



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature  
Third Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 4, 2017

Day 28

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

### The 29th Legislature

Third 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, Hon. 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)  
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 (ND)  
Jean, Brian Michael, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (W),  
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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),  
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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)  
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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),  
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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),  
Official Opposition Deputy Whip  
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (ND)  
Rodney, Dave, Calgary-Lougheed (PC),  
Progressive Conservative Opposition House Leader  
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)  
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: 55

Wildrose: 22

Progressive Conservative: 8

Alberta Liberal: 1

Alberta Party: 1

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Shaye Anderson	Minister of Municipal Affairs
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 Children's Services
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 Community and Social Services
Marlin Schmidt	Minister of Advanced Education
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Deputy Chair: Mrs. Schreiner

Cyr	McKitrick
Dang	Taylor
Ellis	Turner
Horne	

**Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future**

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**Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

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Drever	Pitt
Hinkley	Rodney
Horne	Shepherd
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McKitrick	

**Standing Committee on Legislative Offices**

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**Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

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Cooper	Nixon
Dang	Orr
Jabbour	Piquette
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**Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee**

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Ellis	Pitt
Horne	van Dijken
Kleinsteuber	Woollard
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**Standing Committee on Private Bills**

Chair: Ms McPherson  
Deputy Chair: Connolly

Anderson, W.	Kleinsteuber
Babcock	McKitrick
Drever	Rosendahl
Drysdale	Stier
Fraser	Strankman
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**Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing**

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**Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

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Dang	Malkinson
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Hanson	Rosendahl
Kazim	Woollard
Kleinsteuber	

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 4, 2017

[The Speaker in the chair]

**The Speaker:** Good afternoon. Please be seated.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Red Deer-South.

**Ms Miller:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you an amazing, brilliant group of students from my constituency of Red Deer-South. They're accompanied by their teachers Mr. Jeff Archer, Ms Laurie Shapka, Ms Tracy Knecht, and Ms Bev Higgins. Could you all please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other school groups today?

Seeing and hearing none, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on your behalf to introduce to all members of the Assembly your granddaughter Miss Amelia Lewis and your wife, Mrs. Joan Emard-Wanner. Amelia is a grade 3 student from Sunnyside school in Calgary and is visiting the Legislature with her nana today. Amelia loves playing hockey, diving, and is a voracious reader. She is also an accomplished writer, having been published in Scribblitt. Amelia and Joan are seated in the Speaker's gallery, and I would ask them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions to do today. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to introduce to you my family. I would like to make sure that everybody understands that I have pride and love for every one of them that is sitting up there. I would like to start with my mother, Arlene Cyr, a strong woman from Slave Lake, and she has been a vision within my life; my sister Melanie Cyr, who has been a wonderful strength in my life as well; my wife, Megan Cyr, who is the love of my life, and I have to say that she has been the reason that I am actually sitting in this House today; my daughter Charlotte Cyr – if she can stand – that is my youngest daughter, and she's obviously a poser; and my oldest daughter, Amelia, who I actually had that conversation for Bill 202 with that gave me the inspiration. If they could all stand.

Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

**Mr. Cyr:** My second introduction. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to introduce to you and to all of the members of the Legislature one of the dedicated staff of the Wildrose caucus. I owe this staff my immense thanks for his hard work in passing Bill 202, the Protecting Victims of Non-consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Act. All members of this House know how important it is to have great staff behind you. As I ask him to stand and please take this traditional warm welcome, I would like to enthusiastically encourage him to move forward with his career on something as important as Bill 202. I would like to introduce Cody Johnston.

Thank you.

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

**Ms Notley:** Okay. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I have a document here that says that my school is here at 2, but maybe they're here now, so that'd be good.

**The Speaker:** Not a problem, Madam Premier. If they're not here yet, we will go on. We have other guests.

**Ms Notley:** Okay. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** That has nothing to do with the fact that she happens to be the Premier.

The Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you today to all members of the House a number of people who are living with cancer or have survived cancer. They joined me in the office this morning as we declared May Bladder Cancer Awareness Month in Alberta. Bladder cancer is the fifth most common cancer in our country. It's my hope that this provincial declaration will help spread awareness and show support for patients and their families. Today I have the honour of introducing a number of bladder cancer survivors, who are appropriately wearing bright yellow T-shirts. They are Dick Southworth, Michele Zielinski, Rob Truscott, and Gerry Maciejko. I ask that they please rise – they're in the members' gallery – and receive the traditional warm welcome of our Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly 12 staff from the public safety division of Municipal Affairs. I'd like to thank them all for their outstanding work delivering a comprehensive bill and for completing a successful consultation. It's my great pleasure to recognize them on the day that I introduce Bill 12 because they all had a hand in making this happen. This accomplished group of people – not all of them but some of them are here seated in the members' gallery, and I ask that they stand as I call their names: Monte Krueger, Colin Robertson, Erin Black, Kristopher Schmaltz, Iain Ilich, Lisa Bell, Jolene Cusack, Cheryl Ryder, Chris Neuman, Kathryn Davidson, Brenda Manweiler, and Alex Morrison. I'd like to now please give them the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

### Members' Statements

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

### Education System

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege today to rise in this House to acknowledge Education Week in the province of Alberta. This week allows us the opportunity to celebrate the importance of education and to highlight the great work being done in schools across our province. This year's theme, Learning Is a Journey, acknowledges the role education plays in preparing students to pursue their career interests in a diversified economy and highlights the important role education plays in shaping the future of our province.

Our government is working hard to make life better for Albertans by ensuring that every student has a great education and a bright

future. Alberta students deserve the best education that we can deliver. This session our government has introduced Bill 1, An Act to Reduce School Fees, which will save Alberta families more than \$54 million this year. Families will no longer have to pay for instructional supplies or materials and will no longer have to pay transportation fees when they're being bused to their designated schools.

We announced 26 new and modernized school projects across the province, and we are providing a school nutrition program to all 61 publicly funded school boards across the province. Our government knows that investing in education is an investment in our future, and that is why we will all continue to build new schools, fund for enrolment, and provide predictable and stable funding for school boards.

I want to thank all of the educators across this province for their tireless effort and commitment to education, and we hope you take a moment to celebrate your accomplishments during Education Week. I encourage Albertans to join in the celebration by visiting their local schools and attending special Education Week events or visiting their child's classroom.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### Government and Official Opposition Policies

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** In just two years the NDP has destroyed the once great pillars of the Alberta advantage: balanced budgets, low taxes, and accountable government. These pillars of Alberta society have been thrown to the lions under their watch. These two years have been marked by a scorched earth policy of hyperregulation, senseless waste of tax dollars, and blind ideology. But in just two years from today I believe the NDP will be reduced to just a bad memory.

The ancient Romans had a way of dealing with governments that were this far beyond redemption, once deposed. They called it *damnatio memoriae*, meaning literally condemnation from memory. The senate of Rome would declare *damnatio memoriae* as the highest form of dishonour that one could incur, normally reserved for leaders and emperors who brought disgrace on the Roman Empire. They would tear down their monuments and their temples. They would remove their faces even from the coins. They would destroy all traces that that leader or emperor and government had ever existed.

1:40

My friends, Albertans are calling for the *damnatio memoriae* of the NDP. We will tear down their ideological monuments to socialism by cutting taxes, reducing spending, and balancing the budget. We will destroy their temples of ecofundamentalism, replacing carbon taxes and ending the green slush fund. And we will end the NDP era of secrecy, restoring freedom of information and giving people the right to recall bad leaders.

The NDP have done the impossible and united formerly bitter enemies against a threat to Alberta greater than we could ever see in one another. Together we will sow the fields of socialism with salt so that a government like this can never grow again.

For those unlucky enough to remember this government's reign of error, this time will be looked back upon as one we would rather soon forget. Future generations will be lucky enough to never know . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member. Your time is up. Hon. member, please be seated when I ask . . . [interjection] Hon. member.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

### Mental Health and Addiction Education and Services

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I had the privilege of moderating a panel discussion on indigenous youth mental health sponsored by the U of C's Mathison Centre and the Canadian Mental Health Commission. We heard directly from youth at the Kainai board of education and watched a video on the headstrong program encouraging youth to talk about the stigma related to addictions and mental illness. Unfortunately, the stigma is still too common even among some of our health professionals. In fact, there is often a double stigma: first, simply being indigenous and, secondly, with addictions or mental health issues.

Another common theme was the lack of culturally sensitive and more holistic approaches in our mental health system. Several panellists spoke eloquently about how traditional practices and mentoring from elders helped them break free from depression and addictions and regain a sense of identity and self-worth.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has identified a long history of intergenerational trauma and its lasting effect on our First Nations community. Updates to Alberta's curriculum should be aimed at giving all Albertans a deeper understanding of this and encouraging further participation in the reconciliation process. Tragically, we continue to see increasing incidents of mental illness and addictions across Alberta, including opiates and preventable deaths, now approaching two per day. While I commend the government for increasing investment in this area, spending alone is not the answer.

Since 2008 the elimination of the Mental Health Board – there is a lack of consistent leadership and co-ordinated planning for mental health and addictions in this province. System change is difficult without strong, sustained leadership. Once again I must call on the government to reconsider establishing the provincial mental health and addictions officer. We need immediate implementation of the recommendations from the Valuing Mental Health report, including the long-overdue reform of primary care networks and their important role in mental health and addictions. Timely system changes will not only save lives but will substantially reduce costs and boost staff morale.

On Mental Health Week let's reaffirm our commitment to reducing the stigma of addictions and mental health, support our indigenous people, and show . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member. Your time is up.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek.

### Mental Health Week

**Ms Woollard:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also speak today about a mental health event: the Canadian Mental Health Association's Mental Health Week. This annual national event takes place during the first week of May to encourage people from all walks of life to learn, talk, reflect, and engage with others on all issues relating to mental health.

CMHA is a national organization that helps maintain and improve mental health for all Canadians. As the nation-wide leader and champion for mental health CMHA helps people access the community resources they need to build resilience and support their recovery from mental illness.

The theme this year is Turn Up the Volume: "It's the 66th Annual CMHA Mental Health Week and we're getting loud for mental health." During Mental Health Week Canadians are encouraged to take the time to reflect on their mental health and to speak out about mental health. To be truly mentally well, Canadians need the support of psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists, counsellors,

and other community-based mental health services and programs. As well, they need acknowledgement, respect, and adequate housing.

“Getting loud” means speaking up [to improve access to mental health care and] to stop the discrimination and the stigma that often go hand in hand with mental illness. It means . . . using your voice to raise awareness and build support. For someone at work. For someone at home. For yourself . . .

Positive mental health isn’t about avoiding problems or trying to achieve a “perfect” life. It’s about living well and having the tools to cope with difficult situations . . . during [smooth or challenging times].

I’m proud to be part of a government that is taking mental health seriously and has increased funding for mental health and addictions by over 60 per cent. Each person’s path to mental health is unique.

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

The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

### Edmonton-McClung Meet Your Neighbour Campaign

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s a pleasure to rise today to update the House on a Canada 150 project that I spoke about earlier this spring. In response to the Quebec shootings in a mosque as well as the desecration of some Jewish cemeteries in Calgary as well as some of the sentiments opposing immigration and refugee immigration in Canada, I designed a Canada 150 project to bring people together.

What I’ve done is invited all community league presidents in Edmonton-McClung to gather together volunteers. They will be joined by volunteers as well within my scope as well as from church groups and schools. Together we’ll meet at individual community league buildings on Saturday and Sunday afternoons in May and June, and from there we’ll go out and knock on 150 doors. As well as that, what we’ll do is invite people to learn about the benefits of community league membership, and particularly we want newcomers to be aware of the infrastructure that’s there in every one of their communities and to belong and become a part of their community league and to join as a member.

Once we finish meeting those 150 neighbours, we’re going to meet back at the community league, have some pizza and pop, and share the stories of new acquaintances we’ve made. Afterwards, later in July at my annual summer barbecue – everybody will be invited to attend – we’re going to be video taping the shared stories of new-found friendships that have been made by this initiative in Edmonton-McClung. I’m glad to say that we have three out of the seven community leagues already signed up, Mr. Speaker, and it’s oversubscribed for most of the Saturday and Sunday afternoons in May and June.

Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Battle River-Wainwright.

### Provincial Debt

**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another year, and another fiscally irresponsible budget has been pushed through by this NDP government, but this budget was not backed by me or the Wildrose Party. However, on April 21 of this year I had the exceptional joy of holding my first grandson, Zachary Scott Nichols, for the first time about an hour after his birth. When I consider his birth this year, it strikes me that my grandson and all Albertans will unfortunately be responsible for massive amounts of debt that will be forced upon them due to successive bad budgets created by a

government that doesn’t have a plan to get us back to a balanced budget.

The moment Zach was born, a bill was strapped to his back. I’ve been asked how much that might be. You might be shocked to hear that the moment he was born, his portion of the bill was already more than \$7,000 of provincial government debt. In Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* it says: he will extract a pound of flesh from Antonio for the money he was owed and that was ruthlessly required to be paid back. Thank God no one is required to give a pound of flesh, but every Albertan is being asked to dig deeper and deeper into their pockets. By the time my grandson Zachary is old enough to vote, he will owe around \$50,000 in provincial debt – that is more than the average university graduate owes after completing a degree – yet he will have nothing to show for it.

I made my grandson a promise the day he was born that I would do my best to turn this around. I promised him that I would do everything in my power to make sure that this NDP government would only get two more years of adding debt to his name before they’re voted out of office, and I promised him that I would help fix our spending problem and bring back the Alberta advantage, the advantage the NDP are so intent on destroying.

Thank you.

1:50

### Oral Question Period

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

### Oil Sands Advisory Group Co-chair

**Mr. Barnes:** Yesterday Albertans found out how much they are paying the Premier’s top oil sands adviser, ecoradical Tzeporah Berman, while she works tirelessly to shut down pipelines, \$23,000 directly from our taxpayers. To make matters worse, the NDP will not fire Berman. Premier, your inaction demonstrates gross hypocrisy. You publicly avowed that no staff would help the antipipeline B.C. NDP on their campaign. Now we’re seeing exception after exception and no action on your promise. To the Premier: when will you fire Berman?

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I’ve outlined in answer to this question before, Ms Berman sits on an advisory committee, a very important advisory committee to the province of Alberta, an advisory committee that is a fundamental part of our climate leadership plan. The plan itself is an absolutely fundamental ingredient to our successful approval of a pipeline to tidewater. In fact, we’re very pleased with the work that everybody on that committee is doing, and we look forward to their reports in the weeks and months to come.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Premier.

**Mr. Barnes:** Mr. Speaker, by adding ecoradicals like Tzeporah Berman and Karen Mahon to the oil sands advisory group, this government legitimizes the views of those that seek to defame and destroy our province’s most important job creator. This is unacceptable. Using taxpayer money to pay the salaries of these ecoradicals is a total betrayal of Alberta families whose livelihoods and re-entry into the job market depend on pipelines and investment. When will this government wake up and realize it is time to fight misinformation about our world-class oil and gas industry and not . . .

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. It's fun hearing the member opposite talk about misinformation when he sincerely put his bank account towards that very cause.

We are proud of the results we are getting because we have taken a different attitude, one different from the members opposite, their predecessors, Conservative governments in both Alberta and in Ottawa, that put their heads in the sand and pretended that there was nothing happening. And what happened, Mr. Speaker? Nothing happened. We took a different approach. We brought people to the table who traditionally have been adversarial, and instead we got good results, which includes two pipelines. I'm not going to apologize for getting good results for Alberta.

**Mr. Barnes:** When we asked this government about the sale of ConocoPhillips, they were, quote, proud, proud to see a mass exodus of American capital from our oil sands in favour of an NDP-orchestrated consolidation and reorganization. The Premier even accused the opposition of overreacting. Predictably, ConocoPhillips has announced that their sale resulted in 300 more pink slips to Alberta workers. Add that to the hundred thousand jobs already lost under this Premier. Does this Premier want to issue a retraction, or is she still proud to see how ecoradicals cost Albertans their livelihoods?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Energy.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As was mentioned, we've gotten two pipeline approvals, which is tens of thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in new investment. But what isn't helpful is that as I talk to leaders every day, they tell me that they are more fearful all the time of the opposition continually talking down Alberta. I can say that on this side of the House we're standing up for Albertans. It would be nice if you would, too.

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

### Government Policies

**Mr. Strankman:** We're now at the halfway mark of this government's term, and what an economic disaster that has been. They've spent more time and money trying to impress Leap Manifesto authors than defending Albertans. When they quickly ran out of taxes to hike, they invented the carbon tax. They are destroying coal jobs, including in towns like Hanna and Forestburg. What does the Premier have to say to the tens of thousands of Albertans whose lives are now much worse because of their policies? Where are the Respect Hanna buttons?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that in the last few weeks I visited Hanna, sat down with the community leaders. They recognize that the world is transitioning off coal. They're quite excited at the opportunities within the renewables space. They want to participate, and I can tell you that we've got their backs, unlike the opposition. When the Leader of the Official Opposition was in Ottawa, they passed regs to ensure that those facilities would be closed permanently. We're not doing that. We worked with Ottawa to ensure that they can now transition to cogen.

**Mr. Strankman:** Albertans haven't seen two worse years of job losses since Trudeau's national energy program. That's how this government will be remembered after they become a footnote in history. While everyday Albertans are losing work, this government

was busy wasting taxpayer money on ads, light bulbs, and clotheslines while abandoning people like Haley Chisholm. It's a shameful record. Albertans are suffering. As of late, in and around Hanna there have been nine adult suicides. How can the Premier justify this record?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll tell you this much. Our government is focusing on making life better for Albertans through two pipeline approvals. We're pleased to see homegrown Alberta companies . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Stop the clock, please. I can't hear the hon. minister speaking. Could you please keep your volume down. [interjection] Pardon me? Did you have something to say?

Finish your 35 seconds, hon. minister.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I can tell you is that housing starts are up in our province, exports are up in our province, manufacturing is up, and drilling is up. You know what else? We have a number of banks and economists that have forecast that Alberta will lead the country in growth, by 2.4 per cent, this year and next year, higher than any other province.

**Mr. Strankman:** Completely out of touch with Albertans: these are the words that Albertans are quickly associating with this government. Bill 6 forced farmers to storm this building demanding respect. This government brought in a carbon tax despite never running on it. They also promised changes to our children in care system. Things got worse under their watch. They called hard-working Albertans sewer rats, embarrassing cousins, and the anger machine. Given this record of destruction how can Albertans trust them?

**Ms Notley:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, the reason Albertans can trust us is because in the last election we said that as we head into an economic recession caused by the drop in the international price of oil – just to remind the folks over there – our government would choose to have their backs, that our government would focus on making life better for them, that our government would support those important public services that matter to Albertans: their health care, their education, postsecondary for their kids. Our government would work to create jobs, 20,000 jobs just in the last month. Our government would focus on making life more affordable.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Premier.

The hon. Member for Highwood.

### Advanced Education Ministry Travel Expenses

**Mr. W. Anderson:** Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's report released yesterday paints a picture of an NDP government far too comfortable with bending the rules. When it comes to Advanced Education, the ministry padded caucus-related costs to go on out-of-province junkets, with no sign-off on the trips. Life has never been so good if you're an NDP minister, but for everyday Albertans in the real world this reeks of ignorance and lack of respect for taxpayers' dollars. Why does this NDP government think it's okay to treat hard-earned taxpayer dollars as if it were funny money?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to this concern of the Auditor General. Of course, we take our responsibility to be prudent with tax dollars



very seriously. We know that the Auditor General identified some errors in processing these expense claims. We're working closely with the Auditor General and officials in our department to correct the errors and make sure that these matters are dealt with appropriately.

**Mr. W. Anderson:** The NDP government using a ministry to funnel money that should have come from the caucus budget is exactly the type of thing the NDP would have strongly opposed while in opposition. It's time for the NDP to face the facts. They've been in power for two years, and Albertans are sick and tired of them trying to shirk responsibility and accountability. This type of waste management needs to come to an end. What is the minister going to do to ensure and show that junkets on the public dime are over?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I'd like to emphasize the fact that we appreciate the Auditor General for his report and his work to ensure the government is running effectively and efficiently. Our department has met with his officials to understand what the requirements are, and we're working very diligently to make sure that all of the proper processes are in place and that all of the documentation is in place so that there are no questions about these expenses going forward. Of course, out-of-province travel is often required as part of our ministerial duties to meet with our counterparts across the provinces. We will make sure that those processes . . .

2:00

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

**Mr. W. Anderson:** You know, if a regular Albertan tried to pull off some of the tricks used in Advanced Education, they would have been punished. Submitting caucus expenses to the ministry is irresponsible and shows a complete lack of respect for taxpayers' dollars. But under the NDP's watch Advanced Ed has turned into a free-for-all, with insufficient documentation, a business rationale for submitting expenses, running up extra meal expenses and fuel charges. When is the Minister of Advanced Ed going to put an end to the gravy train in his department?

**Ms Notley:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the minister has answered the question not once but twice, and I think it's also important to understand and to maybe dial back the drama over there a little bit to remember that the Auditor General himself characterized these oversights as insignificant amounts and also acknowledged that there are administrative errors. For instance, what the Auditor General didn't do . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** I cannot hear the answer. Would the people who asked the question try to work on listening as well. I had a discussion yesterday with a member who suggested that I needed to stand up and remind them that when I'm standing, you don't speak. I thought that was obvious and that all of you knew about that, but that seems to have escaped some of you.

Hon. Premier, could you finish your answer, please.

**Ms Notley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The phrase the Auditor General did not use, for instance, was "aura of power." It's interesting that the members opposite are so concerned about these issues, yet they're doing everything they can to join up with their other friends over there who are the architects of the sky palace, of golf club . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Premier. Thank you. [interjections] Hon. Premier, the principle applies to you as well.

**Mr. Mason:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Noted.

The leader of the third party.

### Calgary Southwest Ring Road Flood Risk Management

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you. Now for something completely different. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the current government for their commitment to complete the southwest portion of Calgary's ring road on the schedule required by the agreement with the Tsuut'ina Nation. There have been concerns expressed by both individuals and groups about the construction form and the environmental care being employed. To the Transportation minister: are you aware of the complaints and challenges to your current construction process, and what can you tell the House about your response?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Transportation.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We know that the hon. member was involved in getting this project approved in the first place, and I want to assure him that safety is still our top priority when designing infrastructure. The bridge will accommodate flood levels beyond the year 2013 flood level. We've designed the bridge to have a 150-metre bridge span, which provides additional hydraulic capacity, and we've also designed the stormwater ponds so that they can take more water in the event of a flood. The Springbank project will provide additional protection for this area.

**Mr. McIver:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister, but there are still concerns that the bridge over the Elbow River has been designed with spans too short to allow the river to pass through during a high-water spring runoff. I heard what the minister said, but I have to ask: have you talked to the people at the Tsuut'ina, the residents of Discovery Ridge, and other people that are concerned about this and are actually filing complaints and injunctions and other things? Have you been able to have contact with them, please, Minister?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There has been some ongoing consultation. Certainly, we've received correspondence from some of those communities, and we've responded to it appropriately. We have done a revised design to minimize risk to the Glenmore reservoir. The study was completed in the fall of 2015 and confirmed that the bridge will not present a risk to the Glenmore reservoir, causeway, or dam.

**Mr. McIver:** Again I thank the minister, but my understanding is that part of the road will be built on an earthen berm, which is to support the road, and there is concern that in high runoff years an earthen dam may not be enough to hold the water back. The folks of Haysboro are concerned about their community as well. In fact, I understand that one of them was told by an official that they are the only ones that are at risk. To the minister: are you aware of this concern, and again can you assure the Legislature and Albertans that you won't let this negative scenario occur as a result of the construction of this important project?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Since receiving correspondence from some of the communities in southwest Calgary with respect to this, I have had my department officials review the matter again and brief me thoroughly on this. We have submitted an application under the Fisheries Act, the approval of Alberta Environment and Parks has been obtained, and all the work is being completed in accordance with all relevant federal and provincial environmental regulations and acts. I am quite confident that we have provided a safe . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. minister.  
The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

### Mental Health and Addiction Services

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, this being Mental Health Week, I expected to hear more government announcements on progress implementing the recommendations from the Valuing Mental Health report, including those on first responders, given that this is the anniversary of the Fort McMurray fire; also on extending funding for the central Alberta regional collaborative service delivery model; and on more timely access to opioid treatment clinics. To the Minister of Health. Sixteen months have passed since the report was accepted. Can you give us an update on the progress made on the 26 remaining recommendations?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. We are continuing to make good progress, and we look forward to being able to give a fulsome response in the coming days. Even without being able to do the full update in short order, I want to assure everyone that we are continuing to move forward with opioid replacement therapies throughout the province. A great deal of the funds that we received from the federal government to help us address the opioid crisis was funnelled directly to that so that increased opportunities for methadone and Suboxone closer to home are available throughout the province. As well, we continue to work on addictions and treatment options in communities, including a number of detox beds.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Dr. Swann:** The regional collaborative service delivery model has proven to be the most efficient and most effective provider of mental health services to children and families. It's a clear improvement over previous fragmented approaches. A Red Deer mother of a child with special needs is concerned that this funding cut will lead to longer waits for therapy, poorer outcomes, and an increased burden on teachers as they attempt to fill the gap. Again to the minister: will you reinstate the regional collaborative service delivery funding, and if not, why not? This should be expanded, not cut.

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Advanced Education.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to answer this question on behalf of the Minister of Education. Of course, we believe that every child in Alberta, including those with special needs, deserves an education that prepares them for success. That's why our government is working to make life better by improving classroom education for all children by hiring new teachers and teaching assistants and investing over \$12 million more this year in inclusive education for students with special needs. It's important

to note that since the RCSD model was introduced in 2014, funding for delivery has actually increased by over \$8 million, to over \$67 million this year. We will continue to do everything we can to support students with special needs in our classrooms.

**Dr. Swann:** That hardly explains the cuts to the Red Deer program. Opioid users are seeking help, and often they cannot book during regular business hours. These Albertans require expanded access to treatment clinics, and wait times outside of our two major cities must be shortened. Clinics should meet the needs of people seeking services rather than those providing the services. In other words, services need to be patient centred. To the Minister of Health: will the government commit to reducing wait times and expanding after-hours access to services?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. These are the exact kinds of things that the associate minister has been working on, and we appreciate the recommendations and the support from the member opposite. Earlier this week she was in Lethbridge working at meeting with front-line service providers in terms of harm reduction and making sure that increased supports are available there. They also raised a number of other issues that they're hoping to move forward with in collaboration, including supervised consumption services, potentially, as well as increased access to other harm reduction strategies in the community. We look forward to being able to support all Albertans and save lives.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. minister.  
Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

### 2:10 Capital Planning Process

**Mr. Hinkley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just over a month ago the government released its \$29.5 billion four-year capital plan. The investment represents one of the most significant investments in roads, schools, hospitals, and other public infrastructure like the Reynolds-Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin that were neglected for far too long. To the Minister of Infrastructure: what processes does this government follow to ensure that the best projects are approved to the maximum benefit of Albertans?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll just use as an example a project such as the Reynolds Museum. When such a project comes forward, it's reviewed against government criteria and priorities. This highly used museum project was deemed to foster economic development, to improve the health and safety of the existing facility, and to benefit both the local and regional communities as well as visitors. The project was found to be a priority for the local municipality, the MLA as well as the ministry of culture.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Hinkley:** Thank you. Given that there are a number of projects in the Wetaskiwin-Camrose constituency that are not included in the capital plan or unfunded projects list – for example, a new high school for Camrose, new science labs and classrooms for the Augustana campus, and a women's shelter in Wetaskiwin, to name a few – to the Minister of Infrastructure: could you detail the process followed to move such projects onto the capital plan or the unfunded projects list for future consideration?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much for the question, Mr. Speaker. Well, projects in the capital plan have all been reviewed very carefully to ensure that they align with government priorities such as the need to enhance access to services, improving the condition of facilities, which includes health and safety concerns, functionality, and use. Our criteria are open and transparent and published on the government of Alberta website.

**Mr. Hinkley:** Given that many worthwhile projects went unfunded in the government's four-year capital plan, to the same minister: what are the prospects for the funding of projects on the unfunded capital list in the future?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, in my time in the ministries of Infrastructure and Transportation I've met with many municipal leaders and many other stakeholders, MLAs and so on, who are bringing forward many very worthwhile projects. I can honestly say that I've not come across a frivolous or unnecessary project. But there are far too many projects to be funded by the government at one time, so we can't say yes to all of them. It's a list of funded capital projects that we've had a chance to evaluate, at least in a preliminary way, and found to be necessary, required, to be a project that is worth while . . .

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

#### Energy Efficiency Program Training Contracts

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, lately the Minister of Labour has been taking us on a stroll through some of the best classic rock of the 1980s. Meanwhile her colleagues are singing to a different tune: a Britney Spears song she might remember from her teenage years called *Oops! . . . I Did It Again*. Earlier this session we learned about the Ecofitt boondoggle, and then, oops, it seems like the NDP has contracted yet another Ontario company to do the training on these retrofits. It seems the government thinks that contractors need training on how to fill out grant applications. To the minister: how do you rationalize the need for this kind of training, and at what cost?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the energy efficiency agency undertook a competitive procurement process in order to administer the programs that the Energy Efficiency agency is now delivering. In this particular case, yes, the contractors will learn how to fill out the forms so that they can ensure that individual homeowners actually get their rebates on time and in good working order. This is how energy efficiency programs are run in other jurisdictions, and we're following best practices in this regard.

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, given that the government thinks it needs to train highly professional and competent Alberta journeymen on how to fill out grant rebate forms and seeing as the government apparently needs Ontario's own ICF company to do this, can the minister explain why no qualified Alberta firms were able to successfully bid and win the same contract that an Ontario company won?

**Ms Phillips:** For the particular RFP . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Hon. members.

**Ms Phillips:** For the particular RFP that the member is referencing, Mr. Speaker, there were no Alberta companies who bid.

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, given Alberta's skilled tradespeople need to register to work on these home energy retrofit projects and be trained on how to fill out the forms and then have recurring training from ICF Canada and given that taxpayer dollars are being expended here on an activity that many regard as frivolous and many tradespeople personally consider is an insult to their intelligence and their skills, how many other outsourced contracts is the minister hiding, that create more red tape work for bureaucrats and out-of-province consultants?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a variety of programs that are being delivered by Energy Efficiency Alberta in order to make life more affordable for Albertans and ensure that we've got job creation happening in the energy efficiency space, something that we haven't enjoyed in the past given that we're the only jurisdiction in North America without an energy efficiency program. Of course, we do have over 350 contractors registered to deliver the insulation, tankless hot water heaters, and triple-pane windows program. There are also in-store rebates available for consumers as well as an online rebate program. Many people are taking advantage of these programs.

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

#### Oil Sands Advisory Group Co-chair (continued)

**Mr. Gill:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having someone as radical as Ms Berman as co-chair of Alberta's oil sands advisory group is like having Saudi Arabia on the Human Rights Commission, but because in the past NDP caucus members, including the Premier, openly protested against pipelines and called our oil dirty oil, Albertans are smart enough to see through this government's hidden intentions for our oil and gas sector. To the Premier: will you do all Albertans a favour and fire this anti-Alberta crusader before they fire you?

**The Speaker:** The Deputy Premier.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have to say how frustrating it is to hear the members opposite continue to talk down Alberta and our industry. [interjections] Ms Berman has been effective in working with a number of industry leaders. A number of people joined the table and got good results for Alberta, including two pipelines, and we're going to make sure that we continue to get good access to international markets, which helps Albertans.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky, you're yelling very loud, and you're heckling. I can't hear the speaker, so could you keep the tone down, please?

First supplemental.

**Mr. Gill:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Ms Berman has taken her crusade against the Kinder Morgan pipeline to extreme ends and that that includes calling people names when she disagrees with them and given that a public example of this behaviour is a January 11 tweet, which I will table today, in which she called Premier Clark, of British Columbia, a lapdog for supporting Kinder Morgan's pipeline, Premier, will you fire your lapdog on Alberta's oil sands advisory group? If not, why not?

**The Speaker:** The Deputy Premier.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we talked about respect in this House. Today we have the members opposite name-calling yet again.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Yeah, sewer rats.

**Ms Hoffman:** Mr. Speaker, they continue to do this . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks, you're just escalating the dysfunction of this place. Please keep those comments to yourself.

Deputy Premier, continue, please.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much. We're going to continue to watch for good outcomes, Mr. Speaker, and I have to say that the outcome of getting our product to tidewater is significant. We are proud of that accomplishment.

I hope the members opposite will reflect on the times that they themselves have enabled people to call then members of their own caucus disrespectful names and whether or not that was appropriate as they continue to move forward.

**Mr. Gill:** Berman is fighting against a good outcome.

Given that Ms Berman considered Premier Clark a lapdog for supporting the Kinder Morgan pipeline and given that Alberta's Premier claims she supports the Kinder Morgan pipeline, too, Premier, do you think that she considers you a lapdog but doesn't tweet it publicly because she's getting paid from your coffer?

**Mr. Mason:** Point of order.

2:20

**The Speaker:** Another point of order.

The Minister of Environment and Parks.

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the oil sands advisory group is a group of oil sands companies, First Nations, communities, and environmental groups who are charged with giving us advice on how to implement the limit on oil sands emissions at 100 megatonnes. The industry folks around that table sit with environmental groups and First Nations and local communities in a solutions-based way. Might I also suggest to the third party that perhaps they take their grievances to Athabasca oil sands, CNRL, Cenovus, Conoco, Suncor, and others who are supporting this process.

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

### Energy Policies

**Mr. Panda:** Mr. Speaker, while we heard all parties out in B.C. during their election make promises that are outside of their jurisdiction, our Premier is right that a \$70 carbon tax on coal exports is a bad idea, but it's not that much worse than putting a \$50 carbon tax on all of our industries. That's exactly the policy the Premier is putting in place. It doesn't just kill coal jobs but jobs across Alberta. Yesterday the Premier admitted carbon taxes on coal make us less . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member. Was there a question from the hon. member?

The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I can tell the House is that our government is continuing to focus on diversifying

our economy. We've recently put through a budget that not only invests in public services to ensure that we have teachers in classrooms and we have front-line health workers when we need them; we're also investing significantly in capital investment infrastructure projects. When the economists say that Alberta is poised to grow by 2.4 per cent, they attribute that to the two pipelines that we've gotten approved and our huge, largest-ever infrastructure build in Alberta's history.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Panda:** Thank you. It's quite rich all of a sudden for the Premier to sound the alarm on coal jobs given she made it a flagship policy to destroy as many as she can over the next decade. Given politicians on the west coast are trying to pretend they can stop pipelines or attack our exports and livelihoods and given the NDP is wasting billions of dollars to kill coal jobs right here in Alberta, how can the Premier look coal workers in the face here in Alberta given her government's record?

**The Speaker:** The minister of economic development.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know what? We're going to continue to stand up for Alberta's forestry and energy workers as we have done from day one. I can tell you that, you know, our approach is to work with Canada, to work with our provinces in a win-win. Our government is making life better for Albertans by phasing out harmful coal pollution, diversifying our energy economy, and also repairing our international reputation and getting pipelines to tidewater.

**Mr. Panda:** Mr. Speaker, given the Premier's top oil sands adviser, Ms Berman, is out campaigning for the B.C. NDP and all the while the government is touting two pipelines every single day in this House and given that this is sending mixed messages, with the government talking out of both sides of their mouth at the same time, the Premier can't have it both ways. Will she fire the ecomilitant, ecoextremist, who is a waste of taxpayers' dollars and is hurting our province's credibility?

**Mr. Bilous:** Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you what hurts our credibility. It's the opposition that continues to run down our province, our industries and attacks the great work that our government is doing. I'll remind the members opposite that the Prime Minister cited our Premier's climate leadership plan as one of the major reasons that two pipelines were approved. I can tell you that that's what we're focused on. We're going to continue to work collaboratively with our counterparts. We're not going to listen to an opposition as it jumps up and down and tries to poke everyone in the eye.

### Surgery Wait Times in Central Alberta

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, this NDP government always says, "The right care in the right place at the right time." Since the Alberta Health Services centralization we now see hip surgery wait times for Edmonton zone patients at 25.3 weeks, Calgary zone patients at 38.2 weeks, and the central zone at 44.3 weeks. That's right. It takes 19 weeks longer to get hip surgery in the central zone compared to Edmonton. To the minister: why are the surgery wait times so unacceptably long in central . . .

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

The Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me be clear. If you're an urgent patient, you will get urgent care. There have

been some good improvements on wait times, things like hip fracture repair, radiation therapy, and our 17 stroke treatment centres. Certainly, I agree that there is more work to be done. That's one of the reasons why on this side of the House we proposed a budget that protects health care instead of pushing for billions of dollars of cuts, which would inevitably impact wait times in all parts of the province, including central Alberta. We're moving forward with a plan that's stable and predictable and works to increase opportunities for speedy recovery.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. Taylor:** Given that central Alberta makes up approximately 10 per cent of Alberta's population yet only receives 5 per cent of the capital funding and given that a 2015 needs assessment in the central zone showed a shortfall of 96 beds, 18 emergency beds, and three OR rooms and given that surgery needs to happen in ORs and patients need beds to recuperate after surgery, why isn't the minister acting on the information in this report, that shows a severe lack of resources in central Alberta?

**Ms Hoffman:** Well, thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the member: why is it that you're advocating for \$9 billion worth of cuts to infrastructure funding, hon. member? [interjections] You want to make sure that we're continuing to provide improvements. That's what we're doing. If you want to make sure we're standing up for health care across Alberta, please vote for the budget. Don't continue to discredit it and put it down. We're proud of the investments that we're making throughout Alberta, and we're going to continue to do those because Albertans have a government that's on their side, that's making their lives better, and that includes investing in health care. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Member for Chestermere-Rocky View, just keep your voice down, please.

**Mr. Taylor:** Given that this government has a priority initiative to "implement a Wait Time Measurement and . . . Management Policy to address long wait times" and given that the Wildrose leader put forward a motion calling for a study on wait times, a motion the NDP voted down, how can the NDP expect Albertans to take their word on wait times seriously when they voted against a motion that would support patients getting timely care?

**Ms Hoffman:** The motion did no such thing, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much. The member said himself that it was a motion to spend a bunch of resources doing more studies, just like they want to do in Justice, when there are serious issues. We are putting our money where our mouth is in Justice. We're putting our money where our mouth is in Health and Education, Mr. Speaker. Members opposite are pushing for deep cuts and to sit around doing studies. That's not good enough. Albertans deserve health care improvements now. That's why we're moving forward to protect their health care instead of pushing for the billions of dollars in cuts, both to capital and to operations, that the members opposite are advocating for. We're putting Albertans first.

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

### Workplace Legislation Review

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday when I asked the Minister of Labour if she would do the right thing and actually

consult with employers and business groups, she replied that she had personally met with Alberta Enterprise group and had met with the chambers. Well, the chambers disagree. The Calgary Chamber has called the process wholly inadequate, and the Alberta chamber had to publicly call on the government to show affected businesses some respect in order to get a meeting, which is still not a replacement for robust consultation. To the Minister of Labour. You say one thing. Others beg to differ. Who is telling the truth?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Labour.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have been talking to Albertans about making sure we have workplace legislation that works for Alberta, that is fair and balanced, making sure that we've been consulting with employers and workers. We've heard from nearly 5,000 Albertans, and I have met with chamber organizations, and they have been engaged in this process. We are going to make sure that we have family-friendly workplace legislation that works for all Albertans.

2:30

**Mr. Gotfried:** Mr. Speaker, the scales appear to be tipped.

Given that this government will not give a straight answer on whether they will get rid of the secret-ballot process for union certification and given that this government's NDP brethren in B.C. have openly stated that they will remove the secret-ballot process if they are elected next week and given that there is nothing more fundamental to Canadian democracy than the secret ballot, again to the minister: will you be proposing the scrapping of the secret-ballot process? Yes or no?

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

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have been reviewing the feedback that we've received from various organizations, including workers. This afternoon I'm meeting with the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. I need to review what our stakeholders are telling us before making any final decisions, but I will tell you that unlike the party that was formerly in government, we will be making changes. We will be making sure that we have up-to-date, modern workplace legislation that takes care of Albertans.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Mr. Speaker, given that, in the words of the minister, the "government is getting consultations right" – it sounds like they're in secret as well – and given that every single business and employer group we have spoken with has expressed significant concern with both the length and process of the consultation and given that these groups simply want the government to extend them a basic level of respect by consulting them face to face, again to the minister. Minister, your consultation has failed. Will you do the right thing, reopen consultation and commit to meeting with affected stakeholders across the province face to face?

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

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Albertans have had workplace legislation that has not been updated since 1988. We need to make sure that we have legislation that takes care of Albertans. That means that you need to be willing to consult, to have those important meetings, and then make decisions, something the former government failed to do. We will continue our process, and I look forward to bringing forward fair and balanced suggestions for Albertans to review.

Thank you.

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

### Economic Development

**Ms Kazim:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency of Calgary-Glenmore I have investors and small and medium-sized businesses. During tough economic times these businesses take the lead in economic recovery. To the Minister of Economic Development and Trade: how important are small and medium-sized businesses to Alberta's economy? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order, please. [interjection] Government House Leader, we had a discussion yesterday.

The hon. minister.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'll thank the member for asking about the impact that small and medium-sized businesses have on Alberta's economy. I can tell you that Alberta businesses have a bigger economic impact than businesses anywhere in the country. They inject about a hundred billion dollars of GDP per year into our hometowns and neighbourhoods, and together they're responsible for 32 per cent of Alberta's GDP as well as 36 per cent of all private-sector employment in the province. In March Alberta created more than 20,000 new full-time jobs, many of which came from small businesses.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Ms Kazim:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been a tough few years for Alberta businesses and families in my constituency and in the province. To the Minister of Economic Development and Trade: what signs are you seeing of economic recovery?

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'll thank the member for the question. To quote the Minister of Finance, we definitely are seeing some green shoots in our economy. Drilling starts are up 130 per cent over last year, our exports are up 37 per cent year over year, and last month wholesale trade rose to its highest level in two years. Economists are forecasting that Alberta will lead the country in economic growth, putting us back on top, where we belong. Again, they've cited our historic infrastructure build along with two pipeline approvals.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Ms Kazim:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were proud of the fact that we led the country in private capital investment last year. To the Minister of Economic Development and Trade: what are we expecting for this year? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Quiet.

**Mr. Bilous:** Mr. Speaker, in 2016 we led the country in private-sector capital investment at \$53.8 billion, setting records in a variety of sectors. In 2016 we had the highest per capita investment in construction, petroleum, chemical manufacturing, retail trade, transportation, and warehousing. In oil and gas extraction Alberta had the highest level of investment in 2016, just shy of \$25 billion, far ahead of the next province, which was B.C., at \$4.5 billion.

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

### Calgary Growth Management Board

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Changes to the Municipal Government Act mean that we will now have a mandatory growth board in the Calgary and surrounding areas. Given that voluntary partnerships are always preferable to forced collaboration and given that making the growth boards mandatory will not necessarily overcome underlying issues, especially in some communities that have already worked countless hours on regional priorities, to the minister: why is it necessary to mandate this partnership, and how are you working to address the concerns of all the communities affected by this change?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Collaboration is a no-brainer. The CRP is a voluntary board, and the Calgary Growth Management Board is something that we're bringing in with the communities around Calgary, including Calgary. We are working with them. I was just down there last week, actually. I had a great meeting with them, really positive, fantastic, incredible actually. My commitment to them was to work with them to make sure that as elected officials in that region we are working together in the best interests of all the people of that region.

**Mrs. Aheer:** Well, some towns, including Black Diamond and Turner Valley, who are currently part of the CRP, will not be part of the new growth board, and given that they've been told by the minister's office that the membership will be limited to towns of over 5,000 and, further, that they are now going to have to work through the rural counties to contribute to the discussions, how will smaller urban areas have an effective voice in this new organization?

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you to the member for the question. What she said is actually untrue. Black Diamond and Turner Valley will have the opportunity to create ICFs with the municipalities around them to work with the growth management board on the things that are important to them. That's what's important, making sure that the locally elected officials can make decisions that affect their residents. I committed to that, and I will do that going forward.

**The Speaker:** Hon. minister, I think you maybe meant to say incorrect rather than untrue.

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Yes.

**The Speaker:** The second supplemental.

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the problem of the voting structure has been a big issue for the municipalities who are involved, and given that the decision-making mechanism is the critical point in these relationships and that the surrounding municipalities are understandably concerned about ending up with a voting structure that will result in the loss of their voices, to the minister: please explain your plan for this voting formula, and please also explain to Albertans what your office is doing to ensure that that structure is fair.

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

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. It's a two-thirds majority and two-thirds of the population. What it means is that the people in that area will have to get together, the affected municipalities and the districts there, to work together on the plans for their regions. The growth

management board isn't going to go outside and make some plan for a little town that can do their own things in their own area. They will create ICFs, which is collaboration, which is working together for the benefit of everybody.

### School Fees and Education Funding

**Mr. Ellis:** Mr. Speaker, this government's decision to place their priority on taking a stab at fulfilling a campaign promise to reduce school fees is putting a financial stress on individual school budgets. Some administrators are considering drastic measures to absorb a budget shortfall for the coming school year, and at least one school board has increased some parents' busing fees to cover a shortfall that you created. I do not understand how this makes sense. Minister of Education, will you commit today that no teachers will lose their jobs and that class sizes will not increase?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

2:40

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to answer this question on behalf of the Minister of Education. Of course, we're proud of the work that we're doing to make life better for Albertans, including investing in schools. We're making sure that we're funding for enrolment growth. Of course, if the opposition is so concerned about the welfare of students, they would have voted for our budget instead of advocating for \$4 billion in cuts to government spending, which would mean firing teachers and having larger classrooms.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that schools are already struggling under the weight of the carbon tax and given that this fee reduction hands school administrators another unexpected cost that they have to absorb and given that you have claimed that no teachers will be laid off because of this rushed campaign promise but that schools have to find the money somewhere and are worried that they will have to lay off teachers, which means that class sizes will increase, Minister, is this not another unintended consequence of this rushed election promise?

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

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I'm happy to remind the members of the House about how our budget makes life better for Albertans by investing in schools, investing in more teachers to make sure that our students have the best access to education of any students in the country. You know, the members opposite want to cut \$4 billion from government spending, which will necessarily fire teachers, which will necessarily increase class sizes. For some reason they seem to think that that's okay when they propose it but want to criticize us for doing exactly the opposite.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Ellis:** Mr. Speaker, thank you. Given that the minister has admitted that he is fast-tracking the NDP's campaign promise by one year and given that schools are telling me that they cannot absorb the funding shortfall by September because their budgets are already set and given that they are asking for more time just to prepare for the cut in funding, Minister, will you give schools a desperately needed reprieve and delay this purely political policy change to at least the fall of 2018 so that teachers aren't laid off and class sizes are not increased?

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not only will we continue to invest in classrooms this year and in budgets going forward, but we'll also fight to make sure that those members opposite never have the chance to make the harmful cuts to schools, throwing teachers out of work and making sure that our students have the largest class sizes in the country. We will continue to work for the betterment of the people of Alberta over the next two years and make sure that every student knows what's at stake if those guys have a chance to make a budget again.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, you have 10 seconds to exit.

### Introduction of Bills

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

#### Bill 12

#### New Home Buyer Protection Amendment Act, 2017

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise to table for first reading Bill 12, the New Home Buyer Protection Amendment Act, 2017.

For most Albertans buying a new home is an investment in their future. It's an investment in their family, their kids, and their future home. It is one of the largest purchases we may make as Albertans, and when Albertans make that investment, they deserve the ability to make informed decisions and to feel secure in the knowledge that they are protected. Unfortunately, lack of oversight currently leaves new homebuyers exposed to risks because there are no specific requirements to be a residential builder. Right now in Alberta anyone can call themselves a builder and offer their services in home construction even if they have a documented history of fraud, weak finances, or no credentials.

If passed, Bill 12 will protect prospective homeowners by establishing a licensing system for homebuilders, providing homebuyers with a single source of information on builders and creating provisions to remove or suspend bad builders in order to protect people from negligent or unscrupulous businesses. Mr. Speaker, this government made a commitment to make Albertans' lives better, and that's what we're doing by ensuring that families can make informed decisions when purchasing a home from a licensed and qualified builder.

I want to again thank my incredible staff in Municipal Affairs for their hard work. They should be proud of themselves because I know I am.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 12 read a first time]

### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** The Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table four letters, one to the Minister of Labour and three to the Premier, all asking for extended and enhanced consultation with respect to the employment standards and labour code. The first one is from Willbros Canada, Jeremy Kinch, president and COO; the second from Krawford Construction, Colleen Kerfoot, VP finance; the third one from McSween Custom Fabricating, operations manager

Nelson Martin; and the last one from Fillmore Construction, Chris Fillmore, president.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Gill:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have five copies to table of the January 11, 2017, insult tweeted by Tzepporah Berman, which I referenced in my question today, in which she called Premier Clark of B.C. a lapdog for supporting the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Edmonton-Centre.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to table, in response to the Member for Drumheller-Stettler's concerns about the town of Hanna, an article from the *Hanna Herald* entitled Hanna Mayor Meets with Minister, in which he speaks of his meeting with the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, saying, "I felt our meeting was very productive and personally was put at ease with the outlook of the future of our region."

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Livingstone-MacLeod.

**Mr. Stier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just tabling two sets of documents that were spoken of this morning during Committee of the Whole, that were requested by the Chair, regarding the AUMA and the AAMD and C.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Out of respect for the House last week, I wanted to make sure that I didn't do 41 tablings. I could have. There were 41 different people who wrote in about this last week. There were 23 more today – I'll just do them all at the same time – along the lines of the hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek's, who suggested that these folks are really hoping that the Minister of Labour will take a much longer time to truly consult with people. It's about workers in Alberta deserving the ability to join a union without fear of reprisal, and it's been mentioned many times. I think they know it has. I really trust that they'll take a look at this.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

**Mrs. Littlewood:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table five copies of the executive summary from the submission from the postdoctoral associations of Alberta, Post-secondary Labour Relations Consultation Report for Alberta Advanced Education.

Oh, I see that the table officer is stopping me.

**The Speaker:** Would you like to continue?

**Mrs. Littlewood:** I am tabling it because I think that it will be relevant for the members to read the support that we have for Bill 7 from the postdocs.

Thanks.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members – I'd look to the Deputy Premier and Government House Leader – there was earlier a school group. I take it that the group has left by now.

**Ms Hoffman:** They've left. Thanks, though.

2:50

**The Speaker:** I believe we have at least two points of order. I'm trying to find one of them as we speak.

The Government House Leader.

#### Point of Clarification

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising under Standing Order 13(2), "The Speaker shall explain the reasons for any decision on the request of a Member." After standing up on the point of order after which you had admonished the Premier that this "applies to you as well," I did consult with the Premier. She indicated that she indeed finished her answer even though you were standing, and she apologizes for that.

But there are a couple of questions remaining around questions that might be interrupted by the Speaker or answers that might be interrupted by the Speaker because of noise from the other side or for some similar reason. The questions really are: does the clock stop automatically in terms of the time, or does the Speaker have to request the table to stop the clock? That's the first question.

Secondly, I just wanted to raise the issue that it's very difficult for someone to give an answer in two parts when it is divided by an admonishment from the Speaker. It might be advisable – and this is a suggestion – to restart the clock if something like that happens. But it does create real difficulty in providing a coherent answer to a question in question period when it is interrupted in that fashion.

I would ask if you could explain the application of this rule with respect to disruptions caused by the opposition.

**The Speaker:** Well, Government House Leader, with respect to your specific question about the timing, from my facts – I will check it again and report to you – I believe it is stopped at the time and then reactivated at the time that I ask it to happen.

**An Hon. Member:** Paused.

**The Speaker:** Paused. Excuse me.

Secondly, thank you to the Premier for the apology.

Related to the other topics you address, I believe, in fact, my office today – if not today, it will be tomorrow – has asked for a meeting with the House leaders to discuss the tone of this place and sharing the responsibility with me on behalf of all of these members so we can be proud of not only what we do in this Chamber but also how we do it. You, Government House Leader, will be invited to that meeting, and we will attempt to share the responsibility for making the tenor better along with the other House leaders.

I think there's a second point of order, Government House Leader, that you raised.

#### Point of Order Seeking Opinions

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Around about 2:15 this afternoon during question period the Member for Calgary-Greenway – I think it was his second supplemental question – demanded to know from the Premier or the Deputy Premier whether or not Tzepporah Berman thought, something to that effect, or what Tzepporah Berman might have thought about the government or something like that.

You know, I'm quoting from chapter 11 of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* at about page 502. I want to acknowledge, first of all, that the basic principle of freedom of speech is sort of the pre-eminent principle that is applied by the Speaker in this



place. However, some questions go well beyond the scope that is envisaged for them. On page 502:

In summary, when recognized in Question Period, a Member should:

- ask a question;
- be brief;
- seek information; . . .
- ask a question . . . within the administrative responsibility of the government or of the individual Minister addressed.

Further:

- a question should not:
  - be a statement, representation, argument, or an expression of opinion;
  - be hypothetical;
  - seek an opinion . . . legal or otherwise.

I'll leave a few here. Yeah. I think those are the relevant ones, Mr. Speaker.

Asking a minister or the Premier for their opinion of what the opinion of a third party might be isn't something that is in within the administrative responsibility of the government. It's hypothetical. It seeks an opinion. It violates a number of the principles that have been established with respect to questions. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it's beneath this place to ask such silly questions when there are real issues that the government is dealing with that could be addressed, but they need to be things that the government actually has some control over and not opinions of what someone else might be thinking. That's just silly.

**The Speaker:** The House leader for the third party.

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Contrary to what the hon. House leader has just said, this is not silly. This is not hypothetical. In fact, it is the exact opposite. It is very real, and this is a very serious concern.

We need to set the context, and I promise this will take only a short amount of time. He referred to Ms Berman as the co-chair of the Alberta oil sands advisory group. That is indeed what she is, but she's also a B.C. environmental activist who has likened the oil sands to the fictional wasteland of Mordor. We know that. We know that she's been a Greenpeace international campaigner. We know that she's been the cofounder of ForestEthics, and it's well documented that she's anti oil sands. This is all real.

We have the exact question here since the hon. House leader said he wasn't quite sure of the words.

[She's] taken her crusade against the Kinder Morgan pipeline to extreme ends and that includes calling people names when she disagrees with them and given that a public example of this behaviour is a January 11 tweet, which I will table today, in which she called Premier Clark [of B.C.] a lapdog for supporting Kinder Morgan's pipeline.

I will read the exact quote for you . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, I hope you're dealing with the procedure part, not the substance of the discussion.

**Mr. Rodney:** Absolutely. This deals with the fact that this is not silly or hypothetical; it is very real. From 3:38 p.m., 11th of January, 2017: "Saying yes to every project that the 1% & big polluters want is not leadership it's a lap dog @christyclarkbc #kindermorgan #bcpoli." You know, let's face it. If you look up "lapdog," it's simply a docile companion with no working function other than companionship. Mr. Speaker, the point being . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, which procedure would you be citing in your argument that makes the comment legitimate? The Government House Leader has submitted it under, I believe, 13.

**Mr. Rodney:** Okay. It's simply the fact that it is completely within the purview of the Premier's jurisdiction to hire and, indeed, fire people. Let's face it. The fact of the matter is that Albertans are absolutely aghast . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, I do now have the Blues.

The point of order that was argued by the Government House Leader was that – I'm trying to look for the correct one. If we look at *Beauchesne* 408 and 409, the Government House Leader, I believe, is correct. The question itself was poorly crafted, and it was not in keeping with the rules governing Oral Question Period in this particular House. Questions should not seek opinions, nor should they be argumentative but should seek information about government policy. The member may wish to brush up on the rules governing Oral Question Period. Please refer to *Beauchesne* 408 and 409.

3:00

## Orders of the Day

### Royal Assent

**Ms Hoffman:** Mr. Speaker, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor will now attend upon the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, if I might, it's been suggested that out of respect for the process and the Lieutenant Governor we would close laptops and related aspects.

Hon. members, I may need a half-ton truck to take the notes that I got today from each and every one of you.

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

[The Mace was draped]

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

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

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

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, and the Deputy Premier entered the Chamber. Her Honour took her place upon the throne]

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

**Her Honour:** You can, but I ask, first of all: would you please be seated.

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

- 1 An Act to Reduce School Fees
- 2 An Act to Remove Barriers for Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence
- 6 Northland School Division Act
- 7 An Act to Enhance Post-secondary Academic Bargaining

- 9 Marketing of Agricultural Products  
Amendment Act, 2017  
10 Appropriation Act, 2017  
202 Protecting Victims of Non-Consensual  
Distribution of Intimate Images Act

[The Lieutenant Governor indicated her assent]

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

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

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

[The Mace was uncovered]

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That is an excellent end to an eventful, interesting, and challenging at times week for you and all of us, and I would move, then, that we now adjourn until Monday at 1:30.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:06 p.m.]

## **Bill Status Report for the 29th Legislature - 3rd Session (2017)**

**Activity to Thursday, May 4, 2017**

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 number until the conclusion of the Fall Sitings.

### **Bill 1 — An Act to Reduce School Fees (Eggen)**

First Reading — 6 (*Mar. 2, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 105-10 (*Mar. 8, 2017 morn.*), 192-96 (*Mar. 9, 2017 aft.*), 235-42 (*Mar. 14, 2017 morn.*), 269-71 (*Mar. 14, 2017 aft.*), 273-74 (*Mar. 15, 2017 morn., adjourned*), 282-91 (*Mar. 15, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 424-31 (*Mar. 21, 2017 aft.*), 556-58 (*Apr. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 674-78 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 4, 2017 aft.*)

### **Bill 2\* — An Act to Remove Barriers for Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence (Ganley)**

First Reading — 67-68 (*Mar. 7, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 110-11 (*Mar. 8, 2017 morn.*), 192 (*Mar. 9, 2017 aft.*), 314-22 (*Mar. 15, 2017 aft.*), 336-39 (*Mar. 16, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 455-59 (*Mar. 22, 2017 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 678-79 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 4, 2017 aft.*)

### **Bill 3\* — Voluntary Blood Donations Act (Hoffman)**

First Reading — 208 (*Mar. 13, 2017 aft., passed.*)

Second Reading — 323-36 (*Mar. 16, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 394-400 (*Mar. 21, 2017 morn.*), 421-24 (*Mar. 21, 2017 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 472-80 (*Mar. 23, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 30, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 30, 2017; SA 2017 cV-5 ]

### **Bill 4 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2017 (\$)**

First Reading — 191 (*Mar. 9, 2017 aft, passed*)

Second Reading — 306-07 (*Mar. 15, 2017 aft., adjourned*), 322 (*Mar. 15, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 389-93 (*Mar. 21, 2017 morn.*)

Third Reading — 449-52 (*Mar. 22, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 30, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 30, 2017; SA 2017 c2 ]

### **Bill 5 — Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2017 (\$) (Ceci)**

First Reading — 266 (*Mar. 14, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 310-14 (*Mar. 15, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 393-94 (*Mar. 21, 2017 morn.*)

Third Reading — 452-55 (*Mar. 22, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 30, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 30, 2017; SA 2017 c1 ]

**Bill 6 — Northland School Division Act (Eggen)**

First Reading — 524 (*Apr. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 558-61 (*Apr. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Committee of the Whole — 671-74 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Third Reading — 755-59 (*May 2, 2017 morn., passed*)  
Royal Assent — (*May 4, 2017 aft.*)

**Bill 7 — An Act to Enhance Post-secondary Academic Bargaining (Schmidt)**

First Reading — 552 (*Apr. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 679-81 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft.*)  
Committee of the Whole — 810-15 (*May 3, 2017 morn.*), 828-38 (*May 3, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Third Reading — 865-66 (*May 4, 2017 morn., passed*)  
Royal Assent — (*May 4, 2017 aft.*)

**Bill 8\* — An Act to Strengthen Municipal Government (S. Anderson)**

First Reading — 577 (*Apr. 10, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 691-700 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn.*), 716-22 (*Apr. 20, 2017 aft.*), 780-84 (*May 2, 2017 aft., passed on division*)  
Committee of the Whole — 784-95 (*May 2, 2017 aft.*), 838-45 (*May 3, 2017 aft.*), 855-65 (*May 4, 2017 morn., passed with amendments*)

**Bill 9 — Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2017 (Carlier)**

First Reading — 606 (*Apr. 11, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 683-87 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn., passed*)  
Committee of the Whole — 687-90 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn., passed*)  
Third Reading — 759-62 (*May 2, 2017 morn., passed*)  
Royal Assent — (*May 4, 2017 aft.*)

**Bill 10 — Appropriation Act, 2017 (\$) (Ceci)**

First Reading — 670-71 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft., passed on division*)  
Second Reading — 690-91 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn.*), 700-02 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn.*), 722-23 (*Apr. 20, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Committee of the Whole — 762-67 (*May 2, 2017 morn.*), 795-97 (*May 2, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Third Reading — 799-810 (*May 3, 2017 morn.*), 845-47 (*May 3, 2017 aft., passed on division*)  
Royal Assent — (*May 4, 2017 aft.*)

**Bill 11 — Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Amendment Act, 2017 (Gray)**

First Reading — 771 (*May 2, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 849-55 (*May 4, 2017 morn., adjourned*)

**Bill 12 — New Home Buyer Protection Amendment Act, 2017 (S. Anderson)**

First Reading — 877 (*May 4, 2017 aft., passed*)

**Bill 201 — Justice System Accountability Act (Jean)**

First Reading — 127 (*Mar. 8, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 208-20 (*Mar. 13, 2017 aft., defeated on division*)

**Bill 202\* — Protecting Victims of Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Act (Cyr)**

First Reading — 245 (*Mar. 14, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 375-86 (*Mar. 20, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Committee of the Whole — 578-86 (*Apr. 10, 2017 aft., passed with amendments*)  
Third Reading — 738-40 (*May 1, 2017 aft., passed on division*)  
Royal Assent — (*May 4, 2017 aft.*)

**Bill 203 — Alberta Standard Time Act (Dang)**

First Reading — 253 (*Mar. 14, 2017 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 496-503 (*Apr. 3, 2017 aft., referred to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future*)

**Bill 204 — Protection of Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2017 (Stier)**

First Reading — 444 (*Mar. 22, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 503-07 (*Apr. 3, 2017 aft., adjourned*)

**Bill 205 — Advocate for Persons with Disabilities Act (Jansen)**

First Reading — 552 (*Apr. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)

**Bill Pr1 — Calgary Jewish Centre Amendment Act, 2017 (Kazim)**

First Reading — 524 (*Apr. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)

**Bill Pr2 — Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act (MacIntyre)**

First Reading — 524 (*Apr. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)



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