



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Tuesday morning, May 17, 2016

Day 29

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Second Session

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

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (W)
Anderson, Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (ND)
Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (W)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (ND)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (ND),
Deputy Government House Leader
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (ND),
Deputy Government House Leader
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (ND)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (ND)
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W),
Official Opposition House Leader
Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (ND),
Government Whip
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (W),
Official Opposition Deputy Whip
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (ND)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (ND)
Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (ND)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC),
Progressive Conservative Opposition Whip
Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (ND)
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (PC)
Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (ND)
Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (W)
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (ND)
Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (PC)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (ND)
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)
Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (ND)
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W),
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (ND)
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (ND)
Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (ND)
Hunter, Grant R., Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)
Jansen, Sandra, Calgary-North West (PC)
Jean, Brian Michael, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (W),
Leader of the Official Opposition
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (ND)
Kleinsteuber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (ND)
Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (ND)
Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (ND)
Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (W)
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (ND)
Luff, Robyn, Calgary-East (ND)
MacIntyre, Donald, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W)
Malkinson, Brian, Calgary-Currie (ND)
Mason, Hon. Brian, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (ND),
Government House Leader
McCuaig-Boyd, Hon. Margaret,
Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (ND)
McIver, Ric, Calgary-Hays (PC),
Leader of the Progressive Conservative Opposition
McKittrick, Annie, Sherwood Park (ND)
McLean, Hon. Stephanie V., Calgary-Varsity (ND)
McPherson, Karen M., Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (ND)
Miller, Barb, Red Deer-South (ND)
Miranda, Hon. Ricardo, Calgary-Cross (ND)
Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (ND)
Nixon, Jason, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (W),
Official Opposition Whip
Notley, Hon. Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (ND),
Premier
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (W)
Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (W)
Payne, Hon. Brandy, Calgary-Acadia (ND)
Phillips, Hon. Shannon, Lethbridge-West (ND)
Piquette, Colin, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (ND)
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie (W)
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (ND)
Rodney, Dave, Calgary-Lougheed (PC)
Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (ND)
Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (ND)
Schmidt, Hon. Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (ND)
Schneider, David A., Little Bow (W)
Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (ND)
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-Centre (ND)
Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (ND)
Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (W)
Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC),
Progressive Conservative Opposition House Leader
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (ND)
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (W)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (ND)
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (W)
Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (ND),
Deputy Government Whip
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)

Party standings:

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

Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Robert H. Reynolds, QC, Clerk	Philip Massolin, Manager of Research Services	Chris Caughell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel/Director of House Services	Nancy Robert, Research Officer	Gordon H. Munk, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Stephanie LeBlanc, Parliamentary Counsel and Legal Research Officer	Brian G. Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms	Janet Schwegel, Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

Executive Council

Rachel Notley	Premier, President of Executive Council
Sarah Hoffman	Deputy Premier, Minister of Health
Deron Bilous	Minister of Economic Development and Trade
Oneil Carlier	Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Joe Ceci	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
David Eggen	Minister of Education
Richard Feehan	Minister of Indigenous Relations
Kathleen T. Ganley	Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Christina Gray	Minister of Labour, Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal
Danielle Larivee	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Brian Mason	Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Transportation
Margaret McCuaig-Boyd	Minister of Energy
Stephanie V. McLean	Minister of Service Alberta, Minister of Status of Women
Ricardo Miranda	Minister of Culture and Tourism
Brandy Payne	Associate Minister of Health
Shannon Phillips	Minister of Environment and Parks, Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office
Irfan Sabir	Minister of Human Services
Marlin Schmidt	Minister of Advanced Education
Lori Sigurdson	Minister of Seniors and Housing

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Ms Miller
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Schreiner

Cyr	McKitrick
Dang	Taylor
Ellis	Turner
Horne	

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Chair: Mr. Sucha
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schneider

Anderson, S.	Hunter
Carson	Jansen
Connolly	Panda
Coolahan	Piquette
Dach	Schreiner
Fitzpatrick	Taylor
Gotfried	

Select Special Ethics and Accountability Committee

Chair: Mrs. Littlewood
Deputy Chair: Ms Miller

Anderson, W.	Nielsen
Clark	Nixon
Connolly	Renaud
Cortes-Vargas	Starke
Cyr	Sucha
Drever	Swann
Jansen	van Dijken
Loyola	

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Goehring
Deputy Chair: Mr. Smith

Drever	Pitt
Hinkley	Rodney
Horne	Shepherd
Jansen	Swann
Luff	Westhead
McPherson	Yao
Orr	

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Shepherd
Deputy Chair: Mr. Malkinson

Cooper	Littlewood
Ellis	Nixon
Horne	van Dijken
Jabbour	Woollard
Kleinsteuber	

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Wanner
Deputy Chair: Cortes-Vargas

Cooper	McIver
Dang	Nixon
Fildebrandt	Piquette
Jabbour	Schreiner
Luff	

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Ms McPherson
Deputy Chair: Mr. Connolly

Anderson, W.	Kleinsteuber
Babcock	McKitrick
Drever	Rosendahl
Drysdale	Stier
Fraser	Strankman
Hinkley	Sucha
Kazim	

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick
Deputy Chair: Ms Babcock

Carson	Loyola
Coolahan	McPherson
Cooper	Nielsen
Ellis	Schneider
Goehring	Starke
Hanson	van Dijken
Kazim	

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Fildebrandt
Deputy Chair: Mr. S. Anderson

Barnes	Luff
Cyr	Malkinson
Dach	Miller
Fraser	Renaud
Goehring	Turner
Gotfried	Westhead
Hunter	

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Loyola
Deputy Chair: Mr. Loewen

Aheer	Kleinsteuber
Babcock	MacIntyre
Clark	Malkinson
Dang	Nielsen
Drysdale	Rosendahl
Hanson	Woollard
Kazim	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Deputy Speaker: Good morning.

Let us reflect. In our service to the people of this great province let us work together to seek out new solutions, new opportunities, and new ideas. As leaders may we by our actions inspire others to achieve their goals and dreams and to never give up.

Please be seated.

Orders of the Day

Committee of Supply

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

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

Prior to beginning, I will outline the process for this morning. The Committee of Supply will first call on the chairs of the legislative policy committees to report on their meetings with the various ministries under their mandate. No vote is required when these reports are presented according to Standing Order 59.01(10). Members are reminded that there were amendments introduced during the legislative policy committee meetings, so the committee will vote on all proposed amendments.

The committee will then proceed to the vote on the estimates of the Legislative Assembly as approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. The vote on main estimates will then take place.

Finally, the chair would like to remind all hon. members of Standing Order 32(3.1), which provides that "after the first division is called in Committee of Supply during the vote on the main estimates . . . the interval between division bells shall be reduced to one minute for any subsequent division."

Committee Reports

The Chair: I will now invite the chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future to present the committee's report.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Madam Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future and pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I am pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2016-17 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: Ministry of Advanced Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ministry of Executive Council, Ministry of Infrastructure, and Ministry of Labour.

I would also like to table amendments to the following ministries, that were introduced during our meetings, for the Committee of Supply's consideration: Ministry of Advanced Education, one amendment; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, one amendment; Ministry of Culture and Tourism, one amendment; Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, one amendment; Ministry of Executive Council, one amendment; Ministry of Infrastructure, one amendment; and Ministry of Labour, one amendment.

Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you.

I would now call on the chair of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities to present the committee's report.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Madam Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities and pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I'm pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2016-17 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Human Services, Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General, Ministry of Seniors and Housing, Ministry of Service Alberta, and Ministry of Status of Women.

I would also like to table amendments to the following ministries, that were introduced during our meetings, for the Committee of Supply's consideration: Ministry of Education, one amendment; Ministry of Health, one amendment; and Ministry of Service Alberta, one amendment.

Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you.

Now I'll call on the chair of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship.

Loyola: Thank you, Madam Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship and pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I am pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2016-2017 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Parks, Ministry of Indigenous Relations, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Transportation, and Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance.

I would also like to table amendments to the following ministries, that were introduced during our meetings, for the Committee of Supply's consideration: Ministry of Energy, one amendment; Ministry of Environment and Parks, one amendment; Ministry of Transportation, one amendment; and Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance, also one amendment.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Vote on Main Estimates 2016-17

The Chair: The next item of business is the vote on the amendments introduced during the legislative policy committee meetings. There are a total of 14 amendments, and they will be identified as amendments A1 through A14. Members have copies of all amendments on their desks. We will begin with A1 and carry on in sequence.

- A1. Mr. Taylor moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Advanced Education be reduced
- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 20 by \$39,000
 - (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 20 by \$32,000
 - (c) for communications under reference 1.3 at page 20 by \$145,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 19 for expense is \$2,730,214,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A1 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:06 a.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hanson	Rodney
Cooper	Hunter	Schneider
Cyr	Loewen	Smith
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Starke
Ellis	McIver	Stier
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Strankman
Fraser	Orr	Taylor
Gill	Panda	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Hoffman	Payne
Babcock	Horne	Phillips
Bilous	Jansen	Piquette
Carlier	Kazim	Renaud
Carson	Kleinsteuber	Rosendahl
Ceci	Loyola	Sabir
Connolly	Luff	Schmidt
Coolahan	Malkinson	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Shepherd
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dang	McKitrick	Sucha
Drever	McLean	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miller	Turner
Goehring	Miranda	Woollard
Gray	Nielsen	

The Chair: Hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View, did you vote?

Dr. Swann: I did not, Madam Chair.

The Chair: You will need to vote on way or another.

Dr. Swann: I'm still learning about the vote we're taking here. Excuse me.

The Chair: Okay. Hon. member, you can't withdraw. You do have to vote one way or another. For or against?

Dr. Swann: I'll vote against.

Totals:	For – 27	Against – 45
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[Motion on amendment A1 lost]

- A2. Mr. Taylor moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry be reduced
- for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 34 by \$37,000
 - for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 34 by \$39,000
 - for corporate services under reference 1.4 at page 34 by \$670,000
 - for communications under reference 1.5 at page 34 by \$206,000
 - for human resources under reference 1.6 at page 34 by \$153,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 33 for expense is \$715,708,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A2 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:24 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hanson	Rodney
Cooper	Hunter	Schneider
Cyr	Loewen	Smith
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Starke
Ellis	McIver	Stier
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Strankman
Fraser	Orr	Taylor
Gill	Panda	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Hoffman	Payne
Babcock	Horne	Phillips
Bilous	Jansen	Piquette
Carlier	Kazim	Renaud
Carson	Kleinsteuber	Rosendahl
Ceci	Loyola	Sabir
Connolly	Luff	Schmidt
Coolahan	Malkinson	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Shepherd
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dang	McKitrick	Sucha
Drever	McLean	Swann
Fitzpatrick	Miller	Sweet
Goehring	Miranda	Turner
Gray	Nielsen	Woollard

Totals:	For – 27	Against – 45
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[Motion on amendment A2 lost]

- A3. Mr. Taylor moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism be reduced
- for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 50 by \$14,000
 - for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 50 by \$16,000
 - for human resources under reference 1.3 at page 50 by \$212,000
 - for communications under reference 1.4 at page 50 by \$42,000
 - for corporate services under reference 1.5 at page 50 by \$56,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 49 for expense is \$316,436,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A3 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:29 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hanson	Schneider
Cooper	Hunter	Smith
Cyr	Loewen	Starke
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Stier
Ellis	McIver	Strankman
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Taylor
Fraser	Orr	van Dijken
Gill	Pitt	Yao
Gotfried	Rodney	

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Hoffman	Payne
Babcock	Horne	Piquette
Bilous	Jansen	Renaud
Carlier	Kazim	Rosendahl
Carson	Kleinsteuber	Sabir
Ceci	Loyola	Schmidt
Connolly	Luff	Schreiner
Coolahan	Malkinson	Shepherd
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Sigurdson
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Dang	McKitrick	Swann
Drever	McLean	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miller	Turner
Goehring	Miranda	Woollard
Gray	Nielsen	
Totals:	For – 26	Against – 44

[Motion on amendment A3 lost]

- A4. Mr. Panda moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade be reduced
- (a) for the minister’s office under reference 1.1 at page 68 by \$398,000
 - (b) for the deputy minister’s office under reference 1.3 at page 68 by \$40,000
 - (c) for communications under reference 1.4 at page 68 by \$251,000
 - (d) for strategic policy and corporate services under reference 1.5 at page 68 by \$2,603,000
 - (e) for secretariat support under reference 1.6 at page 68 by \$54,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 67 for expense is \$396,577,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A4 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:34 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hunter	Schneider
Cyr	Loewen	Smith
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Starke
Ellis	McIver	Stier
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Strankman
Fraser	Orr	Taylor
Gill	Pitt	van Dijken
Gotfried	Rodney	Yao
Hanson		

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Hoffman	Payne
Babcock	Horne	Piquette
Bilous	Jansen	Renaud
Carlier	Kazim	Rosendahl
Carson	Kleinsteuber	Sabir
Ceci	Loyola	Schmidt
Connolly	Luff	Schreiner
Coolahan	Malkinson	Shepherd
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Sigurdson
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha

Dang	McKitrick	Swann
Drever	McLean	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miller	Turner
Goehring	Miranda	Woollard
Gray	Nielsen	
Totals:	For – 25	Against – 44

[Motion on amendment A4 lost]

- A5. Mr. Smith moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Education be reduced
- (a) for the minister’s office under reference 1.1 at page 80 by \$25,000
 - (b) for the deputy minister’s office under reference 1.2 at page 80 by \$21,000
 - (c) for corporate services under reference 1.3 at page 80 by \$226,000
 - (d) for information and program services under reference 1.4 at page 80 by \$378,000
 - (e) for communications under reference 1.5 at page 80 by \$41,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 79 for expense is \$4,400,190,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A5 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:39 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hunter	Schneider
Cooper	Loewen	Smith
Cyr	MacIntyre	Starke
Drysdale	McIver	Stier
Ellis	Nixon	Strankman
Fildebrandt	Orr	Taylor
Gill	Pitt	van Dijken
Gotfried	Rodney	Yao
Hanson		

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Gray	Nielsen
Babcock	Hoffman	Payne
Bilous	Horne	Piquette
Carlier	Jansen	Renaud
Carson	Kazim	Rosendahl
Ceci	Kleinsteuber	Sabir
Connolly	Loyola	Schmidt
Coolahan	Luff	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Malkinson	Shepherd
Dach	Mason	Sigurdson
Dang	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Drever	McKitrick	Swann
Fitzpatrick	McLean	Sweet
Fraser	Miller	Turner
Goehring	Miranda	Woollard
Totals:	For – 25	Against – 45

[Motion on amendment A5 lost]

- A6. Mrs. Aheer moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Energy be reduced

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 94 by \$35,000
- (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 94 by \$24,000
- (c) for corporate services under reference 1.4 at page 94 by \$138,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 93 for expense is \$247,732,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A6 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:44 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hanson	Rodney
Cooper	Hunter	Schneider
Cyr	Jansen	Smith
Drysdale	Loewen	Starke
Ellis	MacIntyre	Stier
Fildebrandt	McIver	Strankman
Fraser	Nixon	Taylor
Gill	Orr	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Hoffman	Payne
Babcock	Horne	Piquette
Bilous	Kazim	Renaud
Carlier	Kleinstauber	Rosendahl
Carson	Loyola	Sabir
Ceci	Luff	Schmidt
Connolly	Malkinson	Schreiner
Coolahan	Mason	Shepherd
Cortes-Vargas	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dach	McKitrick	Sucha
Dang	McLean	Swann
Drever	Miller	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miranda	Turner
Goehring	Nielsen	Woollard
Gray		

Totals: For – 27 Against – 43

[Motion on amendment A6 lost]

A7. Mr. MacIntyre moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Environment and Parks be reduced

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 106 by \$34,000
- (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 106 by \$31,000
- (c) for communications under reference 1.3 at page 106 by \$148,000
- (d) for legal services under reference 1.5 at page 106 by \$16,000
- (e) for corporate services under reference 1.6 at page 106 by \$1,470,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 105 for expense is \$513,910,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A7 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:48 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For:

Aheer	Hanson	Schneider
Cooper	Hunter	Smith
Cyr	Loewen	Starke
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Stier
Ellis	McIver	Strankman
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Taylor
Fraser	Orr	van Dijken
Gill	Pitt	Yao
Gotfried	Rodney	

Against:

Anderson, S.	Hoffman	Nielsen
Babcock	Horne	Payne
Bilous	Jansen	Piquette
Carlier	Kazim	Renaud
Carson	Kleinstauber	Rosendahl
Ceci	Loyola	Sabir
Connolly	Luff	Schreiner

Coolahan	Malkinson	Shepherd
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Sigurdson
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Dang	McKitrick	Swann
Drever	McLean	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miller	Turner
Goehring	Miranda	Woollard
Gray		

Totals: For – 26 Against – 43

[Motion on amendment A7 lost]

A8. Mr. Taylor moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Executive Council be reduced

- (a) for office of the Premier/Executive Council under reference 1.1 at page 22 by \$409,000
- (b) for corporate services under reference 1.3 at page 122 by \$97,000
- (c) for public affairs under reference 3 at page 122 by \$461,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 121 for expense is \$25,840,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A8 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:53 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hanson	Schneider
Cooper	Hunter	Smith
Cyr	Jansen	Starke
Drysdale	Loewen	Stier
Ellis	MacIntyre	Strankman
Fildebrandt	McIver	Taylor
Fraser	Orr	van Dijken

Gill	Pitt	Yao
Gotfried	Rodney	
Against the motion:		
Anderson, S.	Hoffman	Payne
Babcock	Horne	Piquette
Bilous	Kazim	Renaud
Carlier	Kleinsteuber	Rosendahl
Carson	Loyola	Sabir
Ceci	Luff	Schmidt
Connolly	Malkinson	Schreiner
Coolahan	Mason	Shepherd
Cortes-Vargas	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dach	McKitrick	Sucha
Dang	McLean	Swann
Drever	Miller	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miranda	Turner
Goehring	Nielsen	Woollard
Gray		
Totals:	For – 26	Against – 43

[Motion on amendment A8 lost]

- A9. Mr. Barnes moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Health be reduced
- for communications under reference 1.4 at page 128 by \$314,000
 - for strategic corporate support under reference 1.5 at page 128 by \$3,331,000
 - for policy development and strategic support under reference 1.6 at page 128 by \$1,619,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 127 for expense is \$19,311,610,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A9 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:57 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hanson	Rodney
Cooper	Hunter	Schneider
Cyr	Loewen	Smith
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Starke
Ellis	McIver	Strankman
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Taylor
Gill	Orr	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao

11:00

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Hoffman	Payne
Babcock	Horne	Piquette
Bilous	Jansen	Renaud
Carlier	Kazim	Rosendahl
Carson	Kleinsteuber	Sabir
Ceci	Loyola	Schmidt
Connolly	Luff	Schreiner
Coolahan	Malkinson	Shepherd
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Sigurdson
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Dang	McKitrick	Swann

Drever	McLean	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miller	Turner
Goehring	Miranda	Woollard
Gray	Nielsen	

The Chair: Hon. Member for Calgary-South East, are you voting for or against?

Mr. Fraser: Against.

Totals: For – 24 Against – 45

[Motion on amendment A9 lost]

- A10. Mr. Schneider moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Infrastructure be reduced
- for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 162 by \$80,000
 - for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 162 by \$45,000
 - for communications under reference 1.3 at page 162 by \$100,000
 - for human resources under reference 1.4 at page 162 by \$74,000
 - for corporate strategies and services under reference 1.5 at page 162 by \$1,555,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 161 for expense is \$557,811,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A10 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 11:03 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hanson	Rodney
Cooper	Hunter	Schneider
Cyr	Loewen	Smith
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Starke
Ellis	McIver	Stier
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Strankman
Fraser	Orr	Taylor
Gill	Panda	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Horne	Payne
Babcock	Jansen	Piquette
Bilous	Kazim	Renaud
Carson	Kleinsteuber	Rosendahl
Ceci	Loyola	Sabir
Connolly	Luff	Schmidt
Coolahan	Malkinson	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Shepherd
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dang	McKitrick	Sucha
Drever	McLean	Swann
Feehan	Miller	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miranda	Turner
Goehring	Nielsen	Woollard
Gray		

Totals: For – 27 Against – 43

[Motion on amendment A10 lost]

A11. Mr. Hunter moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Labour be reduced

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 186 by \$17,000
 - (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 186 by \$17,000
 - (c) for human resources under reference 1.3 at page 186 by \$19,000
 - (d) for corporate services under reference 1.4 at page 186 by \$85,000
 - (e) for communications and services under reference 1.5 at page 186 by \$31,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 185 for expense is \$212,182,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A11 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 11:07 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hunter	Schneider
Cyr	Loewen	Smith
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Starke
Ellis	McIver	Stier
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Strankman
Fraser	Orr	Taylor
Gill	Panda	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao
Hanson	Rodney	

11:10

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Horne	Piquette
Babcock	Kazim	Renaud
Bilous	Kleinstauber	Rosendahl
Carson	Loyola	Sabir
Ceci	Luff	Schmidt
Connolly	Malkinson	Schreiner
Coolahan	Mason	Shepherd
Cortes-Vargas	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dach	McKitrick	Sucha
Dang	McLean	Swann
Drever	Miller	Sweet
Feehan	Miranda	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Nielsen	Woollard
Goehring	Payne	

Totals: For – 26 Against – 41

[Motion on amendment A11 lost]

A12. Mrs. Pitt moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Service Alberta be reduced

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 218 by \$39,000
 - (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.3 at page 218 by \$41,000
 - (c) for corporate services under reference 1.4 at page 218 by \$967,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 217 for expense is \$314,922,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A12 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 11:12 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hanson	Rodney
Cooper	Hunter	Schneider
Cyr	Loewen	Smith
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Starke
Ellis	McIver	Stier
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Strankman
Fraser	Orr	Taylor
Gill	Panda	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Horne	Piquette
Babcock	Kazim	Renaud
Bilous	Kleinstauber	Rosendahl
Carson	Loyola	Sabir
Ceci	Luff	Schmidt
Connolly	Malkinson	Schreiner
Coolahan	Mason	Shepherd
Cortes-Vargas	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dach	McKitrick	Sucha
Dang	McLean	Swann
Drever	Miller	Sweet
Feehan	Miranda	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Nielsen	Woollard
Goehring	Payne	

Totals: For – 27 Against – 41

[Motion on amendment A12 lost]

A13. Mrs. Aheer moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Transportation be reduced

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 234 by \$11,000
 - (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 234 by \$39,000
 - (c) for communications under reference 1.3 at page 234 by \$62,000
 - (d) for strategic services under reference 1.4 at page 234 by \$891,000
- so that the amount to be voted at page 233 for expense is \$828,130,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A13 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 11:17 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hunter	Schneider
Cooper	Loewen	Smith
Cyr	MacIntyre	Starke
Drysdale	McIver	Stier
Ellis	Nixon	Strankman
Fildebrandt	Orr	Taylor

Gill	Panda	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao
Hanson	Rodney	

Drever	McLean	Swann
Feehan	Miller	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miranda	Turner
Goehring	Nielsen	Woollard

11:20

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Horne	Payne
Babcock	Jansen	Piquette
Bilous	Kazim	Renaud
Carson	Kleinsteuber	Rosendahl
Ceci	Loyola	Sabir
Connolly	Luff	Schmidt
Coolahan	Malkinson	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Shepherd
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dang	McKitrick	Sucha
Drever	McLean	Swann
Feehan	Miller	Sweet
Fitzpatrick	Miranda	Turner
Goehring	Nielsen	Woollard

Totals: For – 26 Against – 42

[Motion on amendment A13 lost]

A14. Mrs. Aheer moved that the 2016-17 main estimates of the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance be reduced

- (a) for the deputy minister’s office under reference 1.2 at page 248 by \$23,000
- (b) for strategic and business services under reference 1.3 at page 248 by \$732,000
- (c) for communications under reference 1.4 at page 248 by \$43,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 247 for expense is \$150,161,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A14 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 11:21 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hanson	Rodney
Cooper	Hunter	Schneider
Cyr	Loewen	Smith
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Starke
Ellis	McIver	Stier
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Strankman
Fraser	Orr	Taylor
Gill	Panda	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Horne	Payne
Babcock	Jansen	Piquette
Bilous	Kazim	Renaud
Carson	Kleinsteuber	Rosendahl
Ceci	Loyola	Sabir
Connolly	Luff	Schmidt
Coolahan	Malkinson	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Shepherd
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dang	McKitrick	Sucha

Totals: For – 27 Against – 42

[Motion on amendment A14 lost]

The Chair: We shall now proceed to the vote on the estimates of the Legislative Assembly as approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members’ Services. Pursuant to Standing Order 59.03(5), which requires that the estimates of the offices of the Legislative Assembly be decided without debate or amendment prior to the vote on the main estimates, I must now put the following question on all matters relating to the 2016-17 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017.

Agreed to:
Offices of the Legislative Assembly \$126,107,000

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

We shall now proceed to the final vote on the main estimates and all matters related to the 2016-17 government estimates for the general revenue fund and lottery fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017.

[The voice vote did not indicate agreement]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 11:27 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For the motion:

Anderson, S.	Goehring	Payne
Babcock	Horne	Piquette
Bilous	Kazim	Renaud
Carson	Kleinsteuber	Rosendahl
Ceci	Loyola	Sabir
Connolly	Luff	Schmidt
Coolahan	Malkinson	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Mason	Shepherd
Dach	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Dang	McKitrick	Sucha
Drever	Miller	Sweet
Feehan	Miranda	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Nielsen	Woollard

11:30

Against the motion:

Aheer	Hunter	Schneider
Cooper	Jansen	Smith
Cyr	Loewen	Starke
Drysdale	MacIntyre	Stier
Ellis	McIver	Strankman
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Swann
Fraser	Orr	Taylor
Gill	Panda	van Dijken
Gotfried	Pitt	Yao
Hanson	Rodney	

Totals: For – 39 Against – 29

[The estimates of the general revenue fund and lottery fund were carried]

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

I will now invite the hon. Government House Leader to move that the committee rise and report.

Mr. Mason: I move that the committee rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Mr. Kleinstuber: Madam Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions related to the 2016-2017 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates and the 2016-2017 government estimates for the general revenue fund and lottery fund, reports as follows, and requests leave to sit again.

The following resolutions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, have been approved.

Offices of the Legislative Assembly.

Support to the Legislative Assembly, \$67,897,000; office of the Auditor General, \$26,754,000; office of the Ombudsman, \$3,328,000; office of the Chief Electoral Officer, \$5,668,000; office of the Ethics Commissioner, \$1,130,000; office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, \$6,857,000; office of the Child and Youth Advocate, \$13,242,000; office of the Public Interest Commissioner, \$1,231,000.

Government main estimates.

Advanced Education: expense, \$2,730,430,000; capital investment, \$438,588,000; financial transactions, \$579,000,000.

Agriculture and Forestry: expense, \$716,813,000; capital investment, \$15,491,000; financial transactions, \$1,310,000.

Culture and Tourism: expense, \$316,776,000; capital investment, \$2,041,000; financial transactions, \$852,000.

Economic Development and Trade: expense, \$399,923,000; capital investment, \$3,025,000.

Education: expense, \$4,400,881,000; capital investment, \$1,802,059,000; financial transactions, \$13,692,000.

Energy: expense, \$247,929,000; capital investment, \$5,399,000.

Environment and Parks: expense, \$515,609,000; capital investment, \$148,673,000; financial transactions, \$100,000.

Executive Council: expense, \$26,807,000.

Health: expense, \$19,316,874,000; capital investment, \$72,757,000; financial transactions, \$63,000,000.

Human Services: expense, \$4,263,075,000; capital investment, \$5,162,000.

Indigenous Relations: expense, \$192,275,000; capital investment, \$25,000; financial transactions, \$54,412,000.

Infrastructure: expense, \$559,665,000; capital investment, \$943,691,000; financial transactions, \$49,666,000.

Justice and Solicitor General: expense, \$1,277,002,000; capital investment, \$38,982,000.

Labour: expense, \$212,351,000; capital investment, \$900,000.

Municipal Affairs: expense, \$1,741,138,000; capital investment, \$3,017,000; financial transactions, \$367,472,000.

Seniors and Housing: expense, \$726,741,000; financial transactions, \$12,850,000.

Service Alberta: expense, \$315,969,000; capital investment, \$99,767,000; financial transactions, \$7,650,000.

Status of Women: expense, \$7,530,000; capital investment, \$50,000.

Transportation: expense, \$829,133,000; capital investment, \$1,269,804,000; financial transactions, \$86,949,000.

Treasury Board and Finance: expense, \$150,959,000; capital investment, \$2,478,000; financial transactions, \$8,648,000; transfer from the lottery fund, \$1,451,069,000.

Madam Speaker, that concludes my report.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the Assembly concur in the report? Say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Deputy Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.

11:40

Introduction of Bills

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

Bill 17

Appropriation Act, 2016

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 17, the Appropriation Act, 2016. This being a money bill, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the contents of this bill, recommends the same to this Assembly.

Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 17 read a first time]

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

Bill 10

Fiscal Statutes Amendment Act, 2016

The Chair: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments with respect to this bill? The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Mr. Cooper: Well, thank you, Madam Chair. It's a pleasure to rise and speak to Bill 10 today, a bill that drastically and dramatically changes the future of our province, a bill that is not laying out a course to fiscal responsibility. It is a bill that lays out a path to reckless spending, higher taxes, incredible amounts of debt, and at the end of the day it will mean significant challenges for our province's future and, in particular, to the future of our children with respect to the full weight of government coming to bear on those future generations.

While the government, Madam Chair, might like to talk about this plan being a good one, it was only approximately four months ago – I think it's just over a hundred days now – that the hon. Finance minister stood in this place and made it clear to all of the Assembly that 15 per cent of debt to GDP would give the current government lots of room, and he assured us on a number of occasions – and my colleague from Strathmore-Brooks asked a significant amount of questions both during debate and during question period about raising the debt limit.

One of the concerns that we highlighted at the time, Madam Chair, was the creep that begins to happen when the debt limit is raised. We saw in October, I believe it was, this move to move to

15 per cent. We suggested that south of the border they have this problem as well, where they continually come up against the debt ceiling, come back to Congress, in the example that I'm using in the States, and say: we just need to raise it this one more time. But what we've seen from this NDP government is something even worse than what they propose in the States. Every time they raise the debt limit in the States, they put a new one on.

What Bill 10 does is remove any sort of accountability to the Legislature, an institution that I and this side of the House hold near and dear. To remove the accountability to the Assembly and the requirement for the government to have to come back and ask the people of Alberta whether or not increasing the debt limit is okay with them: the fact that the government has chosen to do that is more than a bit disappointing. In fact, I am convinced that this is not the type of governance or the type of change that Albertans were hoping for a little over a year ago, when this new government was elected.

What they were hoping for was a government that would be accountable to the people of Alberta. What they were hoping for was a government that would improve transparency, would increase debate, increase accountability, which, I am sorry to say, the previous government had gotten away from a great deal, but what they've gotten is not that at all. The new government hasn't lived up to their promises to be accountable, to be transparent, to be open. This is a perfect example of that. This government is taking steps to remove transparency and accountability, and that is not the kind of change that Albertans were hoping for.

Over the last number of years the province of Alberta has prided itself on being debt free, and then over the last eight years or so we moved in the opposite direction and began this desire of governments of the day to change legislation, to go back upon things that they once held dear and start to work on softening legislation. Today we are at the point where they're removing legislation, and this is not helpful.

Politicians from time to time have a hard time with accountability. Certainly, what we see here is a removal of accountability and an opportunity for the government to spend past 15 per cent of debt to GDP, past 20, past 30, all the way to the sky being the limit. This is not helpful because what it does do is put the financial stability of our future at risk.

Even at this time, by the end of this government the debt interest payments will be close to \$2 billion per year, Madam Chair, \$2 billion every single year moving forward, and that's if we don't go into debt even further. One thing this government hasn't done is propose any sort of plan on how this will be repaid. The plan that they spoke about just months ago was a 15 per cent debt to GDP, which was concerning to the opposition and many members of this Assembly, but now they're doing away with that and have zero plan. Two billion dollars is a lot of hospitals, schools, teachers, nurses. As we continue down this reckless path, we run the risk of putting those institutions and individuals in jeopardy in the future because of the negligence of today's government.

11:50

When we throw away the future because of the immediate concerns, it presents a real challenge. As legislators we need to make sure that we have a forward vision for the province, one that is looking long past just the challenges of today and considering the well-being of the future of our province.

I am certain that I and colleagues on this side of the Chamber will have a significant amount to say around this bill, but for the time being I will allow some of my colleagues, who, I know, have some concerns, to share some of those with the Chamber.

The Chair: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much for the opportunity to address some of the concerns brought up by the Opposition House Leader. You know, budgets are always about choices, Madam Chair. The opposition and their choices are pretty clear to me and members on this side. They would cut billions out of this budget. They would cut the services that Alberta families count on like health care and education. They would balance a budget on the backs of Albertans. They want us to return to the mistakes of previous governments that in the past cut recklessly or proposed to cut recklessly things like health care and education. That would be on top of the previous \$9 billion cut to investments on schools, hospitals, roads, and bridges.

It's clear, Madam Chair, that they want to tear down Alberta while we choose to build Alberta at this time, when there is ready capital, when there is ready machinery standing idle, when there are people needing to be employed, when there is opportunity in this province. We want to build; they want to push it down the road like a previous government did with the lack of infrastructure spending that they caused in this province. It left a legacy of infrastructure decline.

The 15 per cent debt-to-GDP limit set in the Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act is being removed at this time so that we can provide the flexibility required to deal with the current economic situation, which is dire. There are no two ways about it. We're taking this measure during the difficult economic times to invest in jobs and protect public services. That's something that won't happen on that side of the House.

Our balance sheet in this province remains the envy of the nation. Our borrowing costs remain among the lowest of all the provinces. This fiscal year we expect to spend 2.4 per cent of our budget revenue on debt servicing. Only 2.4 per cent. By comparison, in B.C. they will spend 5.5 per cent of their budget revenue on debt servicing. In B.C. they will spend more than twice what we're spending. In Ontario they're expecting to spend 9 per cent of their budget revenue on debt servicing, almost four times higher than Alberta.

We have on page 9 of the fiscal plan identified at this point in time by the most recent numbers, 2014-15, 3.4 per cent debt to GDP. If members look at the following page, at the end of this fiscal plan the target is for that to be 15.5 per cent, which would put us at odds with the law that we put in place. So we will be changing that. Back to page 9, when you look at the debt-to-GDP ratios of all the provinces by comparison and the federal government, you see that Alberta's position is enviable still.

The Chair: I hesitate to interrupt the hon. minister, but pursuant to Standing Order 4(3) the committee will now rise and report.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Mr. Rosendahl: Madam Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration a certain bill. The committee reports progress on the following bill: Bill 10.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the Assembly concur in the report? Say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Deputy Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.
The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. With an eye on the clock I will move that we call it 12 o'clock and adjourn until 1:30 this afternoon.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 11:57 a.m.]

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