



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, March 8, 2018

Day 1

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

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

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

Party standings:

New Democratic: 54 United Conservative: 25 Alberta Party: 3 Alberta Liberal: 1 Progressive Conservative: 1 Independent: 1 Vacant: 2

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Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel		Gareth Scott, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

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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
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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
Sandra Jansen	Minister of Infrastructure
Danielle Larivee	Minister of Children's Services
Brian Mason	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
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Parliamentary Secretaries

Jessica Littlewood	Economic Development and Trade for Small Business
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Dang	Turner
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Loewen	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

3 p.m.

Thursday, March 8, 2018

The Sergeant-at-Arms: Order! All rise, please.

[The Clerk read the Royal Proclamation dated February 14, 2018, summoning the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to convene on this date]

The Clerk: Please be seated.

[The Sergeant-at-Arms left the Chamber]

The Sergeant-at-Arms: Order! Order! Mr. Speaker.

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Speaker, accompanied by the officers of the Assembly, entered the Chamber and took the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Good afternoon, fellow parliamentarians.

I would ask that we please each bow our heads and let each of us in our own way pray or reflect. We are the blessed daughters and sons of indigenous people, of pioneers, and of immigrants from every part of our world. We are here because of our elders, whose sacrifice, hard work, and wisdom paved a path. We exist and are strong due to our shared love and compassion for each other. We thrive because of our families and this land's bounty. We are blessed because of both our diverse and also shared beliefs passed down from our mothers and our fathers. We are here to fulfill our shared commitment and responsibility to make a better world. Let us never fail in our duty to serve and lead through example for the sake of our children's children and all those who come after us. Let us be defenders of democracy and models of it.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would now invite Mr. R.J. Chambers, accompanied by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, to lead us in the singing of our national anthem. Please join in the language of your choice.

Hon. Members and Guests:

O Canada, our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

The Speaker: Please be seated.

Presentation to the Assembly of Hon. Jason Kenney Member for Calgary-Lougheed

The Speaker: I would invite the Official Opposition House Leader to proceed to the main doors of the Chamber.

Hon. members, I have received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta the report of the returning officer for the constituency of Calgary-Lougheed containing the results of the by-election conducted on December 14, 2017, which states that a by-election was held in the constituency of Calgary-Lougheed and that the Hon. Mr. Jason Kenney was duly elected as the Member for Calgary-Lougheed.

[Mr. Nixon escorted Mr. Kenney to the Mace]

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to introduce to you and to this Chamber the Hon. Mr. Jason Kenney, the new Member for Calgary-Lougheed, who has taken his oath as a member of this Assembly, has inscribed the roll, and now claims his right to take his seat.

The Speaker: Let the hon. member please take his seat.

Entrance of the Lieutenant Governor

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

[The Mace was draped]

The Speaker: Hon. members, the Royal Canadian Artillery Band musical interlude will now be played. The piece to be performed is *Concerto in C Major*. This concerto for double trumpets is one of the few solo works of the early 1700s to feature brass instruments. It is the only such piece by Vivaldi. What is remarkable is that the work itself is among Vivaldi's best known creations, yet we know very little about it. The material is appropriately flashy and fanfarelike, marked allegro, while propelled by vigorous rhythmic support, much like this Chamber occasionally is.

The RCA Band, Canada's oldest regular army band, was formed in Quebec City in 1879. It was subsequently stationed in Montreal and in Halifax. It is now claimed by our province of Alberta. It has been in service in both world wars and in Korea, and it has travelled across Canada and beyond our borders. Reconstituted in Edmonton in 1997, the band today is under the direction of Captain Christopher Embree, CD, who is in the Speaker's gallery.

Please enjoy listening to the Royal Canadian Artillery Band brass ensemble performing Vivaldi's *Concerto in C Major*.

[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: Ladies and gentlemen, 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.

[A fanfare of trumpets sounded]

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

Her Honour: Please sit down.

Speech from the Throne

International Women's Day

Her Honour: Fellow Albertans, welcome to this, the first day of the new session of your Legislature. We gather today on the traditional territory of Treaty 6 and acknowledge the Métis people of Alberta, who share a deep connection with this land.

I also want to acknowledge that today is International Women's Day. In the halls above this Chamber are tributes to Alberta's Famous Five, whose historic win ensured that many Canadian women were considered persons. Much later indigenous women

won that same recognition. Throughout our history women in Alberta have done great things, women such as the recently retired Beverley McLachlin, a brilliant and proud Albertan, who left her mark on her country and our Supreme Court as Chief Justice. Alberta women won medals for our country in six events at the recent Olympics. Alberta was the first province in Canada to have a cabinet where the majority of ministers are women. On this International Women's Day we recognize these successes and more. Women's rights are human rights, and your government celebrates them.

Saluting Alberta's Heroes

As citizens of Alberta, people who proudly celebrate one another, we also defend one another. When tested, Albertans come through for each other. Again this past year we were tested, by terror in our capital and fire in our south. Again Albertans stepped up to defend one another. We saw that in the brave and selfless efforts of James Hargrave, a volunteer firefighter tragically lost battling a wildfire near Hilda, and in the unbreakable resolve of Constable Mike Chernyk of the Edmonton police, who protected his neighbours when their lives were threatened. On behalf of all Albertans, thank you. And to the family of Mr. Hargrave, our deep condolences for your loss.

Courage, resilience, generosity, and openness are found in every corner of our province. When we're down, we help each other up. And we know that no matter who we are, however we worship, where we come from, or who we love, we are stronger when we look out for one another.

Ensuring Canadian Tidewater Access for Alberta Energy

That applies to Canada, too. Albertans fuel the economic strength of this great country. We are hard-working people who create wealth and jobs across Canada, we are forward-looking people who know climate change requires us to look out for the world we leave for the next generation, and we are practical people, united in the conviction that a new pipeline to the Canadian coast must be built and our land lock must end.

Canada's decades-long inability to diversify our export markets is holding us back, all of us. Billions of dollars for schools, hospitals, and public services have evaporated, thousands of good jobs have been tossed aside, and money that should be in the pockets of working Canadians has been redirected south of our border.

The dispute British Columbia triggered with its attack on Canadian workers will not stand. We won't let it. We have been vigilant in defending our workers, and we will remain vigilant. When the city of Burnaby tried to block the Trans Mountain pipeline in court, your government intervened. When the government of British Columbia tried to overstep its authority and regulate something it has no right to regulate, your government stepped up. We shut down talks about electricity sales to British Columbia, talks that could have meant up to \$500 million per year for them; we banned British Columbia wine from Alberta shelves; and we brought together a task force of experts and notable Canadians to provide us with the best advice. Those measures were effective in getting British Columbia to back away from the illegal point in their plan and effective in making sure all Canadians knew our resolve.

We refuse to let anyone turn their backs on the thousands upon thousands of working people in our energy sector. Some people have asked how far we are willing to go. Today we reaffirm that we will do whatever it takes. In the past when workers in our energy industry were attacked and when the resources we own were threatened, Premier Peter Lougheed took bold action. Your

government has been clear: every option is on the table. We will not hesitate to invoke similar legislation if it becomes necessary owing to extreme and illegal actions on the part of the B.C. government to stop the pipeline. Make no mistake. Alberta has no desire to take this step, but it is important that B.C. and the country know that we will do whatever it takes to make sure our constitutional rights are respected as partners in Confederation.

Albertans are united. We will remain united. Together we will get this pipeline built.

Choices Made during the Downturn

The last few years have underscored our need to diversify our markets and diversify our economy. When your government was first elected, we inherited an economy in free fall. The boom had ended, and the bust had just begun. But this bust was unlike others that had come before, different not only for its severity but in how we chose to respond, by working to make life better and putting the priorities of regular people first. We did not rest idle or turn our backs on the day-to-day needs of people and families.

Based on the solid advice of David Dodge, the former governor of the Bank of Canada, we invested in bricks and mortar, tarmac and rails and put Albertans to work building our province. A new cancer centre is being built in Calgary. On Edmonton's growing south side we are planning a new hospital. Both will serve patients and families for generations.

After years of overcrowding, hundreds of new schools have either been built or are under construction. More will be announced this year.

In the Industrial Heartland new petrochemical plants are on the way.

Better highways, bridges, and overpasses are being built across Alberta.

The construction of the green line in Calgary is the largest public infrastructure project in the city's history. It will create tens of thousands of jobs, and when complete, it will serve more than 60,000 people every day.

Not only did these efforts help rebuild and re-energize our cities and towns; these efforts supported and created tens of thousands of jobs for Albertans when those jobs were needed most.

With our plan working and the private sector regaining strength, your government will again act on the advice of Mr. Dodge and bring the level of public-sector capital spending down. But make no mistake. Unlike previous years when infrastructure announcements were made in front of empty fields that would remain empty indefinitely, the projects your government has already announced will be built.

Things Are Looking Up

The cumulative impact of making different choices is paying off. Although there is more work to do to make sure each and every Albertan benefits from the recovery, things are looking up. Our province is leading Canada in economic growth. Our economy is diversifying. Almost 90,000 people have found a new full-time job over the last year.

Signs that things are looking up don't stop there. Manufacturing is up. Housing starts, exports, and retail sales are up. So too is drilling activity and earnings. We steered our way through the recession by focusing on the fundamentals: good jobs, day-to-day affordability, and public services people and families can rely on.

Now that the economic recovery is here, we will keep our focus on the priorities of regular people. This time the economic recovery will be built to last. It's to that plan that we now turn our attention.

Diversifying Our Economy

Albertans want off the resource royalty roller coaster. Rather than sitting back and hoping for the best, your government's main priority for this legislative session will be to further diversify our economy and build a more resilient future. Thankfully, we are not starting from a standstill. Action already taken is paying off. More workers are finding more jobs in manufacturing, tourism, and renewable energy. This is encouraging, but more can and must be done.

With the economy looking up, now is the time to help more Albertans find jobs in new areas of opportunity. Toward that end, three bills will be aimed at diversifying our economy. The first bill will focus on diversification within the energy sector. As we work to diversify the markets our energy resources can access via pipeline, we will also do more to add value to our resources right here at home. The second bill will focus on diversification across our economy. The third bill will focus on laying the groundwork for new renewable energy jobs and an electricity system with more stable prices. Let's look at each of those measures in turn.

Diversifying Our Energy Sector

We begin with our traditional strengths in the energy sector. Guided in part by the advice of the Energy Diversification Advisory Committee, your government will act boldly to help the industry innovate and diversify. We believe the public sector can and should help foster the next generation of technology in our energy sector. Through Bill 1, the Energy Diversification Act, Alberta will support the commercialization of the partial upgrading of our bitumen. This will increase the number of refineries that can accept our energy resources, increase pipeline capacity by removing the need for diluent for some of our exports, and create good jobs.

In addition, we will embark on the second phase of petrochemical diversification to further broaden our recovery and further diversify our economy. The first phase exceeded expectations. We received nearly double the number of applications we expected. Taken together, those applications represented more than \$20 billion in potential investment in Alberta. We want to seize that investment potential and build on this success with more petrochemical plants, plants that will employ more Albertans and put more of our feedstock to use in new and prosperous ways. And when it comes to that feedstock, we will work with industry to incentivize investment in new straddle plants to separate high-value natural gas liquids from Alberta natural gas, creating jobs in value-added industries, diversifying our products and our markets.

These measures are not one-off fixes. They are part of a long-term plan to put our province on a more diversified and resilient economic footing.

Diversifying through Education, Training, and Business Development

While your government works to diversify our traditional strengths, we will also diversify by helping other sectors of our economy grow. The second bill your government will table before this Legislature will be the Growth and Diversification Act. This act will expand existing tax credits, introduce new tax credits, place major resources behind education and training, and help make postsecondary education more affordable. We will extend the capital investment and Alberta investor tax credits to help businesses grow and expand.

We will also support job creation in digital industries with a new digital industries tax credit. This act will also create thousands of

new spaces in our postsecondary institutions dedicated to technology, an investment that will enable more Albertans to get the education and training they need to get good jobs in this growing sector. At the same time we will continue to make postsecondary education costs here more competitive with costs elsewhere. The tuition freeze will be continued, saving students up to \$1,500 on a four-year degree. To keep education affordable and to protect the gains we have made on behalf of students and families, any future tuition increase will be capped by law. To make education more accessible and affordable in northwest and central Alberta, colleges in Grande Prairie and Red Deer will begin their path to becoming degree-granting institutions.

Diversifying Our Electricity Sector

Your government will create new jobs and protect people from wild electricity price swings. Since Alberta's electricity system was deregulated, families, businesses, and investors have been subject to volatile electricity costs. That volatility was keeping investors on the sidelines. At the same time, the electricity system generated harmful air pollution, with Alberta burning more coal than every other province combined. We had a choice. We could change nothing and leave families exposed to price spikes, we could change nothing and leave our health and environment exposed to pollution, or we could act to make sure consumers have more predictable bills, investors have more certainty, and our electricity mix is diversified into wind, solar, and natural gas.

We chose to act. Last year Alberta's renewable energy auction secured new renewable energy at the lowest cost in Canadian history. This year we will see more low-cost renewables and more work to make sure communities across Alberta, including indigenous communities, see the economic benefits.

We will also lay the groundwork for a more stable electricity system by introducing legislation to create a capacity market. Our province needs billions of dollars in new investment to keep our electricity reliable and efficient. A capacity market will enable us to get the new, low-cost electricity supply Alberta will need to power our long-term economic prosperity. The old model relied on squeezing consumers to attract investors. The new model will attract investors through stability and reliability. While we take the time to implement a new, more stable system, our electricity price cap will continue to protect consumers from the sudden price spikes they've endured since deregulation.

As Canada moves toward cleaner ways to generate electricity, we will support the communities that have powered our province for generations. We have made sure some coal plants are able to convert to natural gas. We are helping coal workers with a \$40 million fund to support training, retirement security, and economic development. Taken together, these efforts will help further smooth out the bumps between boom and bust, diversifying our economy into green energy and green energy jobs, and help make sure this economic recovery works for working people.

Path Back to Balance

Another legacy of our province's boom-and-bust history is wild government spending swings, swings that created uncertainty for people. When your government was first elected, we outlined a plan that invested in people when times were bad but which would also return to a path to balance when times were better. Key to that plan is smoothing out those spending swings and making sure our schools, hospitals, and public service providers can count on stable, predictable funding.

Last week we released our third-quarter update. Coupled with an improving economy, the deficit is lower than projected, in keeping with the plan to which we have been working.

In the coming weeks we will release our budget. It will show that our economy continues to grow and diversify. It will also show that as we move toward a balanced budget, our dependence on nonrenewable resource revenue will be lower than what it has been historically.

The path to balance will also require working in partnership with the public sector to reduce costs. The people who work across our public sector are integral to the services Albertans rely on. We have already reached practical agreements, with no raises and better job stability, with many labour partners, including teachers and nurses, and a tentative agreement has been reached with our allied health professionals such as paramedics, lab technologists, and X-ray technologists.

We have also extended the pay freeze that covers all government managers for two more years while also expanding its reach. At the same time, your government is committed to making sure taxes on people and businesses remain the lowest in Canada.

Making Government Work for People

As we stay on track to balance the budget, we will continue to make sure your government puts regular people first. That means getting rid of long-standing executive perks and insider excess, all of which have been paid for by the many but enjoyed by the few. We have significantly reduced hospitality and travel costs and eliminated ridiculous perks like taxpayer-funded golf club memberships for well-paid executives of public bodies. We will continue to reduce salaries for executives and board members.

Building on our work to reduce exorbitant salaries in government agencies, boards, and commissions, work that has seen salaries cut significantly, with some executives seeing their salaries cut to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, we will now focus on our postsecondary institutions. We owe it to our students to ensure that funding for education goes where it belongs, the classroom.

We will also continue our work to take big money out of politics. The days of union and corporate donations are done. Strict spending and contribution limits are now in force, and new accountability measures for third-party advertising have been put into law.

To further assure Albertans that their government is working for them, not for insiders, not for campaign donors, and not for special interests, this session we will also act on the advice of an all-party committee and reform Alberta's lobbyist laws.

Protecting Albertans from Crime

Across Alberta, from our rural communities to our urban centres, every Albertan deserves to feel safe. Today in Alberta, especially in rural areas, people are concerned for the safety of their homes, their property, and the well-being of those they love. That must change.

Your government invests more than half a billion dollars annually into police services across the province. Our police officers serve and protect Albertans with a bravery and dedication that is unmatched.

Yet more can be done to protect people and property and help Albertans feel safe. Together with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police we have developed new initiatives to combat rural crime. The focus will be to act on the advice of our police and law enforcement experts, including specific measures to better address the challenges of policing in rural communities and new measures to make sure people who refuse to obey the law are held to account.

This includes investing in new bait-and-tracking technology, including technology related to farm equipment, new measures to help police spend less time on paperwork and more time on the street, and putting boots on the ground where they're needed most to protect families.

Working with Indigenous People

When your government was first elected, we made a government-wide commitment to make sure that the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples was respected in all policy deliberations. Your government is working to keep that promise, and it is paying dividends. Initiatives such as affordable housing for indigenous people living off-reserve, the climate leadership plan, the renewable energy program, the curriculum review, work to better protect children in care, and more have all been strengthened because they engaged indigenous people and their interests in a constructive and practical dialogue.

We recently finished consultations with the people who were robbed of their families, communities, and language during the '60s scoop. The purpose of those consultations was to bring their suffering to light and help to reconcile this destructive legacy with a formal apology. Work will continue on this important matter.

We have invested to make sure First Nations communities in Alberta will have the infrastructure necessary to bring safe, clean, reliable drinking water to people. This year that work continues.

The Opioid Crisis

The opioid overdose crisis affects the lives of a growing number of Alberta families. Every affected person has a right to dignity, respect, and medical care. In this session your government will introduce legislation to ensure safety and quality care in private treatment facilities. We will provide more public treatment options, more harm reduction services, and more public education.

Driven by the best advice, scientific research, and evidence on how more lives can be saved, we will expand access to supervised consumption services. This work will continue to be guided by a diverse and committed emergency response commission that includes public health leaders, law enforcement, community workers, and Albertans who have experienced this crisis first-hand.

Addressing Inequality

When government fails to work for people, inequality rises. Since coming to office, your government has ensured that Alberta makes progress in building a fairer province. Too often in recoveries of the past the poor and most vulnerable have been left behind. This time we will make sure the economic recovery works for everyone.

That is why we have protected funding for our schools, hospitals, and the services on which Albertans rely, and it is why we will continue to protect and improve public services. It is why hundreds of thousands of families have received financial support through the Alberta child benefit and the enhanced Alberta family employment tax credit. It is why we have built more affordable housing for people and introduced better supports for seniors. It is why we have made changes to help protect LGBTQ2S youth, including new guidelines within our housing and homelessness system that are the first of their kind in Canada. It is why this year we will have a minimum wage of \$15 per hour.

We introduced a new school nutrition program to help kids get a good, healthy meal to start the day. This year that program will expand. We pioneered a new, affordable, high-quality child care program so the paycheques of new parents go further. This year that

program will also expand. Your government will take action in response to the child intervention panel so we can do more to help vulnerable children and to reduce the number of indigenous children in government care.

More also needs to be done to make sure every Albertan can live to their fullest potential. Accordingly, your government will support our most vulnerable neighbours by improving income support programs. We are also conducting a review of the persons with developmental disabilities program to determine how best to support persons living with disabilities.

Finally, owing to the bravery and resolve of women speaking out about sexual violence, we are facing up to a reality that unfolds daily in the lives of countless women. We hear them, and we stand with them. That's why we have invested to expand counselling and crisis services so more survivors who take the brave step to come forward have the supports they need.

Looking to the Future with Optimism

With the economic recovery upon us and as working Albertans get back on their feet, now is the time for unity. Our task together is to make sure this recovery works for working people. This recovery must be more diverse and long lasting.

It is time to look to the future with confidence, optimism, and the determination to build a more resilient economy, one that puts the economic security of people first. It is time to build on our traditional strengths and help Albertans seize a broad range of opportunity. It is time to overcome our land lock. A new Canadian pipeline to the Canadian coast must be built. Whatever differences members of this Assembly may have, we must move forward united.

Differences over strategy and tactics are healthy, democratic, and always encouraged. At the same time, we must resolve to make sure those differences remain rooted in our love for this great province. We are Albertans, all of us. We all want our province to succeed and our citizens to prosper. Let no one in this Chamber, this province, or this country cheer for Alberta to fail. We must stand united in defence of our collective security and well-being. Together we will get a pipeline built to the coast. Together we will diversify our export markets. Together we will unleash the potential of this province and its people.

To those who would say that Alberta's best days are behind us, we have proven them wrong, and we will continue to prove them wrong. Alberta's best days will always be ahead when we are home to diverse, talented, hard-working people.

This recovery is proving things can be done differently and that good things happen when governments proudly stand on the side of working Albertans. Our task is to make sure this recovery keeps working for working people, which is exactly what your government is committed to do.

Thank you, my friends and fellow Albertans.

God bless Alberta.

God bless Canada.

And God save the Queen.

The Sergeant-at-Arms: Order!

The Speaker: Ladies and gentlemen, I would now invite Mr. R.J. Chambers, accompanied by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, to lead us in the singing of *God Save the Queen*. Please remain standing at the conclusion.

Hon. Members and Guests:

God save our gracious Queen,

Long live our noble Queen,

God save The Queen!

Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save The Queen!

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Their Honours, their party, and the Premier left the Chamber as a fanfare of trumpets sounded]

The Speaker: Please be seated.

[The Mace was uncovered]

[The Premier returned to the Chamber]

The Speaker: Hon. members, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured and privileged to stand before you as Speaker of this Legislative Assembly to share a few words about a very significant anniversary. I'm referring to the 100th anniversary of the first two women to take their seats as legislators in this Legislative Assembly of Alberta. As well, it should be noted that these women were the first to be elected not only to our Assembly but to an Assembly anywhere in the British Empire, now the Commonwealth of Nations. On this day, International Women's Day, it is also with great pride that I say that a century after electing the first women to this Assembly, this 29th Legislature now hosts the largest number of women legislators in our history. Ought we not ask ourselves: why did it take so long?

On February 7, 1918, Louise McKinney and Roberta MacAdams were sworn in as Members of the Legislative Assembly in the fourth Legislature. Women in Alberta, at least some women, had gained the right to vote and hold office two years earlier, in April 1916, with the passage of the Equal Suffrage Statutory Law Amendment Act. In fact, it was only in the 1950s that barriers to the election of women and men on racial and religious grounds were eliminated. It was only in 1960 that all status indigenous people were finally granted the unconditional right to vote. The full enfranchisement of Albertans was only possible due to the sacrifice of many, many nameless Canadians who fought to move the dial slowly but surely forward towards equality.

In any event, Louise McKinney and Roberta MacAdams were elected in the provincial general election of 1917. McKinney was elected as the member for Claresholm, and MacAdams was elected for the province at large as a soldiers' overseas representative because she was serving in the First World War at the time of the election.

Louise McKinney and Roberta MacAdams were indeed remarkable individuals. McKinney was a dedicated social reformer who was active in the temperance and women's suffrage movements. She was also, later on, a member of the Famous Five, the group that advocated for women to be recognized as persons under the Canadian Constitution. In 1929 the United Kingdom's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council granted the status to Canadian women, thereby enabling women to be appointed to the Senate.

As an aside, as the members know, there is a wonderful exhibit dedicated to the Famous Five on the fifth floor of this legislative building. I encourage our guests here today to take time to visit that display.

Roberta MacAdams trained as a dietitian and joined the Canadian Army military corps in 1916, serving as a lieutenant during the First World War. Following her election in 1917, MacAdams became the first woman in the British Empire to introduce a bill, an Act to Incorporate the Great War Next-of-Kin Association. The bill was passed into law, giving legal recognition to this veterans' organization and reflecting MacAdams's dedication to veterans and their dependants.

As we embark upon the new session, as legislators, parliamentarians let us together remember the enduring contributions of

Louise McKinney and Roberta MacAdams and so many others who have come before us in this Assembly and in this great province.

Today let us celebrate the endowment made by women to our society and acknowledge the struggles that they still face at home and around the world, and let us commit to promoting equality and freedom and respect, no matter what Albertans' race, colour, creed, or gender identity may be.

Thank you.

Tablings

The Speaker: I have the honour, hon. members, to table a copy of the speech graciously given by Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Bill 1 Energy Diversification Act

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, hon. members. I'm very pleased this afternoon to introduce Bill 1, the Energy Diversification Act.

Diversifying our energy sector has been a dream of Albertans for decades, but it is our government that is taking action to make it happen. We are acting, Mr. Speaker, in the proud tradition of Peter Lougheed, who believed that government can and government

should help to foster the next generation of technology in our energy sector.

If passed, this bill would lead to the creation of programs to support partial upgrading of our bitumen as well as a program to boost the collection of raw resources needed in petrochemical manufacturing such as ethane. It will also launch a second round of a successful petrochemical diversification program. This legislation is part of a long-term plan, Mr. Speaker, for a more diversified and resilient energy sector, one that is built to last.

With that, I am truly proud and honoured to move the first reading of Bill 1. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 1 read a first time]

Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the speech of Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this Assembly be taken into consideration the week of March 12, 2018.

[Motion carried]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that the Assembly stand adjourned until Monday, March 12, at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:01 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 29th Legislature - 4th Session (2018)

Activity to Thursday, March 8, 2018

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 Sittings.

Bill 1 — Energy Diversification Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 6 (*Mar. 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

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