provide time and have opened their own doors to these people in times of need.

Lastly, I cannot thank enough the first responders who are in Fort McMurray and responding to all of the other fires right across this province, who continue to do the opposite of what many of us would do and march right into those fires, right into those disasters, ready to take on those challenges in order to protect the things that matter to us. Thank you so much to all of the first responders. We are there with you. We are behind you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with a heavy heart today that I rise. Our entire caucus has been touched by the goodwill and generosity shown toward our colleagues the Leader of the Opposition and the MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo and, more importantly, to their constituents, whose lives have been thrown into an unimaginable sense of chaos. For other at-risk areas of the province, including High Level and Slave Lake, I want to extend our thoughts and prayers to all those who are impacted.

It is when Albertans are challenged that Albertans show their true spirit, their compassion, their good sense, their industriousness.

This evacuation has been a testament to all of those qualities, and I'm sure that every member of this place will salute the individuals, the volunteers, and the uncountable acts of kindness and generosity that helped 80,000 people get out of harm's way.

It's times like today that it's easy to be lost in a sense of despair that is associated with such tragedies. And while all we can do is hope and pray for the wet weather to arrive, the warm temperatures remain. While this senseless fire remains heavy on our hearts, it's hard not to be inspired by the miraculous evacuation of this beautiful city on the banks of the Athabasca and the work of first responders.

Police officers and EMS workers oversaw the biggest evacuation of a wildfire in our province's history. To date they remain working around the clock as they continued to oversee expanded evacuations even as late as last night. Firefighters in Fort McMurray for days have been heroically battling this blaze, doing all that they can to hold it at bay. Over a thousand firefighters are currently fighting this blaze, and it is with a deep sense of pride to have seen firefighters gather all across our province to come together to help our brothers and sisters in need. If I can, Mr. Speaker, just for a moment, give a very special thank you to the firefighters from the constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills responding to this situation in Fort McMurray, helping to contain the spread of this fire.

I have no doubt that in a few weeks, when the scars and burns begin to heal, we will hear the truly inspiring stories that many of these men and women have experienced. We will hear how they put their lives on the line to the best of their ability to keep people safe and try to protect our region. As the long days and sleepless nights persist, I ask that all Albertans and members of this Assembly continue to pray for the safety of all involved and our first responders.

Today will be a sombre day not fit for bluster. Our caucus will ask the Premier and her ministers for an update on the fire situation in Alberta. These questions that we will ask have been sent to the government earlier today, and we hope it will give Albertans the opportunity to get answers to the questions that they are all asking us.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Oral Question Period

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

Wildfire Update

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, today is a somber day not fit for politics or bluster. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected. I'm going to ask the Premier for an update on the fire situation in Alberta. So that everyone is aware, in the spirit of collaboration these questions were provided to the government earlier today so that we may provide complete answers to the people of Alberta. Can the Premier update the Assembly on the state of the wildfire situation in Fort McMurray and throughout Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I previously stated, public safety remains the key priority as wildfires continue to burn in several areas of the province. The situation in the Fort McMurray area is, obviously, of primary concern. A provincially declared state of emergency is in effect for the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo. With residents safely evacuated, provincial fire crews continue their efforts to reduce the threat to property and

infrastructure. Fire conditions remain extreme, with 18 new fire starts yesterday, a total of 49 wildfires burning, with seven considered out of control, 12 being held, 23 under control, and seven turned over to the responsible municipal parties to manage.

Mr. Barnes: The incredible first responders, who have without hesitation gone towards the emergency, have the full support of all members of this House. I know that the first responders are doing their utmost to control this wildfire and the other fires in our province. News that both B.C. and Manitoba only have enough resources to work in their own provinces has raised questions from Albertans, however. Can the government confirm that our province has adequate resources should other wildfires start spreading our resources thin?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we have a wide variety of support, and we have access to a number of resources from right across the country and, in fact, beyond. We actually have more air support than we could use in Fort McMurray at this point in time and are using that across the province for other wildfires. We also have an abundance of wildfire fighters available in order to do that. Without doubt, we have more than enough resources to deal with the fire, but should we need any more, we have the relationships built in to access as many as we need in the future.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Barnes: All Albertans and I feel confident in saying that all Canadians are rallying behind the individuals and families who have been devastated by these wildfires. The regional municipality of Wood Buffalo must be commended for their professionalism in evacuating residents and keeping order. However, Albertans are concerned about their neighbours and have asked us why the decision was made by the government to wait until 3 p.m. yesterday to declare a state of emergency. Can the government provide the reasons behind this decision?

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was absolutely a local state of emergency in place, which gave the municipalities the powers they needed to address that situation. What our provincial state of emergency did was to give the province the ability to take responsibility for the co-ordination of that event. Of course, we've been working with them continuously from the beginning, but with a variety of other fires coming across and with the majority of Fort McMurray's residents dispersed throughout the province and with concerns that the support in Fort McMurray was becoming exhausted, we decided it was the appropriate time to step in to help, and they agreed with us.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Stier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Today my questions will all be for the Minister of Municipal Affairs, again, in her capacity as the minister in charge of emergencies. Minister, yesterday the government declared a provincial state of emergency in Fort McMurray. Will you kindly highlight the differences, the key ones, and tell Albertans what additional resources, tools, and powers come with this provincial state of emergency and how they will help fight the fires there and deal with this situation?

2:00

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We've enacted a provincial state of emergency in the regional municipality, which is in effect for 28 days unless renewed by this House. Examples of the power this gives include putting an emergency plan into operation; evacuating people from the affected areas; controlling or prohibiting travel to or from the area; restoring essential facilities and distributing essential supplies like food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies; and co-ordinating emergency medical, welfare, and other essential services. The most important fact is that this allows us to step in and control it on a provincial basis to co-ordinate resources across the province.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
First supplemental.

Mr. Stier: Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. In many parts of Alberta residents are justifiably afraid of fire conditions. They are worried about their homes, their jobs, their livelihoods, and their livestock, of course. The trepidation is real, Minister, and felt widely across this province, and we're only into the fifth day of May in a fire season that probably could go into September. What can the minister tell Albertans about added precautions this government is taking throughout the province to reassure them?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, our priority is ensuring that Albertans are safe as fire conditions remain extreme. We've brought in resources from out of province, and people are working 24/7 on emergency response and supporting Albertans who have been evacuated from their homes. We're working with partners, including municipalities, organizations like the Red Cross, and businesses, to support evacuated residents and fight these devastating fires. We're doing everything we can while we continue to monitor. We can't control the weather or the dry conditions, but we can do what it takes to keep Albertans safe. I will continue to hold daily briefings as required so Albertans are aware of the situation.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
Second supplemental.

Mr. Stier: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Well, Alberta is tinder dry right now across the province. Almost the entire north half is listed as extreme on the fire danger scale, and the rest of the province isn't much better, yet no overall fire ban on the entire province has been announced. Minister, what directives are being communicated to local municipalities throughout Alberta in terms of a heightened state of alert requirement or a complete province-wide fire ban? Has the government considered any action along those lines?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Certainly, there are fire restrictions right across the fire protection areas in this province. It is incredibly tinder dry, and we are all working together and proud of the relationships we have with emergency workers from right across this province, working together to ensure that we're prepared for any state that might continue. I urge all Albertans to ensure that they take no action that

potentially could start a fire at a time when fires can get out of control so very quickly.

The Speaker: The Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Health Services for Fort McMurray Residents

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, at a time of such devastation and sadness I was encouraged to hear that all patients and long-term care residents of the Northern Lights hospital have been evacuated. This is testament to the great efforts of the dedicated staff working on the ground to get the job done safely, and we owe them our deepest gratitude. Can the minister inform this House of the status of these evacuated patients, particularly to which facilities they have been moved and the steps being taken to ensure the capacity exists to accommodate them?

The Speaker: The hon. Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for this question. In addition to the work of the AHS staff in Fort McMurray, this operation required a great deal of co-ordination with several other facilities, including the Alex, Grey Nuns, Leduc community hospital, Sturgeon, University of Alberta, the Misericordia, Edmonton General continuing care, Jubilee Lodge Nursing Home, Salem Manor Nursing Home, Extencicare Leduc, CapitalCare Lynnwood, and Hardisty Care Centre. I would like to acknowledge that every patient was safely transported from the fire zone to safety and is currently receiving the care they need, and I would thank every person who contributed to that effort.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, I understand that a number of companies operating locally have stepped up to offer assistance for those with medical needs. The story of WestJet planes using Suncor's airstrip to evacuate patients, including Fort McMurray's newborns, is truly inspiring. With the immediate safety of lives in hospitals and seniors' facilities secured, Albertans' attention turns to the state of local health and seniors' infrastructure. Could the minister please update Albertans on the condition of health and seniors' facilities, especially the Northern Lights hospital?

The Speaker: The hon. associate minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The best information that we have at this time is that the Northern Lights regional health centre has not sustained any structural damage so far, but the effects of the smoke are not known at this time. We unfortunately do not have detailed information on other specific structures, and the situation within Fort McMurray remains very changeable. I share the member's concern for residents' homes, including seniors' homes. We know that firefighters and crews are working around the clock to protect the city.

Mr. Barnes: This fire has taken an incredible toll on the residents of Fort McMurray and their families. Often that toll is not outwardly visible but manifests itself through mental anguish and stress. Evacuees and their loved ones have suffered loss, uncertainty, and tremendous emotional strain, and let us not forget the first responders, who subject themselves to immense pressures. Please, could the minister let all know what mental health supports are available at this time and how to best gain access to them.

The Speaker: The hon. associate minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his very important question. Everyone who has been in and around

the Fort McMurray area is under tremendous strain. Absolutely these events have an impact on staff and front-line responders, and there are supports available around the clock. Any person can access the mental health therapists at the reception areas throughout the province. Front-line staff can also contact the AHS emergency and family assistance program or the critical incident stress management and peer support program. Many municipal fire departments also operate their own critical incident management programs. I would encourage any Albertan to reach out to the mental health helpline at any time.

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

Support for Wildfire Evacuees and First Responders

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While Fort McMurray is still under siege, the bravery and compassion demonstrated daily by Albertans is a source of inspiration for all of us. The PC caucus is committed to working with government and all parties in the House to ensure that Albertans get the information they need. Today is Children's Mental Health Day, and we recognize that there are frightened kids currently at reception centres. To the Health minister: while food, shelter, and water are clearly provided at the centres, are other necessities such as crisis counselling, mental health support, and emotional trauma care also available for those kids?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again thank you to the member for the very important question. We know that the people that are in reception areas or those that are staying with family and friends are under incredible stress right now, and their mental health is a priority. We have mental health professionals on scene at each of the reception areas, both in the north and in the Edmonton area, and we are ramping up the number of counsellors available. As the Assembly can well imagine, there are tens of thousands of Albertans who have escaped a truly terrifying event, and not everyone will ask for help immediately. Their needs will continue to present over the coming days, weeks, and months. Again, I encourage anyone to contact the mental health line.

The Speaker: Thank you.
First supplemental.

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Minister, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, we know that with the fire coming, family and friends often had to evacuate their homes on short notice and leave their communities without being fully prepared and head for the several reception centres that were prepared. We also know that these centres are located quite far apart in many cases, meaning that friends and family may not be together after getting to those centres. To the Municipal Affairs minister: what measures are in place to help connect family members and friends that could be safe but separated in very distant reception centres?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for a very important question. It is certainly an important priority for our government to get families reunified as quickly as it is safe to do so. Each reception area has a registration desk where evacuees can register their name and location with staff. Alberta Red Cross is also helping to co-ordinate family reunification by urging people to phone the toll-free number to register: 1.888.350.6070. It's

important that all evacuees phone this number to register, whether they're staying at reception centres, with family or friends, in campgrounds or hotels, to ensure that officials know how to reach people and can verify that everyone got out safely. Facebook also has activated its Facebook safety check page, where people can sign in.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
Second supplemental.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Minister, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans are extremely proud of our firefighters, our first responders, and the many workers at emergency operations centres. All of these people have stepped up from across the province and in many cases have driven towards the fire to help, and some of these people may have lost their homes themselves. To the Health minister: where can our firefighters, first responders, and members working in the EOCs go to ensure that they receive the mental health care supports they might need and the emotional support they might need after working long hours on the job protecting other Albertans?

2:10

The Speaker: The Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member. Absolutely these events have a huge impact, and we are so grateful for the work that our first responders are doing. I would encourage all first responders to contact the AHS emergency family assistance program or the critical incident stress management and peer support program as well as any other supports available through their local municipality. Again, any Albertan is urged to contact the mental health helpline, which is 1.877.303.2642.

Thank you.

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

Fort McMurray Wildfire Recovery

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My thoughts again go out to the people in Fort McMurray, and my thanks to the first responders, many of whom have lost their own homes but continue to work around the clock to protect their neighbours. Thank you also to firefighters from around the country, including Canada's military, and to our friends from around the world, including Mexico, who have sent resources to Alberta.

My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I recognize that the crisis is not yet over, but when it is, what steps have been taken to ensure that the right resources will be available for the people of Fort McMurray to help them with their recovery?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Certainly, Alberta is here. It's a key priority for us to support one another, to work with one another, which is why we have the disaster recovery program within our government, which will assist the municipality to restore function to some of the key issues to deal with the response costs but also to help the Fort McMurray residents with any noninsurable costs associated with restoring basic functioning to their community and themselves.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the answer. There have been challenges with the disaster

recovery program in the past. Can you assure the people of Fort McMurray that the DRP will be there for them when they need it?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Improving the DRP program has been one of my key priorities since becoming Minister of Municipal Affairs. I'm proud of the work we've done. We've greatly improved the process by having a one-on-one caseworker for people. With the Chestermere process we've heard nothing but great things about how the new program is working for them, and I assure the people of Fort McMurray that we will ensure that they have a positive experience through the DRP program.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again to the minister. Now, both individuals and businesses have rallied to support the people of Fort McMurray. Most importantly, Red Cross Alberta is accepting cash donations, which our provincial and federal governments have generously matched. In addition, there are many, many businesses and organizations who stepped up, and I'll name just a very few: the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, the Edmonton Humane Society, Guru Nanak Sikh society, the Al-Rashid mosque, Earls, Insurance Brokers Association of Alberta, Edmonton's Food Bank, Children's Autism Services of Edmonton, U-Haul, ATB, Telus, Rogers, and many, many more. Airbnb has waived fees so residences available to evacuees can post their listings for free. What other service providers is the government aware of, and are you able to . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, the end of the question was kind of cut off, so I didn't quite get it. However, I certainly recognize the incredible generosity of individual Albertans but also of our business community. As I spoke to in my statement, there are a number of businesses and organizations right across the province who have, you know, stepped up with their hearts wide open and offered tremendous generosity to the evacuees. For that I'm tremendously grateful. I look forward to continuing to work with them.

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

Fort McMurray Disaster Relief and Recovery

Mr. Piquette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise today to ask about the devastating fires that have ravaged Fort McMurray. Given that this situation remains critical and thousands of Albertans have been displaced from their homes, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs: what co-ordinated effort is the government of Alberta undertaking to ensure temporary shelter and assistance for those Albertans who have been forced from their homes?

The Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a significant natural disaster that has displaced tens of thousands of Albertans. A provincial state of emergency has been declared, and all areas of government have been mobilized and are actively providing supports to displaced Albertans in a number of ways. From AHS to Environment and Parks to Human Services to the Ministry of Finance efforts are being co-ordinated to ensure that evacuated

Albertans get the support they need at this critical time. We will continue to work across government and with municipalities, organizations, businesses, and all levels of government to support evacuated Albertans.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Piquette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a disaster like this strikes, Albertans and Canadians come together to help the community in need. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: what types of supports are other municipalities, provinces, and the government of Canada offering, and how can individual Albertans help Fort McMurrans affected by the fire?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans from across the province are coming together because that is what we do. We support each other in times of need. Alberta's municipalities are providing shelter and tending to evacuated Albertans as well as providing firefighting resources to help us fight this fire and keep people safe. The federal government has committed to working with us to deal with issues such as income supports for those who've lost their livelihood, business recovery in the area, infrastructure requirements, housing and health issues, and disaster financial assistance. In a recent announcement this morning they would also fast-track employment insurance benefits for all workers affected by the fire.

Individual Albertans are encouraged to donate to the Alberta Red Cross, where our government is . . .

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. member.

Mr. Piquette: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that combatting disasters is not only about response but is also about recovery, to the same minister: what can the minister share with the House today regarding supports for the long-term recovery of Fort McMurray?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can speak to that at two levels. The first is that our priority right now is ensuring that Albertans are safe, but we are there for you now, and we will be there to help you rebuild, and we will be there to see the recovery through. On the other hand, I speak as someone who has been there and through that in Slave Lake: you can do it. Your community will be rebuilt. Alberta will rally around and be behind you. You know, in the end your community will be strengthened by the way you have worked together in this experience.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Fort McMurray Energy Industries

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fort McMurray is the beating heart of our energy sector. Our people are strong, resilient, innovative, and compassionate towards their neighbours. We know that many energy companies that run projects in and around Fort McMurray have opened up their work camps for those evacuating the horror of this terrible fire. The safety measures and fast reaction of industry helped the mass exodus from Fort McMurray. Can the Energy minister please share with Albertans how many evacuees are currently being housed in these work camps and how long they're expected to stay there?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. First of all, I want to thank our energy people for housing not just themselves but the others. While I don't know the exact numbers, we do know that thousands of people were evacuated to the north of Fort McMurray, and we are grateful, again, for them housing these folks. We are working, you know, as part of the overall group moving these individuals, as the Minister of Municipal Affairs said, to move some of these folks south when it's safe. Again I have to commend all our industry people for . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mrs. Aheer: Well, we know there is no shortage of energy-related projects, obviously, around Fort McMurray. With the safety of all people in mind, will the Energy minister please share with Albertans the current projects that may be at risk or if there is any damage to any of the existing projects?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. We know there are devastating losses in the Fort McMurray area, and there is much work to be done in the coming months to rebuild. The priority now for all our energy folks is to make sure that their families and their workers are safe and evacuated. They're working with minimum staff right now in many of the areas. Right now it's inappropriate for me – honestly, I can't speculate on the existing damage. But to date I have not heard of any damage.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seeing as many of these energy companies are a key part of the efforts being made to care for the evacuees and given that many of the facilities have obviously either had to slow or shut down production, is the minister able to share with Albertans any idea of the economic impact of this fire for our energy sector in terms of production and wage losses?

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. At this point I really can't, and it's inappropriate to speculate on the costs. As I say, currently they're working very hard to make sure that their families are safe, their workers are safe, and they're working hard to house others at this time. What I can say is that they've adjusted their production as much as they can and are working with minimum staff so other workers can be evacuated safely. We're grateful for those tremendous efforts that they're putting in right now.

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

2:20 Health Services for Wildfire Evacuees

Mr. Rodney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are intended to help provide important information for the betterment of evacuees who are suffering from acute and chronic health ailments. Obviously, evacuees from Fort McMurray would require health care services in new and different ways. To the Associate Minister of Health: how can individuals in northern and remote evacuation

camps access primary and acute health care services in a manner that best meets their needs?

The Speaker: The hon. associate minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you. We know that these events can have profound and long-lasting consequences for people's physical and mental health. Currently AHS has teams at reception areas in Fort MacKay, Lac La Biche, Noralta Lodge, Firebag, and at Northlands in Edmonton. EMS staff are working around the clock on these teams, supported by nurses, two physicians, and mental health professionals. We're also grateful for the support and assistance provided by the Treaty 8 command centre and reception area in Edmonton. There are four AHS staff on-site there today. At Northlands we have specialized nurses, mental health therapists, a respiratory therapist, a home OT living occupational therapist, and two pharmacists.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Rodney: Thank you. Minister, given that the treatment of chronic conditions typically relies on prescription medications and given that many residents may not have their medications with them due to the urgency of the evacuation, can you please tell us what's being done to ensure that these individuals can quickly secure access to the drugs that they need, that are vital for their well-being, in fact, without increasing out-of-pocket expenditures at this time?

The Speaker: The hon. associate minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Certainly, many Albertans who evacuated will not have their prescription medications with them, or they may be running short. We're also aware that some people may not have identification or any means to pay. AHS is triaging needs at the northern reception areas and shipping pharmacy out of Edmonton. Medical staff at these sites are assessing patients and administering medication. Where community pharmacies are available, AHS pharmacists are providing bridging prescriptions, and we have two pharmacists on-site at Northlands. Any evacuee accessing an AHS pharmacy will not face out-of-pocket expenses for required medications.

Mr. Rodney: Given that the demand for health care services could easily increase with the influx of evacuees in various parts of the province, can you please tell us what's being done to ensure that all health care facilities are prepared to meet the increasing demand for surgeries, ER beds, dialysis procedures, MRIs, and medical equipment such as insulin pumps and blood glucose monitors that evacuees may not be able to secure before they fled their homes?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you. There's no doubt that losing access to a regional hospital and displacing tens of thousands of people is a challenging situation. Every single acute care and continuing care patient from Fort McMurray is in an appropriate facility in the Edmonton zone. Northern Alberta renal services has identified 11 dialysis patients from the area, and 10 of them have checked in and been connected with services, and they are following up with family members to connect the remaining patient. We are very fortunate that we are not currently facing a situation with a large number of injuries; however, as more people arrive in the Edmonton zone, the demand for health care services will also rise. The rescheduling of surgeries is an example of how all of our facilities will work to meet the demand.

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

School Accommodation of Wildfire-affected Students

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are about 12,000 evacuees signed in at the Bold Center in Lac La Biche, and many of these people will be accommodated at local hotels and private homes in nearby communities, including St. Paul, Bonnyville, and Athabasca. Among the evacuees are many students, who may need to be accommodated in local schools to ensure that they are able to finish the year on time. To the Minister of Education: who should parents contact if they have questions about registering their students in local schools?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you. Thanks so much for the question as well. Indeed, we know that we probably have more than 12,000 students that have been displaced from the Fort McMurray area and are moving to many different places across the province. To those families, to those students: everyone should know that they are free to register and attend school at any of the school boards in which they have been located. This is an important thing, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that parents know that they can have that continuity, wherever they happen to have moved to, to attend a school. School boards will be happy to accommodate for that, and those are the people that they should be in . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
First supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the number of students that need to be accommodated as a result of the fire and given that many classrooms across the province already are at capacity and since no one wants to see students from Fort McMurray lose any time in school, will the minister describe any specific supports that have been or will be made available to school boards and schools to ensure that there are enough teachers to work with students, resources for the students, and room to accommodate them in schools?

The Speaker: The Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is very important. Each of our school boards now has a difficult circumstance that we will support through the Ministry of Education. This is a chance for all of us to step up to make sure that kids get to finish their school year. We will have to employ some extraordinary measures to make sure that there are school spaces available for all of the displaced students, but I think that at the end of the day, that's what we will end up doing, raising the bar to ensure that we get this job done.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the provincial achievement tests and the diploma exams will be starting very shortly and given that exams are administered by individual school boards and since there are provisions to accommodate students if they are unable to write the exams due to unique circumstances, will the minister tell us what alternative arrangements are being made to ensure that students will be able to write these exams under the authority of different school boards?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again a very important question. Certainly, for the students from the affected areas in grade 6 and grade 9 the provincial achievement exams will be cancelled unless they would choose to write the provincial achievement exams in the new schools, if they've chosen to attend those schools.

In regard to the diplomas I'm just working through a process to ensure that we employ the best practices that might have occurred in the past so that students might have a choice to write those diplomas, or we'll have alternative writing dates for the students from those affected areas.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie.

Support for Wildfire-affected Vulnerable Albertans

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My thoughts are with those that are displaced in Fort McMurray right now from the wildfires. As families, friends, and neighbours band together to offer their support, we must also remember the vulnerable members of our community. Children and youth in government care will be wondering what comes next for them. Can the Minister of Human Services explain what is being done to support kids in care right now, where they will go next, and how other at-risk youth can access help and services if they need them?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Human Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for the question. Our Human Services staff in the northeast region have shown tremendous dedication and strength in continuing to care for and support their clients, both children and families, while also trying to manage their personal lives. We are drawing on our regional resources and workers across the province to support children and youth. Our children and youth in care have been accounted for and relocated to appropriate settings to meet their needs.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that youth are not the only ones that rely on assistance for their well-being and given that many persons with developmental disabilities may be in need of extra support now as they are removed from existing networks and accommodations, can the minister please tell this Assembly what supports are in place for these vulnerable Albertans as the situation evolves, what supports they can expect as they face challenges in the weeks and months to come, and how they can access them?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, again. All disability clients and their caregivers have been accounted for, and caseworkers continue to be in contact as they relocate them from where they are. We also continue to reach out to families with FSCD supports to know where they are and what additional support they might need. If persons with developmental disabilities, their families, and advocates need any support, I encourage them to contact or visit any PDD branch or disability service at Human Services.

2:30

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the update. Given that seniors may be among those with reduced mobility and specialized needs during their displacement, can the

minister please tell this Assembly how Fort McMurray seniors were evacuated, what their situation is now, and what her plan is to ensure that their supports are in place in the mid-term if they need to be resettled?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. There is one seniors' lodge in Fort McMurray. Some of the seniors at that lodge met with family members on the day of the evacuation and went with those family members, with their support. Thirty seniors were evacuated by bus to Lac La Biche, where 13 of them were reunited with family members there and are now with family members. The remaining 17 will be in the Eagle Hill Lodge and the Eagle View Lodge, where the foundation has graciously offered to house these seniors for as long as is needed. We continue to monitor the situation and want to, certainly, thank the foundation for their help in this.

Thank you.

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

Fort McMurray Oil Sands Industry Wildfire Recovery

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, Fort McMurray is the oil capital not only of Alberta but of Canada. The operations in and around this area are integral economic drivers for this province. Unfortunately, companies which operate in the area have been negatively affected by low oil prices, and the wildfire which has devastated Fort McMurray could degrade the situation. To the hon. Minister of Energy: is there any indication of the extent to which this devastating fire will impact oil sands operations in the Fort McMurray area?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. As I mentioned previously, it's a little bit premature to speculate right now. I can tell you, though, that the AER has activated their emergency response centre and is conducting assessments with each of the facilities. As you may be aware, each facility has an emergency management plan that they have done. Right now that's where they're at. They're working with the AER and making sure that their workers and their workers' families are taken care of. Perhaps next week we'll know more.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, hon. minister. Given that our oil sands operators employ thousands of Albertans and given that in our time of need they opened their camps to residents of the Wood Buffalo region displaced by the fire, these companies can be called true corporate citizens. To the hon. Minister of Energy: how will the government be working with these companies to resume their activities and get the affected Albertans back to work once the fire has been effectively contained?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that important question. Again, I want to personally thank the companies, who have just been stellar at stepping up to help not just themselves but the residents. It's been very heartwarming as an Albertan. I know my sense of gratitude is shared by everyone here in the House. I understand that the industry operators are currently developing plans to address such questions. Everything is so fluid

right now; it's hour by hour. As I mentioned, the camps where some of the citizens are: there will be an effort to move them south when it's safe. They've been very clear to me that the priority is safety right now.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, hon. minister. Given that the companies which operate in this area have contributed a significant amount of money to the provincial treasury through direct taxation and oil royalties and given that, more than that, they are committed community partners who give back to Alberta at every turn in an effort to make our province better, again to the hon. Minister of Energy: with how much these companies have contributed to Alberta, will you extend an olive branch and offer your support and resources in any way deemed appropriate?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. In fact, I've been in contact daily with many of the CEOs and presidents of the companies. They've been very good at updating me on where they're at. Right now, again, their focus is on the safety of their staff and safety of their property. My office is continuing to be an open link for conversation with them. I've asked them, if there are any sticking points along the way, to please contact me.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

Northern Lights Regional Health Centre Evacuation

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Among the Albertans in harm's way in Fort McMurray this week were 105 patients at the Northern Lights regional health centre. Can the Associate Minister of Health tell the Assembly about the success of all of the evacuation efforts?

The Speaker: The hon. associate minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you. I want to acknowledge the skill, professionalism, and courage of the AHS employees at the Northern Lights health centre. When ordered to evacuate, they transported 73 acute-care patients and 32 continuing care patients to safety in less than two hours' time, including nine newborn babies and their moms. These health care workers did their jobs under extraordinary pressure while their own families and homes were under evacuation order. We're also grateful to WestJet for providing an aircraft that was able to meet these patients, family members, and staff and bring them safely to health care facilities in the Edmonton zone.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: can you tell the Assembly where these patients with very diverse needs were taken to?

The Speaker: The hon. associate minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. In addition to the work of the AHS staff in Fort McMurray, there was a great deal of co-operation and co-ordination with several other facilities. Patients have been transported to hospitals such as the Alex, Grey Nuns, the Leduc community hospital, Sturgeon, University of Alberta, and the list goes on and

on, including the Jubilee Lodge Nursing Home and Extendicare Leduc. Again I would like to acknowledge that every patient was safely transported from the fire zone to safety and is currently receiving the exact level of care that they need.

I'd also like to update the House that we continue to have information that the centre has not suffered structural damage.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Second supplemental.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the associate minister for the update. I understand that the Fort McMurray treatment centre was also required to evacuate. To the same minister: was this evacuation as successful as the Northern Lights regional health centre's?

The Speaker: The hon. associate minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the treatment centre was evacuated as early as Sunday. All 12 clients were initially relocated into the downtown core of Fort McMurray, and when that area, too, came under mandatory evacuation order, those clients were transported to the Edmonton area and are all safe and continuing to receive the treatment that they need.

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

Oil Sands Industry Wildfire Response and Recovery

Mr. Panda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a former manager in the energy sector I spent many years on projects and living in camps in Fort McMurray. Fort McMurray is the economic engine not only for our province but for our country, and my heart aches for my friends and former colleagues who have had to evacuate the region. I know that energy workers are critical to the success of the energy sector and the overall economy. Can the minister in charge update this House on the status of energy workers who have been evacuated from Fort McMurray?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. Certainly, nonessential workers have been evacuated with their families to various parts of the province. Some have gone home, you know, if they live south. There's minimal staff in some facilities keeping the facilities open, and I have to reiterate that these are people who are doing this even though they've lost their own homes, potentially, or are separated from their families. Many of our industry workers are trained in emergency preparedness, and they're doing just exactly that. And I have to say that a lot of the companies are working with each other as well. I'm very proud of them all.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the energy industry for putting people before profits and opening up their camps to the evacuees. Given that, hopefully, many people will eventually be able to go back to their homes in Fort McMurray, when they're back and resume their jobs to start production again, will the minister give examples as to how they will remove red tape and help the energy industry ramp up production to the previous levels?

2:40

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. As I mentioned, we're working with all of the industry. The AER has launched their emergency centre, and they work with each industry on their plan. We will continue in the days – as I mentioned, I have staff up there working, staff with the emergency centre. This is a long-term thing for us to do, to work with them. And I have assured all of the presidents and CEOs: if they run into any needless red tape, please contact me.

Mr. Panda: Thank you, Minister.

Mr. Speaker, many new Canadians call Fort McMurray home because of the prosperous job opportunities. Given that they are facing immense challenges and barriers right now, because for them losing their home is losing a life and their memories, what is the government doing to help new immigrants overcome these difficulties and get them back on their feet in this time of crisis?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question. We are working with all evacuees who need our support for basic needs right now, providing mental health supports, shelter supports, anything that they need. I'm very proud that our Premier and some of our emergency people were there yesterday talking to people who have been evacuated, finding out exactly what they need. Again, I'm very proud of our industry, who are taking care of their workers plus other people in the community. They're doing a stellar job.

Wildfire-affected Animals

Dr. Starke: Mr. Speaker, Albertans were saddened by the deaths of two Fort McMurray evacuees yesterday, but considering the ferocity of the fires and the scope of the evacuation, it is an incredible testament to our emergency workers that more lives were not lost. In the urgent rush to flee the rapidly advancing wall of flames, many residents were forced to abandon their homes, leaving treasured possessions and, tragically, beloved family pets behind. It is unknown how many domestic animals may have perished. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: I know that you covered this in the ministerial statement, but could you reiterate what arrangements are being made to provide emergency shelter for family pets who were among the evacuees?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We all know how pets can be a source of comfort in these very difficult times, and we understand the challenge it is for families to lose their pets, who many consider family members. I can tell this House that reception centres are accepting evacuees and their pets if the pets are in a crate and have food. A number of organizations are providing assistance with food and crates as well as kennel space. The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association has offered medical care, and most clinics are offering boarding for evacuated animals in Boyle, Lac La Biche, Slave Lake, Athabasca, Westlock, Morinville, and throughout the Edmonton area. Albertans can find more information on the government . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, in addition to household pets, cattle, horses, and other farm animals also had to be evacuated from the wildfire areas. Given that it will be several days or even weeks before these animals can return home and given the logistical

difficulties of housing these animals at evacuation centres designed for humans and not for animals, can the minister of agriculture advise Albertans what options are available to farmers and ranchers to find temporary lodging for their animals?

The Speaker: The hon. minister of agriculture.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Of course, first and foremost, what people instinctively do is to get their animals to safety, and then the larger challenge is to find a facility that will provide appropriate shelter, food, and water. We are hearing of many generous farmers and facilities like Lakeland College that are willing to take horses and other livestock. Also, the Alberta Equestrian Federation Society is taking names from people who are willing to host horses. Agriculture and Forestry will continue to monitor the impact of the current wildfires on farms and livestock and will continue to work with industry associations and municipalities to take the further actions needed to protect our producers and their animals.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Dr. Starke: Well, thank you, Minister.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The devastating wildfires also have a significant impact on nondomestic animals. Now, given that the large-scale fires caused devastating habitat destruction and widespread displacement of a variety of species whose forest home has now been destroyed, to the Minister of Environment and Parks: what measures are being undertaken to monitor the impact of these fires on the wild animal populations in the Fort McMurray region?

The Speaker: The Minister of Environment and Parks.

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Of course, as the member opposite mentioned, we recognize the importance of our wildlife population to the biodiversity of our province and understand that fires have various impacts on wildlife and, of course, on the exercise of traditional land use by indigenous peoples in this province. The situation in Fort McMurray is changing very, very quickly, but there are a few actions we have planned for. We will be working with the local government to ensure garbage and food are properly disposed of so we can minimize human-wildlife conflict, and second, we will conduct a wildlife survey to monitor wildlife and take the necessary management actions to preserve habitat going forward. We will start conducting this work only when it is safe to do so.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

Fort McMurray and Area Justice System Supports

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Justice. All of our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Fort McMurray, including our front-line personnel, who are dealing with the devastating circumstances of the wildfires. How is your ministry helping with the current crisis?

The Speaker: The Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. Of course, all Albertans are standing with the people of Fort McMurray right now, and my ministry and myself are in constant contact with the RCMP to ensure that they have everything they need to do their important jobs there. We're very thankful and proud of the hundreds of emergency personnel,

including RCMP, who have helped with the evacuation and those who continue to put their lives on the line while patrolling the Fort McMurray area.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: how is the government ensuring appropriate policing resources are available to assist with the Fort McMurray situation?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. As I've mentioned, we have been in contact with the deputy commissioner for the RCMP. I've also given the RCMP additional authority to deploy personnel and resources from all parts of Alberta and from neighbouring provinces and territories as necessary to help ensure the emergency in Fort McMurray is taken care of. In addition, we've ensured that Alberta peace officers have the necessary tools to help the RCMP in the evolving situation, and we've heard from the deputy commissioner that these sheriffs have been very helpful in their operations.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Minister of Justice: since you've been in contact with the RCMP, what is their message to residents of Fort McMurray at this time?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the critical question. Right now it's vital to follow the directions of police and emergency services personnel. This is for the safety of all Albertans. This includes both evacuating when told to do so and not returning to your home until you are told it's safe to do so. Again, we're extremely grateful to all of our front-line officers, and we thank them for their work. We know this is a stressful time for everyone in the province and particularly for those residents who have been evacuated, but we ask them to continue to follow the directions of the emergency personnel for everyone's safety.

The Speaker: Hon. members, in 15 seconds we will proceed to Members' Statements.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Emergency Preparedness Week

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in recognition of Emergency Preparedness Week, an event that takes place in communities across Canada every year to remind us of the importance of planning and preparation. There has been no greater reminder of the need to be prepared than the devastation that has affected the province this week.

I live 700 kilometres away from Fort McMurray in Hinton, and my heart is torn. I think all those who live in West Yellowhead feel similar pain and empathy for our fellow Albertans. I believe all Albertans, whether you live in Hinton, Camrose, Drumheller, or wherever, now will pull together to help our neighbours in need.

It is not remiss of me that this is Alberta's third large-scale disaster in less than five years. We had the Slave Lake fire in 2011, the devastating floods in 2013, and now the unforgiving inferno in

2016. We sometimes believe that because we are a landlocked province away from fault lines and other geographical hazards, we are protected from natural disasters, when in fact Alberta has the misfortune of being one of the most prone regions to natural disasters.

2:50

We must be prepared. Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility for all of us and is essential for strong and resilient communities. Planning ahead can significantly reduce the impact of an emergency or disaster. At the provincial level we are taking action, Mr. Speaker, to ensure Albertans are informed when a disaster strikes. I encourage all Albertans to download the Alberta emergency alert smart phone app to receive alerts so they have the information in real time about pending emergencies or disasters.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

Mental Health Services in Northern Alberta

Mr. Loewen: Thank you. This week is Mental Health Week, and May 7 is Child and Youth Mental Health Day. Mr. Speaker, 1 in 5 Canadians will suffer from mental illness. Look around you. That means that within this room about 20 of us will have this struggle. That's a sobering fact. With the downturn in the economy, the stress on Albertans has never been higher. What makes this all the more troubling is the lack of structure and information on local resources that provide help to those who so desperately need it. I speak to this as someone with personal experience as I sought help for years for a family member. Everyone tried their best to help us, but no one knew all the different avenues available.

Mr. Speaker, in Grande Prairie the regional hospital is currently under construction. It will have its mental health wing remain closed until an unknown date. This is unfortunate because there are considerably fewer mental health care services in the Peace Country than in other parts of Alberta. In schools, for instance, the mental health capacity building in schools initiative seems to be nonexistent in Grande Prairie or Valleyview. Grande Prairie is the largest city in northwest Alberta and doesn't have this initiative, leaving a huge hole in the south Peace Country. Many families simply cannot take on the additional financial, emotional, and geographical burden of travelling to the capital region for help, as my family has done.

Mental health issues need resources to help the families that are suffering as well. Mental health issues come with an enormous price tag. These issues are compounded when not dealt with in a timely manner. The price tag is both financial and societal. A key recommendation from our mental health review calls for a consolidation of community mental health services and addictions services. It seems as though it would be simple to even just organize the existing programs, but it isn't happening.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to recognize that it isn't a weakness to ask for help. It doesn't make you any less of a person.

Thank you.

Women's Empowerment

Mr. Malkinson: Mr. Speaker, when I look at the front bench of this caucus, I look around me in all directions, and I see strong, inspirational women. It is a phenomenal achievement that we have near gender parity in this government caucus, and I am proud to be part of a government that looks like the Albertans we represent.

But how did we get here? Why is it that in 2016 this parity is an outlier? Why is it that having women occupy senior positions is so exceptional? Mr. Speaker, the talent and skills demonstrated by the women I am privileged to call colleagues are indeed remarkable. However, they did not appear overnight. The reason why we have these remarkable women in government today is because they knew it could be done.

But they deserve allies. We have a responsibility to encourage, to empower, and to embolden the young women and girls in our lives. There are too many women in my life who, when asked if they want to step up to leadership positions, respond that they feel unqualified or that they don't know how. Mr. Speaker, it is not okay that half of our population gets paid less for the same work. It is not okay that they are systematically cut out of positions of power, led by the momentum of generations of gender inequality. Women shouldn't be the only ones fighting for equality because equality benefits all of us. We all have young women and girls in our lives, and they can be or do anything they want with their lives if we take an interest in achieving and in seeing women succeed.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we quit believing women only belong in stereotypical roles. It is time we end the grip on power we men have taken for granted, and it is time that we place more value on the content of character than on the biology we were born with. It is possible. This government is living proof of it. We can be better. It is my commitment – and I encourage all of my colleagues in this House to join me in doing the same – to continue to support our women and girls.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, a month that celebrates and brings recognition to motorcycle riders. As a rider – and I know there are many members on both sides of this House who ride – we know first-hand how important it is to be diligent about safety at all times on the road. A motorcyclist is estimated to be at a higher risk of injury and fatal accidents than any other motor vehicle operator.

So, drivers, please take care of the following to ensure that you and others can share the road in a safe manner. Don't engage in distracted driving. It's illegal, and it can result in tragic consequences for all users. Share the roads, because a motorcycle has the exact same right as any other motorist. Vehicle size doesn't matter. And be cautious while following a motorcycle. Riders can stop and start very quickly. Riders can also take care of themselves by obeying all traffic laws, wearing a DOT-compliant helmet, and making sure they're not riding distracted or impaired, because we know that as many as a third of all motorcycle accidents occur while under the impairment of alcohol. Make sure you turn on your signals, use lane positioning, and take a motorcycle safety course.

Take care of yourself, riders, because we know that whether it's May or in all months, drivers want to share the road safely with motorcycles and that we want to be able to enjoy those roads together so that we can cruise and feel the wind in our hair, Mr. Speaker. Riders, be mindful of the hazards. Cautious driving will allow us to enjoy these roads for a long, long time to come. Please, be safe this month; be safe all months.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Campus Pre-school 50th Anniversary

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm thrilled to rise today to speak about the 50th anniversary of Campus Pre-school, located right in Calgary's greatest constituency, Calgary-Klein. Campus co-operative preschool was established in 1965 by mothers from the Faculty Women's Club at the University of Calgary who wished to "continue studies . . . and at the same time provide their children with opportunities for creative and intellectual development in a group situation."

Today Campus Pre-school, as it's known, is currently Calgary's longest running parent co-operative preschool and has moved from the U of C to Capitol Hill community centre. Campus Pre-school is run today much like it was 50 years ago, with a focus on assisting in the total development of each child in a stimulating and play-based environment. Additionally, the co-operative aspect remains intact, with parents rotating as volunteers every six weeks to help keep costs down while at the same time being involved integrally with their child's education.

With the school's growth, gradually full-time teachers were hired. The school now has four outstanding full-time teachers, including Frances Amery, Mary Aubie, Heidi Dick, and Rebecca Gerritsen.

Mr. Speaker, Campus Pre-school has become such an institution that there are students attending today who have parents who were alumni of the preschool. It has become a preschool for the generations. As such, the school has received many parents' choice awards over the years and is a pillar of the local community. And I can attest to the fact that the school has been a wonderful part of my daughter Mehna's development.

Happy 50th anniversary to Campus Pre-school. I look forward to attending the 50th anniversary afternoon tea and social on May 14 at Capitol Hill community centre.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

Cortes-Vargas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just asking for unanimous consent of the House to continue the daily Routine past 3 o'clock.

[Unanimous consent granted]

United Church Women's Child Well-being Initiative

Ms Fitzpatrick: Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to rise today and share with you and the Assembly a little more information about the child well-being initiative, which is led by a group of United Church women working to eradicate child poverty in our province. These remarkable women believe that our children are our future and that we as adults in this province have a responsibility to ensure that children do not live in poverty.

Since too many Albertan children come from food-insecure households, this group advocates for a universal program to feed schoolchildren.

Some of the things that the child well-being initiative identifies as necessary for children to not just survive but to thrive are three meals a day based on the Canada food guide; safe, accessible water; adequate, affordable, safe housing; enough clothes for the different seasons; preventative and curative physical and mental health services, including child mental health professionals, annual medical checkups, dental and vision care and required prescriptions, adequate rest and play.

3:00

Mr. Speaker, as you heard during the introduction of this incredible group this afternoon, they have brought for each of us a doll to keep in our office to remind us that the children of Alberta should be kept at the forefront of our minds when we consider the legislation we put forward. My sincerest thank you to the women of the child well-being initiative for reminding us of our responsibility.

Thank you.

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Well, thank you very much for that, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 34(3) I'm rising to advise the House that on Monday, May 9, written questions 12, 13, and 14 will be accepted and written question 11 will be dealt with.

Also on Monday, May 9, motions for returns 34 and 35 will be dealt with.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On April 14 I tabled this spring's estimates calendar. Today I am tabling a revised spring 2016 main budget estimates schedule based on a request from Municipal Affairs officials that they have additional time to prepare because of their extremely busy workload at the moment due to their preoccupation with the wildfire situation. I have five copies.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I rise today pursuant to section 28(1) of the Conflicts of Interest Act to table five copies of the Ethics Commissioner's report dated May 4, 2016, regarding allegations involving a former member.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

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

Bill 7

Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2016

The Deputy Chair: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered in respect to this bill? The Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is my honour to rise to speak about the amendments to the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act. The proposed amendments in Bill 7 would authorize the early appointment of an Electoral Boundaries Commission, on or before October 31, 2016, which is earlier than currently allowed by the act, and clarify the commission's authority to consider recent information respecting population that is not collected on a province-wide basis such as municipal population

information. This information would be used along with the federal decennial census of population or a more recent province-wide census.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, I ask for your support of these important amendments.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, Member.

The Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Thank you, Madam Chair. At this time I would like to move an amendment to Bill 7, and I have the requisite number of copies for the pages to distribute in the House.

The Deputy Chair: We'll just wait a few minutes while they're handed out.

Dr. Starke: Madam Chair, before speaking directly to the amendment, I'll just preface with my comments on the overall bill in general. I would concur with the Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose in his comments with regard to the need to make adjustments to the time frame for the appointment of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, and I actually would like to commend the hon. Minister of Justice and Solicitor General for appointing the Electoral Boundaries Commission and moving ahead with this process.

As we know, electoral law requires that all constituencies become reorganized when new electoral boundaries are set. In the interest of democracy and in the interest of moving forward, it is very helpful, especially to constituencies that experience significant changes in the electoral boundaries, to have those boundaries set far enough in advance of a provincial election so that the adjustments and the necessary reorganization of constituency associations may go ahead in a way that is well organized and with plenty of opportunity before the election.

My amendment – I hope that by now most members have seen a copy of it – deals specifically with the area that the hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose mentioned, and that was the use of additional census information that is perhaps more recent than the federal decennial census information or a province-wide census. I'll just read it into the record. I move that Bill 7, Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2016, be amended in section 3 in the proposed section 12 as follows: by striking out subsections (4) and (5) and substituting subsection (4) in subsection (3) and by striking out subsection (5).

Specifically, Madam Chair, what I am proposing to change is the elimination of the use of the additional census information, and the reasoning for this is very fundamental in terms of how electoral boundaries and how census information is collected. A census is essentially a snapshot in time. Truthfully, the information in a census becomes dated the day after the census is taken, and we realize this. It is a snapshot in time of the province's population, and the methodology for collecting the information is standardized across the province. It is, in fact, the same for all parts of the province, right across from one end of the province to the other. That, to me, makes it fundamentally fair to have the entire province considered in the same way.

Now, I realize that the intent of subsection (5) in the act that is being proposed is to allow the Electoral Boundaries Commission the leeway to use more recent census data; for example, census data that is compiled by municipalities. That's, to me, a fundamental issue because we know and I know from my experience in municipal government that municipalities quite often conduct at their own expense additional census operations in order to have the most up-to-date census numbers possible, especially if those municipalities are growing rapidly.

3:10

The rationale behind this is really quite simple. Many of the grants that municipalities receive, either from the provincial or the federal government, are done on a per capita basis. These municipalities know very well exactly what the number is that the population has to grow to cover the cost of doing the census. If the amount that they stand to gain from an additional number of residents is greater than the cost of doing the census, then it makes good sense for them to do that. I don't have any problem with municipalities choosing to do that. Clearly, the municipalities that are most apt to do that are ones that are growing rapidly and ones that, you know, for example, are larger because they have more to gain by doing this. My issue, though, Madam Chair, is that doing this provides a more recent snapshot of certain parts of the province than of others.

The other thing that cannot be standardized is the methodology. Many of the municipal censuses use different methodology, whether it's through different types of enumeration or different types of data collection; therefore, the type of data collection that is done in a municipal census is not always necessarily consistent with the data collection that is done in a federal or a provincial census that is province-wide. I think it is extremely important that a standard methodology and a standard set of data is applied across the province, is fairly applied to all areas of the province so the electoral boundaries can be drawn up on that basis.

I understand the desire of the Electoral Boundaries Commission or, for example, the Chief Electoral Officer to have more recent data. You know, in some ways I applaud them for their diligence and their desire to have the most up-to-date data they possibly can have, but my problem is that if that up-to-date data is only available for some parts of the province and is not available across the province, for all areas of the province, then, to me, that constitutes an unfairness to those parts of the province that do not have the financial resources to update their census on an annual or every-other-year basis. It, in fact, puts at a disadvantage those parts of the province where there simply isn't the degree of population growth to mandate having another census.

I will tell you, Madam Chair, that I have had some conversations, once again, with rural municipal leaders. They are concerned about this particular clause because they personally feel that this puts rural Alberta at a disadvantage. I don't think I need to remind this government that they already have a significant image problem in rural Alberta. The fact is that there are more and more things that are being done by this government that pile onto that image. When I told some of the municipal leaders that I deal with on a regular basis that this is being proposed within this bill, they said: there's another; there they go again. They're saying that each of these measures, straw after straw after straw that is put on the camel's back, is going to damage rural Alberta.

In the interest of fairness and the interest of the integrity of the data that is collected by a census in order to provide information to the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the purpose of drawing up electoral boundaries, I respectfully submit, Madam Chair, that that data should always be the most recent data that has been consistently gathered on a province-wide basis, whether that be through the federal or through the provincial census, and that we should not have a patchwork quilt of census information that may well have been collected at different times by different methodologies and therefore puts at a disadvantage those areas of the province that are unable to conduct a census on a more frequent basis.

That is the reason for my amendment. I would ask all members of the House to consider it and to vote in favour. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, Member.
The Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I rise today to speak to the amendment. I appreciate the sentiment behind the amendment as proposed by the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster. I also would like to thank him for providing that amendment. I think we saw it a couple of hours ago, so we had some time to consider it, which is very much appreciated. I do, however, have to disagree with his analysis.

I think, by way of history, it's important to clarify a couple of things. First off, this amendment is what's called a clarifying amendment. Currently it's the case that the act indicates that the commission can use other, more recent data. It's just not very specific about what it is, so this amendment would simply clarify the ability of the commission to use this information. In fact, in the 2009-10 redrawing of the boundaries this information was used by the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

I think another thing that's really critical to note is that Alberta as a jurisdiction has one of the largest variances. We allow a 25 per cent variance in our margins. What this does is that it tends to allow wider variances between jurisdictions, so it tends to mean that in certain areas, usually rural areas, there are fewer people voting for each elected member. Again, in Alberta this is bigger than in other places, and that has been left the same. That was the case previously, and that will be the case after this passes.

The difficulty with using the decennial census information is that it has a disproportionate impact with respect to different regions in Alberta. It creates sort of a deep unfairness with respect to certain areas. Particularly, they tend to be areas that are rapidly growing. Just by way of example, since the last federal census was conducted, in 2011, Edmonton has increased by 12.4 per cent, or about 105,000 people, and Calgary has increased by 13.3 per cent, or about 150,000 people. That's a significant increase in that time period, those estimates.

The result of this is that, you know, even though we're expecting federal census data to start rolling out in about a year, this won't be soon enough to allow the commission to consider it. This would create sort of a deep unfairness to places that are rapidly growing because having old information considered in their case has a disproportionate effect relative to places that are not growing as rapidly. This, combined with the fact that we have the sort of higher allowable variance, would create some, I think, unintended consequences.

Some other things I think are worth noting. I had the opportunity, fortunately, to speak with the Chief Electoral Officer on this matter. He is supportive of the inclusion of municipal census data, of allowing the commission to consider municipal census data. He also indicated a couple of important things, I think, to note about the process. One of them is that for municipalities without current data, they're asked to give input to the commission. So if municipalities have grown and they're not taking census data, that input can be considered in other ways by the commission. In addition, municipalities also have a tendency to update mapping, so they can submit mapping that shows new subdivisions. That material is taken into account also.

This is simply to say that the Electoral Boundaries Commission considers more than just the numbers. Municipalities who don't have those numbers are still able to give input. In addition, a significant number of municipalities actually do do this work. Thirty-seven municipalities completed censuses in 2014, and 42 municipalities completed censuses in 2015, so it isn't just the large cities.

Overall, I think there are a number of reasons to see that this census information will actually create greater fairness. You know, input is allowed from all areas, so if there are concerns about certain municipalities and their methodology, there's no reason why that input couldn't be received by the commission. Really, what they're asking is just for express statutory authority to consider that information which they have already been considering in the past and information which is more up to date, which creates greater fairness for faster growing parts of the province.

As a result of that and as a result of the support of the Chief Electoral Officer, who, I believe, Madam Chair, in this instance would be considered the expert on what data is relevant and what data is best considered by the commission, I would urge all members to vote against the amendment. Thank you.

3:20

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, Minister.

Are there any other speakers on amendment A1? The Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Mr. Cooper: Well, thank you, Madam Chair. It's great to rise today and speak to the amendment. I will be speaking in favour of the amendment. I think that the amendment provides some clarity when it comes to what data should and shouldn't be used. In fact, by the comments from the Solicitor General, perhaps we need to have an even more robust conversation around what should and should not be used. She'd mentioned that it is a clarifying amendment and a little bit more prescriptive in nature when it comes to what data they could or could not use. But for the purposes of debate today, I think that I'll stick to the discussion around the municipal census and some of the challenges that it faces.

Just mere moments ago we heard that last year there were 30 communities that provided a municipal census. Well, if I'm not mistaken, there are close to 200 municipalities inside this great province of ours. I know for certain that there are 107 towns. So to say that many communities do it, it's certainly a low percentage of communities that provide a municipal census.

The other information that I think is important is that if we look at communities like my home community of Carstairs, Carstairs has grown significantly over the past number of years, but through my experience on municipal council I know that they don't consistently or, in fact, at all do a municipal census. So the real risk here is that smaller communities, that don't have the additional resources to do municipal censuses, are, in fact, at a disadvantage. This particular amendment would provide some certainty and fairness across all of Alberta when it comes to the data that is available. Now, while I recognize that there are certainly some fast-growing areas of the province and that there are some unique circumstances that we need to take in, both growing and shrinking remain a challenge.

The other sort of interesting thought or question that I have is that it's my understanding that the federal census would be available in the early part of next year, in February, as I understand it to be true. Now, the larger census data will take quite some time to be released, but it's my understanding that just the actual numbers in terms of population will be out as early as the first part of next year. In fact, given the comments that the hon. member has made about it not being just the census data that they consider, perhaps the commission could go about considering other data until the first part of next year, when they have the actual census data, the most up-to-date information, which would be a true snapshot of our entire province.

My other slight concern about using the municipal census data is that I believe it's possible – and I don't have a specific example – that each municipality's process is slightly different. So it's

possible that some municipalities would count nonvoters in their numbers, and others would only count those who are eligible to vote in a municipal or a provincial election. As a result it can skew the accuracy of that information. It's one of the reasons why I think it's important that we have a national standard, a province-wide standard, that levels the playing field for all Albertans and all Albertan communities and to make sure that we strike the right balance and that the commission has all of the information – the best information, the most reliable, the most consistent information – to make the best available decisions for all parts of the province, be it cities, towns, or rural municipalities.

It's for those reasons that I stand today to speak in favour of the amendment, and I look forward to the rest of the debate.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, Member.

Any additional speakers?

Ms McKittrick: Madam Chair, I've listened to the arguments pro and in favour of this amendment. I find that what the legislation proposes is to give the commissioner access to a number of different tools. Some are censuses from municipalities or other tools that he might find appropriate to get the most accurate number of persons who live in each riding across Alberta. As we stated previously, what is really important about this bill is that we are seeking ways to make sure that everyone, every Albertan, has a fair chance to exercise their democratic right and that their vote counts.

I would like to urge all members to vote against this amendment and to continue to allow the commissioner to use census data as he or she feels appropriate, as stated in this bill.

I would like to call for the vote on this amendment.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, Member.

The Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Well, thank you, Madam Chair. I do want to exercise the opportunity to respond to a few of the points that have been made in the course of debate, so with the forbearance of the House, I would like to just say a few words. The minister is absolutely correct in stating that this is a clarifying amendment to clarify something that was done previously, the last time the Electoral Boundaries Commission was struck. You know, I'll be very honest with you. Just because it was there before doesn't mean it was necessarily good. I would suggest that that side of the House would be very familiar with that argument. I looked at this, and quite frankly I do have an issue with it.

I appreciate that the minister went and obtained commentary and input from the Chief Electoral Officer. As I was saying, actually, to the minister before the House convened this afternoon, I have tremendous respect for the Chief Electoral Officer. Many members of this Assembly will not know that the Chief Electoral Officer is actually relatively newly appointed to his position – last year's election was the first election that he presided over – but prior to serving as our Chief Electoral Officer, he served in the Ethics Commissioner's office. I will tell you that in his service as Ethics Commissioner I found him to be extremely conscientious and fastidious. He absolutely followed, you know, things to a T and was very good to work with. I found him extremely helpful, and I also found that he had an extremely high level of pride in the work that was done in the Ethics Commissioner's office.

I came to know the Chief Electoral Officer a little bit more during the brief time that I served on the Legislative Offices Committee when he made his presentation to our committee with regard to his annual budget. You know, I found that his presentation was very well put together, and it certainly reflected, at least to me, the interest of the Chief Electoral Officer in getting data that was the

most recent possible. While I respect that and I understand his desire to have that, there's a fundamental problem with that, and the fundamental problem is that it's unfair. The fundamental problem is that we've got data coming in at different times and we've got data coming in that is taken with different methodologies, and that is fundamentally unfair. The data has to be collected at a time and in a way that is consistent province-wide. That is the only way to be fair.

Not wishing to cast aspersions on any municipality, but we know that one of the reasons municipalities conduct censuses on a more frequent basis is specifically in order to access a higher level of funding on per capita grants. Now, I don't blame municipalities for doing that. I think, you know, quite frankly, that's a good strategy. But part of what they also do is that they advertise heavily to encourage every single member of the municipality to make sure that they are counted. They say very specifically – they certainly don't try to hide it – that the reason they want everybody to sign up is because it means that they will maximize their per capita grants.

3:30

I don't blame them for doing that. You know, I don't say that there's anything negative about doing that, but the problem is that you've got, then, on the one hand, this census that has collected data in a different way, using a different process, in fact under the premise of maximizing the numbers for the purpose of the grants, and then you have the provincial or the federal decennial censuses, which are to provide an accurate snapshot of the community, and that is always the incentive to citizens to co-operate with the process. So I have a fundamental problem when we are using data that is collected at a different time and – make no mistake – is collected in a different way for different reasons when we should be using the same criteria province-wide for the establishment of electoral boundaries.

Now, as an aside, I will say that with the minister's comments with regard to the plus or minus 25 per cent variance, I am very glad to see that there is no consideration in changing that. I think, quite frankly, that's very important. I think, as we have all experienced in the Legislature, different members in different parts of the province have very differing types of responsibilities that they have to take care of.

You know, I'll give you an example. I'm into what I now call graduation season. In my constituency of Vermilion-Lloydminster in the next two months I will attend nine high school graduations and two university convocations. A lot of my rural colleagues will tell you that they even have more than that. I speak with some of my urban colleagues, and they say: I don't have one high school in my constituency. Not to mention the fact – and we've talked about this before – that in terms of the sheer size of the jurisdictions, I consider myself lucky that I can drive right across my constituency in the rather short time of two and a half hours. I know, for example, that the hon. Member for Peace River is fortunate that High Level is her hometown, but the former Member for Peace River could drive from his home in Peace River to the Legislature in less time than it took him to drive from the farthest outposts of his own constituency. That may just boggle people's minds, but that's the truth. From Peace River to some of the communities in his own constituency was a longer distance than to drive from Peace River to Edmonton. I think these are the kinds of things that are important in consideration.

In specific regard to this amendment, I think it is critically important that we use data that is consistent. I think it's also critically important that that data be province-wide. I think it's also critically important that that data be collected at the same time.

Specifically with regard to the upcoming Electoral Boundaries Commission, they are going to be able to work with the federal census that is being taken right now. As my colleague the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills mentioned, that data will be available early in 2017, and it is certainly my hope that it is the main consideration or that it forms the main body of data that is used for the drawing of the new electoral boundaries. But I am deeply concerned about the electoral boundaries if they consider more recent municipal censuses that are specifically taken with the specific and express purpose of maximizing the population of rapidly growing jurisdictions. I think that that, quite frankly, Madam Chair, is fundamentally unfair, it's fundamentally wrong, and it certainly doesn't pass any kind of a scientific or statistical analysis.

You know, notwithstanding that I greatly respect the comments of the Chief Electoral Officer and his desire for the utmost accuracy, sometimes the fundamental principle has to be fairness, and in this situation I think that fundamentally that means we should use a province-wide census that applies the same methodology at the same time right across the province.

Thank you.

Mr. Mason: Where you stand may determine where you – no. I've got that wrong. Where you live may determine where you stand, I think, in this case.

Madam Chair, I've had the opportunity on several occasions as the former leader of the Alberta New Democrats to appear before the Electoral Boundaries Commission, twice before the provincial Electoral Boundaries Commission and once before the federal Electoral Boundaries Commission. At all times they were very interested in the most up-to-date census information that they could obtain – and that was regardless of whether or not it was province-wide census data or municipal census data – because they want to make sure that they have the best information possible by which to apportion the boundaries of the various constituencies.

Now, the hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster has said that it's important that we collect the data. The problem, as he partly defined it, is that we're collecting data at different times – and I'll deal with that because I think that's his main point – but also that there's a problem if you collect the data in a different way. But all censuses, Madam Chair, whether they're a municipal census or a provincial census or a federal census, have to follow the determination of population regulation and the census manual, so it's not correct to say that municipal censuses collect the data in a fundamentally different way. They actually follow the same methodology for counting people.

Then I want to deal with his main point, which is that all of the data that's used has to be collected at the same time or it's not fair. That's an a priori assumption that the hon. member is making, but there are other factors. And you can see the point to it. You can see why it might produce unfairness. But he ignores at the same time the argument that information collected at the same time that is seriously out of date is also fundamentally unfair, and this is, in fact, the case, I think, that has been made by the hon. Justice minister when she talked about the very rapid growth that's taken place since the last federal censuses, which are 10 years apart, in Edmonton and Calgary. The hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster has admitted that it is primarily those municipalities that are growing the fastest that have an incentive to do their own census.

I think that if you reduce the argument, you'll find that, in fact, if we use data that's 10 years old, which can occur if this amendment is passed, then you're very likely going to disadvantage rapidly growing parts of the province and provide a relative advantage to those areas that are growing more slowly. Now, in general but not

entirely, the most rapid growth is taking place in the large cities, and the least rapid growth or, in fact, potential reductions in population may be occurring in rural areas. So if you reduce the argument, it's really an argument about providing advantage for rural areas by using, in some cases, outdated data, and that's not fair. That's not the balance that we seek to achieve.

We want to make sure that the census data is the very best and latest data, and in my view that will provide far greater fairness than the simple conclusion that all data must be collected at the same time or it's not fair. I don't believe that that stands, Madam Chair, and I believe that we should defeat this amendment.

The Deputy Chair: Are there any other members wishing to speak on the amendment?

[Motion on amendment A1 lost]

The Deputy Chair: Back to Bill 7. Are there any members wishing to speak on the bill?

Are you ready for the question on Bill 7?

3:40

Hon. Members: Question.

[The remaining clauses of Bill 7 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Bill 8

Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016

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

Mr. Nielsen: Thank you, Madam Chair. A pleasure to be able to rise again and show my support for Bill 8, the Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016. I think our discussions so far have been very, very positive across the board. There's certainly, I think, a consensus from all the speakers that we move forward to ensure that consumers can count on the government to make sure that there is a very high level of protection when consumers are looking at making major purchases and, of course, that whenever there are any outside agencies that are operating on behalf of the government, those agencies are held to the highest levels and are also accountable to government at the same time.

I think any of the proposed changes that are being made right now in Bill 8 will ensure that this is the case, that these agencies will be accountable to the government. When we're talking about delegated regulatory organizations, or DROs, what we found is that in every other piece of legislation that we have, there is that certain level of accountability to government that they have. Currently under the Fair Trading Act the one DRO that we have doesn't quite have that language there, so this will strengthen that and ensure that they have that high level of accountability to us.

I think, going forward, again, the discussion that's occurred in the House so far has been very, very positive, and I think we should be able to move on with this. I certainly encourage all of my colleagues across the House to support this, and I look forward to any other comments that we might have on this.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, Member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The Member for Highwood.

Mr. W. Anderson: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's my pleasure to rise this afternoon to speak to Bill 8, the Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016. Once passed, Bill 8 will allow the minister to oversee and review delegated authority, issue orders related to such a review, dismiss board members or employees if an order is not complied with, and appoint a representative of the minister to oversee the management of the organization and/or its compensation fund.

Wildrose has long had concerns with the operation of AMVIC, and it's now our hope that following the passage of this bill, the minister will act quickly to conduct a review of the Alberta Motor Vehicle Industry Council. We do hope this measure allows AMVIC to function more effectively for the consumers it was created to protect.

Many of our concerns stem from a 2014 operational review conducted by Service Alberta. In mid-July 2014 the Minister of Service Alberta directed the department to conduct an operational review related to AMVIC's handling of complaint and investigation resolution practices. The operational review was conducted by the department beginning in August and through to October. I don't have time to go over all the details, but I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight a couple of findings that I think emphasize the higher level issues facing AMVIC.

The investigation found that AMVIC management had been operating in contravention of the Peace Officer Act for in excess of a year. Management had failed to properly notify Justice and Solicitor General that four of the peace officers listed as employed by AMVIC no longer worked there, which they were required to do within 30 days of termination of employment. Service Alberta found that AMVIC's memorandum of understanding with the Edmonton Police Service had expired 17 months earlier and had never been updated, nor had Edmonton police ever been contacted regarding the expiration of the MOU.

The potential consequences of this significant oversight were that the Edmonton police were no longer under the obligation to provide critical police-related services to AMVIC peace officers, which include prisoner acceptance and housing, conducting judicial interim release hearings on behalf of AMVIC, provisions of the Identification of Criminals Act, processing for Criminal Code charges laid by AMVIC peace officers, and entering the arrest warrants into the CPIC database. As you can see, this wasn't a small oversight.

However, I believe that the most damning revelations of the report relate to the relationship between AMVIC management and staff. If the public is to have any confidence in an organization, be it government, private business, or in this case a delegated regulatory authority, the organization must display that it has confidence in itself and the members that make up that organization. One of the biggest indicators of an organization experiencing low internal confidence is the voluntary staff turnover rate. This is where an employee voluntarily leaves their organization and is not terminated or laid off.

According to the Conference Board of Canada:

The average voluntary turnover rate over the past three documented years [2010 to '13] is 7.13% and based upon the relative stability of the Canadian workforce during that period, the 2013-2014 statistical rate is quite likely similar to the three year average.

Let's compare that to the number of voluntary staff turnover at AMVIC. According to the operational review conducted in the fall of 2014, the voluntary staff turnover rate at AMVIC in the prior two

years was 55.2 per cent, and if you include AMVIC staff that disclosed during their interview that they were, “actively involved in seeking other employment,” that rate jumps to 76.3 per cent. This would place AMVIC’s voluntary staff turnover rate at seven and a half to 10 times more than the national average.

The operational review states:

Based upon the staff comments received during the interview process and the atypical voluntary staff turnover rate, it is evident that the majority of AMVIC staff have exhausted their faith, trust and confidence relating to the management aptitudes of the AMVIC Executive Director. No organization can grow or advance itself during extended periods of high employee turnover.

If the employees of AMVIC no longer have any confidence in the ability of the organization to fulfill its regulatory mandate and to protect consumers, how can the general public have faith in the organization? It is imperative that consumers have confidence in the system that oversees and regulates what is likely the second-largest purchase an individual will ever make, and that’s the purchase of a vehicle.

So I’m happy to stand with both the members in government and my opposition colleagues in full support of this bill. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The Minister of Service Alberta and of Status of Women.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is a pleasure to rise today and add to the debate at Committee of the Whole on Bill 8, the Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016. As I’ve mentioned before, the Fair Trading Act is Alberta’s key piece of consumer protection legislation. The proposed amendments will provide government with the appropriate tools to ensure organizations that government delegates to regulate an industry are doing their job by protecting consumers. At the end of the day when Albertans make a purchase like buying a car, they need to know that their rights as consumers are protected.

To assist in this debate I would like to provide specific detail on each of the amendments outlined in the bill. These amendments create powers that are similar to those under other legislation such as the Real Estate Act and the Municipal Government Act.

The bill begins by granting the minister broad powers to review the conduct and operation of a delegated regulatory organization or any fund administered by that organization. This authority includes the ability to compel the attendance of witnesses and production of documents similar to a commissioner under the Public Inquiries Act.

Once a written report is produced, the minister will be able to direct a delegated regulatory organization to take appropriate remedial action and to set a procedure for doing so. If this order is not followed in a timely fashion, the minister may then make further orders to terminate, suspend, or replace individuals in the organization and, if appropriate, appoint a person to take over the functions and duties of the organization. If these actions were to be taken, affected parties will be given at least 20 days’ notice and a fair opportunity to raise concerns in writing.

3:50

With that said, the bill also recognizes that in some circumstances immediate ministerial action is necessary to protect consumers. In those circumstances the minister will have the authority to take any of the actions that were just discussed without first ordering a review or providing notice to affected parties. However, even if these kinds of expedited actions are taken, an affected board or individual is not deprived of their right to be heard. Indeed, the bill

contemplates that those affected by an order are authorized to request that the minister vary that order.

The bill ends by clarifying that delegated regulatory organizations will be responsible for the costs and expenses arising from participating in the review or complying with an order unless the minister directs otherwise.

I look forward to any additional debate on this bill, and I’ll be prepared to answer any further questions. However, I am and have been and continue to be encouraged by the debate on this bill and extend thanks to all members of this House for their comments and their support at Committee of the Whole.

Thank you very much.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak?

Hon. Members: Question.

[The clauses of Bill 8 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: Opposed? Carried.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I would move that the committee rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

The Acting Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Dr. Turner: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain bills. The committee reports the following bills: Bill 7 and Bill 8. I wish to table copies of all amendments considered by the Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

The Acting Speaker: Does the Assembly concur in this report?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 1

Promoting Job Creation and Diversification Act

[Debate adjourned April 21: Mr. Fildebrandt speaking]

The Acting Speaker: Are there any members wishing to speak on Bill 1?

Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade to close debate?

[Motion carried; Bill 1 read a second time]

Mr. Mason: Madam Speaker, in view of the excellent progress that we’ve made today, for which I thank all members on all sides of the

House, I believe that we should call it 4:30 and adjourn until 1:30 on Monday. [Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:56 p.m.]

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

Activity to May 05, 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)

Second Reading -- 732-36 (Apr. 20, 2016 aft.), 685-91 (Apr. 20, 2016 morn.), 749-60 (Apr. 21, 2016 aft.), 825 (May 5, 2016 aft., passed)

2 Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2016 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading -- 96 (Mar. 10, 2016 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 162-67 (Mar. 15, 2016 morn., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole -- 239-49 (Mar. 16, 2016 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 251-59 (Mar. 17, 2016 morn., passed on division)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 23, 2016 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force Mar. 23, 2016; SA 2016 c1]

3 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2016 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading -- 156 (Mar. 14, 2016 eve., passed)

Second Reading -- 201 (Mar. 15, 2016 aft., passed), 157-62 (Mar. 15, 2016 morn.)

Committee of the Whole -- 239-49 (Mar. 16, 2016 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 259-66 (Mar. 17, 2016 morn., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 23, 2016 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force Mar. 23, 2016; SA 2016 c2]

4* An Act to Implement a Supreme Court Ruling Governing Essential Services (Gray)

First Reading -- 180 (Mar. 15, 2016 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 285-88 (Mar. 17, 2016 aft.), 349-66 (Apr. 5, 2016 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 399-409 (Apr. 6, 2016 aft.), 378-84 (Apr. 6, 2016 morn.), 415-28 (Apr. 7, 2016 morn., passed with amendments)

Third Reading -- 450-55 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft., passed), 428-33 (Apr. 7, 2016 morn.)

5 Seniors' Home Adaptation and Repair Act (Sigurdson)

First Reading -- 398 (Apr. 6, 2016 aft.)

Second Reading -- 455-56 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft.), 532-38 (Apr. 12, 2016 aft., passed), 491-505 (Apr. 12, 2016 morn.)

Committee of the Whole -- 570-77 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed), 539-56 (Apr. 13, 2016 morn.)

Third Reading -- 577-83 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed)

6 Securities Amendment Act, 2016 (Ceci)

First Reading -- 447 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft., passed), 447 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft.)

Second Reading -- 519-27 (Apr. 12, 2016 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 527-32 (Apr. 12, 2016 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 583-85 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed)

7 Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2016 (Ganley)

First Reading -- 518 (Apr. 12, 2016 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 585-86 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft.), 682-84 (Apr. 19, 2016 aft., passed), 649-51 (Apr. 19, 2016 morn.)

Committee of the Whole -- 820-24 (May 5, 2016 aft., passed)

- 8 Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016 (McLean)**
First Reading -- 568 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 669-71 (Apr. 19, 2016 aft.), 684 (Apr. 19, 2016 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 824-25 (May 5, 2016 aft., passed)
- 9 An Act to Modernize Enforcement of Provincial Offences (Ganley)**
First Reading -- 568 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 640-49 (Apr. 19, 2016 morn.), 728-30 (Apr. 20, 2016 aft., passed)
- 10 Fiscal Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 (Ceci)**
First Reading -- 599 (Apr. 14, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 671-82 (Apr. 19, 2016 aft.), 730-32 (Apr. 20, 2016 aft., passed on division), 691-703 (Apr. 20, 2016 morn.)
- 11 Alberta Research and Innovation Amendment Act, 2016 (Bilous)**
First Reading -- 773 (May 2, 2016 aft., passed)
- 12 Aboriginal Consultation Levy Repeal Act (Feehan)**
First Reading -- 802 (May 3, 2016 aft., passed)
- 201 Election Recall Act (Smith)**
First Reading -- 92 (Mar. 10, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 119-32 (Mar. 14, 2016 aft.), 303-304 (Apr. 4, 2016 aft., defeated on division)
- 202 Alberta Affordable Housing Review Committee Act (Luff)**
First Reading -- 92 (Mar. 10, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 305-16 (Apr. 4, 2016 aft.), 470-73 (Apr. 11, 2016 aft., passed)
- 203 Fair Trading (Motor Vehicle Repair Pricing Protection for Consumers) Amendment Act, 2016 (Carson)**
First Reading -- 280 (Mar. 17, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 481-83 (Apr. 11, 2016 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Families and Communities), 473-81 (Apr. 11, 2016 aft.)
- 204 Alberta Tourism Week Act (Dang)**
First Reading -- 468 (Apr. 11, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 616-30 (Apr. 18, 2016 aft., passed)
- 205 Pharmacy and Drug (Pharmaceutical Equipment Control) Amendment Act, 2016 (Ellis)**
First Reading -- 707 (Apr. 20, 2016 aft.)
- Pr1 Bow Valley Community Foundation Repeal Act (Westhead)**
First Reading -- 447 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft., passed)

Table of Contents

Prayers	807
Introduction of Guests	807
Ministerial Statements	
Wildfire Update	808
Oral Question Period	
Wildfire Update	809
Health Services for Fort McMurray Residents	811
Support for Wildfire Evacuees and First Responders	811
Fort McMurray Wildfire Recovery	812
Fort McMurray Disaster Relief and Recovery	812
Fort McMurray Energy Industries	813
Health Services for Wildfire Evacuees	813
School Accommodation of Wildfire-affected Students	814
Support for Wildfire-affected Vulnerable Albertans	815
Fort McMurray Oil Sands Industry Wildfire Recovery	815
Northern Lights Regional Health Centre Evacuation	816
Oil Sands Industry Wildfire Response and Recovery	816
Wildfire-affected Animals	817
Fort McMurray and Area Justice System Supports	817
Members' Statements	
Emergency Preparedness Week	818
Mental Health Services in Northern Alberta	818
Women's Empowerment	818
Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month	819
Campus Pre-school 50th Anniversary	819
United Church Women's Child Well-being Initiative	819
Notices of Motions	820
Tabling Returns and Reports	820
Orders of the Day	820
Government Bills and Orders	
Committee of the Whole	
Bill 7 Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2016	820
Bill 8 Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016	824
Second Reading	
Bill 1 Promoting Job Creation and Diversification Act	825

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