



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 17, 2018

Day 32

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

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Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (NDP)
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Vacant, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 17, 2018

[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 would like to introduce to you and through you the brilliant students from Eastview middle school in the spectacular constituency of Red Deer-South. The students are accompanied by their teachers and chaperones, and I would like to ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Little Bow.

Mr. Schneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my distinct privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly an amazing group of grade 11 students from the Calvin Christian School at Coalhurst, which is just a few minutes north of Lethbridge, as you know. It's always nice to have visitors from way down south up here at the Legislature to visit us. I met with these students, teachers, and chaperones as we had our picture taken, of course, out here on the steps leading to this Chamber. They also took part in the mock Legislature this morning over at the Federal Building. I understand that the young fellow that was doing your role as the Speaker – I stood beside him; I think he's about six foot four – is looking for your job here pretty quick. As I say your name, please stand: Johannes Gerardus Jacobus Lock, Jacqueline Oudshoorn, Albert Oudshoorn, Harry Oudshoorn, Christina Oudshoorn, and Geraldine Vanden Hoek. They must be behind me. There are some over there. I ask that the rest of the class please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. M. le Président, c'est avec fierté que je me lève à la Chambre aujourd'hui pour introduire students from the beautiful Covenant Christian school in Leduc. Today they debated a bill about making parents go to daycare for two hours at the end of the day, which I thought would be a great break from things. They are accompanied today by their teacher, Beth Gillard, and their chaperones: Roland Owens, Angela Cardinal, Tanya Dennis, Lidia Kuessher, and Pastor Dennis Gulley, whom I've also had the pleasure of meeting before. He's a fine gentleman. I wish they would rise, and if we could give them the warm greeting of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise today and introduce the guests from Morrin school in the diverse constituency of Drumheller-Stettler. I had a chance to meet with the folks from Delia school but not Morrin school today. Kealey Gordon is their teacher. I was wondering if the rest of the class would please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Are there any other school groups, hon. members? The Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got the honour of being able to introduce to you and through you a school from my constituency, the Holy Cross elementary school. It is an incredible school that both my children go to. I have the privilege today to say that one of my daughters, Amelia Cyr, actually is here in the stands with the grade 6 class. I also have to say that I think the teachers that come up here and do all the hard work to educate my children – I'd like to acknowledge them. If you could stand, please, as I read your names. Let's start with Mr. Clinton Lamarsh and Miss Laurence Dubois-Jolin. Those are the two teachers with the group. We've got the chaperones: Jacqueline Jorgensen, Sherrie Follett, Nadine Pritchett-Janvier, Anna Bekkema, Chris Bekkema, Olivia Larocque, Chris Vining, Samantha Walker-Dean, Amber Yantha, David Morrison, Leah Palmer, Lesley Mills, and Julia Colbourne. So we have quite a few people. If the rest of the students can stand so that we can give them a warm welcome from the Assembly, please.

The Speaker: Hon. member, they may not have been in the House yet.

Any other school groups?

The hon. Minister of Labour and democratic renewal.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly some amazing community leaders and volunteers from Edmonton's southeast. We're very fortunate in the southeast to have what is called the Mill Woods Presidents' Council, who meet together to share ideas to work collaboratively to build strong communities in the southeast. Today from the Mill Woods Presidents' Council we have Michelle Gosselin, president of the Summerside Community League, and Leigh Makarewicz, one of the volunteers from the North Millbourne Community League. These individuals are leaders in our community. They dedicate countless hours, and sometimes the Mill Woods Presidents' Council meetings are not short. I want to say thank you to them for all of the work that they do and recognize how important they are to our communities. With that, I'd like them to please stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members in the Chamber my courageous friends Kerri Workman and her partner, Malcolm Eyjolfson. They're from Calgary, and they are seated in your gallery. They're here today at the Legislature to speak to two ministries about the choking game and what can be done to prevent children from taking part in it and keep them safe. I'd like to ask them to rise and please receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

Cortes-Vargas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly guests from the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose. Today is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia. The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose works hard to raise funds for other organizations which provide services to the LGBTQ community, and it has become a yearly

tradition to bring the court and introduce them to the House. Here today is Empress 42 Kenya DeWitt, Emperor 42 Trey LePark Trash, and the other members of the court: Harvey Steele, Carrie Du'Way, Dyxson Kuntz, Melinda Verga, Jessie Cann-Dewitt, Christy Heely, Lady O Mercy, and Angelo Mercy. I would ask them to all stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a great group of individuals who work each and every day to protect one of the most important areas of our province, an area that many of us refer to affectionately as Alberta's west country, my backyard and their backyard. I'm glad to see them here today. I'd ask that they stand up as I say their names: Ronald Willert from Snow and Mud; Dean Bradko from the Lac Ste. Anne off-highway vehicle association; Garrett Schmidt from the Alberta committee for eastern slopes stewardship – I love your trails – Jason Smith from Safari Club International Red Deer; Calvin Rakach, my neighbour and friend from the Clearwater county trail initiative; and Brent Hodgson from the Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association. I thank them all for all their hard work that they do for the eastern slopes and ask that they receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to do three introductions today. The first is two constituents from Edmonton-Glenora, Karen and Alan Jones. They are seated in your gallery, and they are the very proud parents of Mark, one of our pages, who is seated directly below them. They are here to observe Mark in his role as a page. Mark attends Jasper Place high school, and he is a talented writer, long-distance runner, and a theatre enthusiast. I ask that his parents please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly.

1:40

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Hoffman: My second introduction, who is in the members' gallery, is the newest member of the board of directors for Alberta Health Services, Robb Foote. Robb is currently the executive director of Lakeland primary care network and the interim executive director for both Cold Lake and Bonnyville PCNs as well. After working with health care management in the United States for 15 years, Alberta's public health care system called him home. He is the proud father to Brenden, Joshua, Tyler, and Kaitlyn as well. I'd ask that Robb please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Hoffman: My final introduction, Mr. Speaker, is to recognize World Family Doctor Day, which is May 19. This year's theme is Family Doctors: Leading the Way to Better Health. I'd like to thank the Alberta College of Family Physicians for their leadership in improving the health of Albertans and for their work in promoting excellence in family medicine. Here today on their behalf are Dr. Fred Janke, president; Terri Potter, executive director; Susan Wong

Armstrong; Adam Filiatreault; Wendy Steele; Susan Soufi. Please rise and receive our appreciation. Yes, family docs do rock.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Klein.

Mr. Coolahan: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two sets of introductions today. First, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Dan and Erin Walker and their sons Damon and Keith. The Walkers are friends and constituents. I think Dan and I get along because he doesn't pay attention to politics. It's great to have them here today, and I'd ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Second but certainly not least, it is my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the three people that make fighting for a better Alberta not only possible but a great honour: my incredible partner and wife, an amazing mother and cook, Sarah, who really does it all – and the best thing is that she does it all for us – and also my wonderful children, my daughter, Mehna, and my son, Kieran. It's such a pleasure to have them here today. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. Hon. member, your son was shaking his head. I don't know what that means.

Mr. Coolahan: I noticed that.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of introductions today. First of all, it's my pleasure to introduce some of Alberta's physiotherapists and members of Physiotherapy Alberta College + Association who are seated in the public gallery. May is dedicated to physiotherapists as they dedicate their careers to the well-being of others. Physiotherapists work to help Albertans get moving and keep moving. I ask William Tung, Alayne Barreda, Simon Cooke, Tress Gibson, Allyson Jones, Jody Prohar, June Norris, and Leanne Loranger to please rise and receive the warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Schmidt: For my second introduction, Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to rise and introduce two dedicated volunteers, Michelle Devlin, a volunteer with the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation, and Tammy MacKay, a volunteer with the Tri-Community Health and Wellness Foundation. Both are seated in the members' gallery. They're dedicated to enhancing care in communities across Alberta, and they share a passion for philanthropy and building excellence in health care. I thank them for their contribution and partnership. I invite Michelle and Tammy to please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Any further introductions, hon. members? Please proceed.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the privilege to introduce my wife, Megan, who has come up, and my daughter Charlotte. I also have the fortune to have my sister Melonie Dyck, her daughters Annalise and Rebecca Dyck, and my nephew Matthew Dyck. It's great to have all of them come up and visit us in this Legislature.

It's also a privilege that I have Matthew here. He's a part of my member's statement that I'll be giving this afternoon. It is just an incredible honour to have all of you here.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Members' Statements

LGBTQ2S-plus Rights

Cortes-Vargas: Twenty years ago legal history was made. Julie Lloyd, Alberta's first openly gay judge, described this change in momentum in the landmark Delwin Vriend case, that has become the foundation for the protection of the rights of gender and sexual minorities.

All the ridiculous arguments that had been given to discriminate against gays and lesbians just started to fade away. They disappeared like a puff of smoke in the clear light of the Supreme Court. Each of the arguments was revealed to be specious, haranguing, alarmist and simply untrue.

Mr. Speaker, today is the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia. We must remember that the courts might provide the foundation, but it is those that are visible and vocal, that work every day on changing the culture, that truly eliminate discrimination.

I stand being visible alongside those that cannot park their identities. We stand with those that have experienced violence, job loss, bullying, and stigma because of who they are and for who they love. We stand alongside those who have paved the way, some through the courts and others, like the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose, who continue to redefine gender binaries. We stand with allies in the government that have not wavered in their commitment to support safe and inclusive spaces. We stand with regular Albertans that refuse to accept that their hard-fought rights are again under threat. We stand with equity and equality because it strengthens our community. We stand with more than just words.

Our government and our party will never waver when it comes to standing up for human rights. We will continue to fight for the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, nonconforming, questioning, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit, asexual, and gender nonconforming Albertans. We will not relent.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to take this opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions of Albertans with developmental disabilities to my community and to the province at large. We all have people in our communities and in our lives who face the challenges of living with a disability yet despite these hurdles are still able to add so much value – so much value – to our lives.

This weekend in my constituency of Bonnyville-Cold Lake we'll be recognizing one of these amazing individuals in a celebration of her retirement. The remarkable woman is Lynn McFarlane. She is retiring after an amazing 30 years with the Tri City Value Drug Mart in Cold Lake, and I want to wish her all the best going forward.

Mr. Speaker, prior to becoming a member of this House, I had the honour to serve as a volunteer director for the Dove Centre, which provides opportunity and support to those living with developmental disabilities in my constituency. I can say that it was a privilege to make a contribution to this cause, and I do my part to help members of our community who live with these disabilities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, on a more personal note, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge my nephews Matthew and Kaden, who live with autism and also bring so much joy to our family. To Matthew, Kaden, Lynn, and all Albertans with developmental disabilities: thank you for everything you contribute to our vibrant society.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Choking Game

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pass-out challenge, knockout game, space cowboy, cloud nine: these are some of the names that the choking game is known by. It's a risky practice of self-asphyxiation that many kids engage in, bringing themselves to the brink of passing out. Sadly, some kids suffer brain injuries, and some kids die. In October 2014, at the age of 11, my friend Kerri's son Bryce Eyjolfson was playing the game. She didn't know about it until she discovered him lifeless in his room. Most parents don't know about the choking game. Many school-aged kids do know about the game and probably know someone who's playing it.

Sometimes we hear reports of the choking game and deaths in the media, but rarely do we hear about injuries or near misses or about education or prevention. Deaths from the choking game are often classified as suicide, and Kerri and her partner, Malcolm, had to push to have their son's death reclassified. It was originally listed as suicide. Among the many videos available online, there are those that show how to play the choking game.

Kerri has offered to share her experiences with several ministers here today. I join her in the effort to bring attention to this dangerous practice and to urge for more education, both for the public and in our schools, so that we can keep our kids safe and families from having to experience the deep grief that I've seen my friends go through. I urge all of my colleagues to meet with Kerri and Malcolm while they're here and to learn about the impact of the choking game and to raise awareness.

Thank you.

1:50

Oral Question Period

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

Carbon Levy and Education Costs

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The carbon tax has been causing a great deal of economic hardship for school boards across Alberta. Every other week there is a story in a rural paper about an additional school board with a significant transportation budget deficit brought on, at least in part, by this burdensome tax. The Rocky View school board was pushed to the point where they had to ask parents' permission to divert funds out of the classroom in order to help cover their \$360,000 carbon tax payment. To the Premier: why do you continue to punish school boards across Alberta with this ideological tax?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have to tell you that as a former trustee it was actually the policies that were being proposed by the government of the day that inspired me to run, because it was very clear that there were going to be very deep cuts to education, far in excess of the price on carbon, that there were going to be children showing up in classrooms with no

additional resources for them in any way. While I appreciate that for any cost people pull out their books and try to find the best balance, I can tell you that I am so proud that we stopped those regressive cuts that were coming, and we're going to be fighting to do that again in 2019.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. School boards across Alberta continue to run budgetary shortfalls brought on, in part, by the massive carbon tax payments they are forced to make back to the government. The Department of Education projected that during the 2018 calendar year the carbon tax is expected to cost Alberta school boards as much as \$18 million. That represents the salaries of roughly 250 teachers. To the Premier: has your government completed an impact assessment for Alberta school boards which addresses the upcoming 67 per cent increase to the carbon tax?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I'm just going to remind everyone how many teachers and educational assistants have been hired because this government has fully funded enrolment, and that's 3,600. The Leader of the Opposition said: oh, well, we probably would have just frozen spending at 2015 levels. That's 3,600 teachers and educational assistants who wouldn't have been hired in this province. We are working with boards, and I'm so proud that we are funding students' enrolment, that we're funding new schools, hiring new teachers for classrooms instead of prioritizing \$700 million in tax breaks for the richest of Albertans. We're standing with ordinary families.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every time our caucus brings up the cost that the carbon tax is heaping on school boards across Alberta, we receive vague talking points in return, just like what we received now. Yesterday I brought forward the financial issues the Red Deer public school board is having, and the minister responded with vague platitudes or non answers. I'm concerned that this government is blinded by their belief in the carbon tax and is continually refusing to take this issue seriously. Again to the Premier. The education system requires leadership to keep all available dollars in the classroom. Will you do the right thing and scrap the carbon tax?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the right thing is taking leadership on supporting children, their classrooms, and the boards that help do that. That's why we've invested in education, allowing for the hiring of 3,600 new teachers and educational assistants, when the members opposite are talking about either freezing budgets or cutting them to 2015 levels. That would mean thousands of staff not there to support children. And guess what? We're also investing \$50 million from the carbon levy in a solar energy initiative that's expected to help schools reduce their carbon emissions by 5,300 tonnes. Children want to take leadership. They want to ensure that they have a good climate for future generations, and so does this government.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Economic Competitiveness

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week one of Alberta's most prominent business leaders said that the federal Liberal government's policies are scaring away investors and that Canada's economic competitiveness is in decline. Alberta families are the ones paying the price. Earlier this month Lafarge Canada announced that they are shutting down the ready-mix concrete operations for Bonnyville-Cold Lake due to a lack of economic viability. Minister, has this government raised these concerns with their Trudeau Liberal friends, and if so, when will we actually get an answer for this?

Ms Hoffman: We are proud to fight for the people of Alberta each and every day, Mr. Speaker, and we keep pushing the federal government to make sure that they keep Alberta as a top priority. We want to ensure that Albertans have strong opportunities for future generations and for this one as well. That's why we are so proud that we got two pipeline approvals, and one is very much on the brink of being able to break our land lock. We have approval to tidewater on the Canadian coast, and we are so proud of that, something that the federal government, when they were in Ottawa and we had federal Conservatives here as well, weren't able to do for nine years.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not only the federal Liberal government's lack of action that's sending a message to job creators. Imperial Oil's Aspen project is a proposed 150,000 barrels per day project. They have now been waiting four and a half years for the government of Alberta to give this project the green light, four and a half years of waiting on a multibillion-dollar job-creating project. A simple question to the government: do you actually think that this is an acceptable length of time, and what message is this sending to other prospective job creators in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much. We're very proud to work with the job creators of Alberta. That's why we were able to celebrate that there were 90,000 new full-time jobs coming to Alberta last year, mostly in the private sector, Mr. Speaker. We know that there are still families that haven't felt that direct uptake in the economy yet, and that's why we're continuing to push forward. That's why we were so happy that in April Canada's energy stocks rose by 7 per cent, with CNRL up 14 per cent and Suncor Energy up 10. Canadian-based Calfrac Well Services reported more than double its first-quarter revenue from last year. Things are trending up. We're working with industry, and we want to keep moving Alberta forward, including a pipeline.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A report from GMP FirstEnergy last month said, quote: we suspect we will see more oil sands divestitures from foreign companies in the coming years. End quote. The federal Liberal government's Bill C-69 will, according to the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, make it difficult to imagine that a new major pipeline can be built in Canada. These projects are creating jobs in Alberta and supporting Canadian families. Yesterday this government said that they had raised concerns with the federal government on Bill C-69. What specifically are they requesting to ensure that there aren't further job losses in Alberta?

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our government is very active in lobbying and pushing the federal government to ensure that we not only get our pipeline to tidewater, something that the Leader of the Opposition failed to do when he was in government in Ottawa for nine years, but also that we have access to get those products to the Asia Pacific markets that are really seeking those resources. We have no lessons to learn from the members opposite. They like to say that they got success on pipelines. I have to say that a pipeline to Jasper is not a pipeline to tidewater. Thanks for trying, but this side of the House has got the job under control.

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

Methane Emission Regulations

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, gas prices in Calgary are about 30 cents a litre higher than they were in May 2017, and that is squeezing charities that rely on donations and fixed grants. It seems that the NDP have decided to allow the oil and gas industry to be exempt from the carbon tax for five years in order to reduce their methane emissions. My question to the Finance minister is: now that you have exempted big industry from the job-killing carbon tax, will charities, school boards, and the municipalities be exempted next?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, in all our climate change plans we've consulted with industry, academics, environmental groups. When we look at tackling methane, that's one of the biggest focuses that we could work on in reducing GHGs. We're working with industry, and we know that there are going to be a lot of costs up front for them to work on tackling methane. We are, as I said, working with industry on a cost-effective plan to tackle one of the most serious GHG problems we have.

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers wanted to use a fleet-average approach, with a lower cost to industry, to reduce methane emissions, and this would have reached the same methane reduction goal the NDP wants to accomplish with the more expensive site-specific approach. To the minister of environment: is this some kind of exercise to shut down the industrial sites that cannot meet your targets when the industry can meet the overall goal at a lower cost?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what information the hon. member is reading from or who is telling him this, but in fact we've worked with industry. CAPP has been one of the industry groups that have worked with us. We've gone back and forth about what we need to do. We all know the goal is over here, and we're working together on that. We've listened to industry, and we're looking at cost-effective for them but at the same time achieving our goals.

2:00

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, it appears that the provincial methane reduction plan is running headlong into the federal methane regulation plan. The fact is that the regulation and the development of Alberta's natural resources is a provincial matter guaranteed under the Constitution. What actions has the Minister of

Environment and Parks taken to assert Alberta's jurisdiction and tell Ottawa to back off and get their nose out of Alberta's business?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, in all of the things that we've done with industry, the Minister of Environment and Parks and I have worked very closely with them to develop made-in-Alberta plans because we certainly don't want a made-in-Ottawa plan imposed on us. Our industry gets that, and they've been good partners with us to get our made-in-Alberta plan. We have the draft directives that speak to methane, and we're very proud of that. Honestly, we don't need advice from the other side. They haven't been part of this. Industry has, and we're very proud of that.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Choking Game

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A 2015 review in the *Archives of Disease in Childhood* found that between 5 and 7 per cent of kids engage in the choking game, often alone. Many kids are aware of the practice, and 17 to 40 per cent of youth think there are no risks. Very sadly, 93 per cent of parents of choking game victims are surprised to discover their child's participation because it often leaves no observable signs. To the Minister of Health: how are you equipping Alberta health care providers to recognize the signs and educate people about the choking game?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for her question. I certainly want to recognize the family that's here today. I couldn't imagine the grief that must be experienced when you say goodbye to a child. No parent should ever have to go through that. Certainly, one of the big pieces we need to do is ensure that everyone is aware that self-harm is risky, that there are consequences that come with self-harm, and whether it leaves bruises or not, it doesn't mean that you're doing something that's safe. Certainly, education to youth, families, and health care providers: it's a three-pronged approach.

Again, our deepest sympathies to the family.

Ms McPherson: There is much awareness of and concerningly high participation rates in the choking game among youth aged four to 20. They are learning about the choking game from online sources and from their peers. To the Minister of Education: when will the provincial health curriculum include information about the risks of the choking game throughout our children's education?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the member for the question. Certainly, we've been looking through the curriculum as part of our new curriculum writing process for places where we can improve and strengthen personal safety, and this specific behaviour and in general does take place in the kindergarten to grade 9 health program now, but I think it bears upon all of us to be responsible to strengthen that position and to remind ourselves on a regular basis about both the gravity of the situation and the fact that there are students that are engaging in this kind of behaviour.

Ms McPherson: It's hard to develop strategies to address the choking game without good data, and there's a lack of consistent reporting about choking game deaths. Deaths are often recorded as

suicide, leaving families without closure for their children's death, and it means a lack of accurate data. To the Minister of Justice: what will you do to improve the way child deaths are recorded so that we can know how many kids die this way and so that their families can have a little peace in very distressing circumstances?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member again for the important question. The member is correct. It is very difficult to move these items forward without ensuring that we're collecting accurate data. I've been very lucky to work with our current Chief Medical Examiner to ensure accuracy of data collection in a number of areas, and I'll be happy to have those conversations and follow up offline with the member.

Supervised Drug Consumption Site in Lethbridge

Ms Fitzpatrick: Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud of my city of Lethbridge and the people that make it such a great place to live. An incredible example is the supervised consumption site at ARCHES, which, sadly, the opposition leader has publicly spoken against. Despite his ideological opposition during their first eight weeks of operation this site has saved the lives of over 70 Albertans. To the Minister of Health: would you tell me a little more about the positive stats that you have received about Lethbridge's site?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for her question. I'm so thankful for the incredible work of ARCHES, the Lethbridge police chief, the city of Lethbridge, and of course the members from Lethbridge as well for their work on supervised consumption. This is what happens when we put people first. The ARCHES site has had more than 7,200 visits since they first opened, far above the anticipated demand. More importantly, not one fatality has been incurred. They've reversed 70 overdoses. That's 70 lives saved, and we couldn't be more proud.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister. I know there are many positives to having such a site, and one of those positives is that it can receive referrals from physicians and other health care professionals. In fact, it has received over 1,500 referrals. Would you tell the Assembly about what kinds of referrals are being made?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some in this House choose to disregard the evidence showing that supervised consumption services save lives and actually help people move away from substance use. Through ARCHES these 1,500 referrals have connected people with food, laundry, naloxone, and long-term treatment. Clients have had a further 1,300 referrals to wraparound services like addictions counselling, wound care, and housing. These are all services that every Albertan should be able to expect to access and that we're proud are being accessed because of ARCHES.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My third question is also to the same minister. The expected number of visitors to the site has

tripled, as you mentioned. How will your ministry provide support to expand the site and the delivery of services to meet this need?

Ms Hoffman: Thank you. We are putting extra service capacity in place before the long weekend, Mr. Speaker. Four additional temporary overdose prevention booths will be operational at ARCHES tomorrow. Within a few weeks ARCHES will be adding four more permanent booths on-site as well as an overdose prevention site at the Lethbridge Shelter and Resource Centre. While the Leader of the Opposition regards these services as nothing more than, quote, addicts injecting poison into their bodies, we will do whatever it takes to keep these people alive because somebody loves them, and they deserve to have a chance to live that life.

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

Methane Emission Regulations (continued)

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, the natural gas industry was only given 30 days to review and analyze the extensive draft directive and respond to the NDP, and now only a week is left. Given the NDP's extensive record of failed consultations and the importance of the natural gas industry to Alberta jobs, why did the government think that such a short period of time for a review was adequate?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, our government, as I've mentioned many, many times, works with industry on a number of matters, and we get good advice from them. We get good advice from, when needed, academics or environmental groups, and we come together to do what's best for the industry here in Alberta because regardless of the regulations we do not want something imposed from the outside. We're very proud of that. This collaboration together has gotten us a solid climate leadership plan, which has three pipeline approvals. We have the Keystone XL, we have line 3, and soon TMX will be under construction.

Mr. Panda: Yeah; they can add Keystone, too, to their feather, Mr. Speaker.

Given that the impact that these new regulations will have on industry will lead to thousands of job losses and hundreds of millions of dollars removed from the economy, will the Minister of Environment and Parks table the socioeconomic analysis of her methane reduction regulations, and if not, why not?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, the methane draft regulations are online on the AER site, and there's probably a link through the site of my ministry. They're fully available. They're there for industry to react to. Again, we've worked with industry off and on. We've come up with a plan that we all believe is good for Alberta, good for our industry, at the best cost to industry, and has the best outcomes for the environment.

Mr. Panda: Given, Mr. Speaker, that the minister knows there is a real, serious cost to implementing the new methane regulations, so much so that she has given the industry a five-year carbon tax holiday, and given that this impact will mean thousands of people out of work and hundreds of millions lost from the Canadian economy, Minister, if industry's proposed regulations would have done the job, why are you ruining the lives of thousands of hard-

working families? How is that making life better for Albertans or affordable?

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is more conspiracy theory and fearmongering from our opposition. It couldn't be further from the truth. We've talked to industry. We feel we've got a balance. We're standing up to the federal regulations. We don't want Ottawa to impose this on us. We've come up with a made-in-Alberta solution and at the least cost to industry to do that. They have been given a bit of a break because we know it's going to cost them money, and we do not want to see jobs lost. That's part of this whole package, and I wish the opposition would quit fearmongering so much.

North Saskatchewan Regional Land-use Plan

Mr. Nixon: Public land-use decisions not only affect the way of life of local residents and the recreational opportunities for Albertans at large, but they also affect critical economic activities throughout our province. From forestry to agriculture to tourism and other sectors, our public lands support millions of dollars of economic activity and thousands of Alberta jobs. I could not find a single mention of any independent economic impact study when reading through the NSRP regional advisory council's report. Does the minister believe that land-use changes should be made without independent economic impact studies?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to the North Saskatchewan regional plan, the government has been consulting for years. In fact, the regional advisory council includes many fine people, folks living in the member's riding who have contributed to this work since 2014, since his own colleagues in his own caucus were part of setting it up. We certainly appreciate all of the work that they have done through the North Saskatchewan regional plan, and we respect the work of folks who live in your community, hon. member.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, given that I know the folks that live in my community, given that some of them from my community are right now in the gallery, and given that the minister says that she respects the work that they did on that regional plan, then why is it that this government, through leaked memos and through the Minister of Energy's confirmation on behalf of the minister of environment, has already predetermined the result for the Bighorn and did not listen to those fine folks who worked on the North Saskatchewan regional plan?

Ms Hoffman: Well, just to clarify, Mr. Speaker, the information referred to is advice from the options note that was created for the Department of Environment and Parks. No decision has been made. We've said that over and over again to you, hon. member. That's a fact, and I would appreciate if you reflected on facts in this House instead of again creating conspiracy theories. It is no secret that officials have been working with options for more than five years because these members across the way never got the work done when they had the chance to when they were in government. Our government is going to take care of it and finish the job.

Mr. Nixon: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that it is this government's leaked memo that has caused the problem, nothing that I said, and

given that this government has continued to refuse to consult with the people of my community and will only talk to the special-interest groups that they want to talk to, will this minister then stand up and commit right now that she will respect the regional advisory council's recommendation not to put a wildland park inside Bighorn?

Ms Hoffman: Again, Mr. Speaker, the memo that the member refers to was advice that was given. We are gathering advice from 21 different town halls, advice from the folks who worked on the council, advice from department officials. No decisions have been made yet. We are committed to making sure that we get this project right, and the member opposite is being irresponsible with the truth. We just provided \$200,000 in grants to Bighorn Heritage ATV Society with their OHV trail development, promoting responsible recreation. That's our track record. Those are the results that we've brought forward.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I clearly asked this government several times, very clearly today, that if it is not true, the memo that was leaked from their government, that if this is not predetermined, will the minister stand up and assure the people of Alberta and the people of my community that this is, one, not predetermined, which she has done, but, second, that she will follow the regional council's advice and there will not be a wildland park in the Bighorn? Yes or no? No more rhetoric answers, just a straight yes-or-no answer.

Ms Hoffman: Well, I don't tell you how to ask questions, hon. member, and you don't get to tell me how to answer them. What I will say is the truth, and the truth is that we are taking advice from many folks, including experts in the department, experts in the region, the 21 town halls that were held to ensure that we get this right moving forward, Mr. Speaker. I wish the hon. member's colleagues would have done something about this when they were in government just three short years ago. But you know what? This side of the House is no shrinking violet. We will stand up, we will make sure we do what's right, and we will reflect on all the advice we're being given.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, again I will note that the Deputy Premier will not answer the very simple question.

Yes, this side of the House actually got it right. They put in a process for regional planning, which has been followed, a process that this government has kept hidden from the public for over a year and has now finally released. The question I am asking is very, very simple, Mr. Speaker. Will this government respect the recommendation from that report and not put in a wildland park or not?

Ms Hoffman: Again, the answer is more complicated, Mr. Speaker, than the member wants to allude to. We are getting advice from lots of folks, including folks who are part of the North Saskatchewan regional plan, folks who are part of those 21 town halls, folks in the department who are giving advice. All of this is advice, and the reason why I can't give an answer is because we don't have an answer yet because we're reflecting on the advice. We're doing the responsible thing, consulting with folks and making sure that we get the right determination as we move forward.

Mr. Nixon: Well, there certainly have not been 21 town halls inside my constituency. Given that I am the only one that has actually held a town hall completely open to the public, a hall that was so full they had to shut a provincial highway, while this government continues to only meet with select people, I'll ask another simple question, through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Deputy Premier. Will

this government finally meet with my community, not lie about meeting with mayors, but finally come to meet with them?

Mr. Mason: Point of order. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

Ms Hoffman: Yesterday – or maybe it was the day before – the Leader of the Opposition said: when they go low, we go high. Hon. member, you are no Michelle Obama, I can tell you that much.

I have to say that the folks of the North Saskatchewan regional plan, the council developed opportunities for 21 town halls. Folks that are a part of your own community, hon. member, worked to make sure there were 21 town halls that were available so that people could give their advice. The reason why the advice was released was so people could give their feedback on that advice from . . .

Mr. Nixon: Point of order.

Ms Hoffman: . . . the folks from within the department itself, Mr. Speaker. I have to say that I am very proud of the fact that we're making sure we get this right and that we're not rushing to rash stunts like the members opposite continue to . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Deputy Premier. Thank you. Cool it down, folks.

Mr. Loewen: From the caribou draft plan: "The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) of Northern Alberta modelled and analyzed areas for priority for caribou protection." Now CPAWS is also trying to actively influence the outcome of the North Saskatchewan regional plan by undermining the work of the regional advisory committee, particularly when it comes to the Bighorn area, calling the Bighorn Regional Advisory Committee advice out of step with most Albertans. Now, in estimates the minister told us that the North Saskatchewan regional plan process was the primary tool used to consult with ordinary Albertans. Given this, can the minister tell us why the government has been working closely with organizations like CPAWS, who delegitimize part of the public consultation process with Albertans?

Ms Hoffman: I think slandering organizations that are global in perspective is also delegitimizing the role of the opposition, I have to say. We are happy to have the feedback from all Albertans, including the 21 town halls that were held by the council to gather input. We are very proud of the work that the North Saskatchewan regional plan has been engaging in, Mr. Speaker. We're proud of the fact that we just provided \$200,000 in grants to the Bighorn Heritage ATV Society, the OHV trail development promoting responsible recreation. That's our track record. Those are the results, and we're proud of them.

Mr. Loewen: Given that the minister doesn't seem to understand that the problem is not CPAWS, that it's the minister putting special-interest groups like that ahead of Albertans, and given that the government is clearly relying on foreign-funded interest groups to drive the Bighorn planning process and given that it has already been confirmed that the government decided an outcome of a new wildland park prior to the completion of the public consultation process, can the minister tell us: when did the backroom deal on this predetermined outcome happen, and which special-interest groups were there?

Ms Hoffman: Well, Mr. Speaker, again, the members opposite maybe own tinfoil companies these days because I have to say that conspiracy theories keep coming from across the way, when the truth is – and I've said it over and over again, and I will continue to – that there was an advice document that we received from the department. There was also advice from 21 town halls that were held on this specific matter, and the regional advisory council includes folks from the Bighorn area. We're proud to receive their advice and make sure that we're working to do the responsible thing. It's been five years of consultation. I wish you guys would have gotten it right when you had the chance to, but don't worry. We will get it right.

2:20

Mr. Loewen: Given that the minister can evade the question but not reality – now, this is an anticipated timeline for development of the North Saskatchewan regional plan; it's not advice; it's a government document – and given that it is one thing to have secret backroom deals with special-interest groups and quite another to actually consult with Albertans, Minister, I have a simple question: will you commit here and now to holding a genuine open and transparent public consultation process, including personally attending open town halls in the community to listen first-hand to everyday Albertans whose lives will be impacted by any changes made to the Bighorn?

Ms Hoffman: I'm proud of the fact that we are probably one of the most accessible governments in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker. We're proud to continue to meet with Albertans, ordinary Albertans, every day, and we're proud of the fact that there were 21 town hall meetings that were held in advance of this. Also, the advice document that the member refers to is advice, and the advice is posted publicly so Albertans can give their feedback on it. We certainly welcome your feedback and the feedback of all Albertans regardless of their expertise. We want to welcome all information so we can make the very best decisions moving forward.

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

Alberta Teachers' Association

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Alberta Teachers' Association has been a strong and consistent advocate for public education, something that I believe in wholeheartedly. It was encouraging to see the teacher salary negotiations end on a very positive note for both the ATA and the government. Given the improvements we have seen in this relationship and given the importance of public education to Albertans, to the Minister of Education: how is this government consulting with teachers and, in particular, with the ATA during the curriculum review?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're listening to teachers, the ATA, and people across the province when it comes to our new curriculum. With our old curriculum, some of it was more than 30 years old and needed to be updated, so we've engaged with tens of thousands of parents, teachers, and regular Albertans to find out what our kids should be learning. They're telling us that schools should not just teach the basics but also teach problem-solving skills that they need to thrive. The Leader of the Official Opposition said that he would put this work on the curriculum through the shredder if he was given the chance, and I find that horribly offensive.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How is your ministry working with the ATA to help to uphold professional standards of practice, including making sure that GSAs are available and respected?

Mr. Eggen: Well, Mr. Speaker, our government strengthened the law to ensure that every student can form a gay-straight alliance no matter what school they go to and without the fear of being outed. The ATA is instrumental in helping to ensure these safe spaces for GSAs or QSAs are created for students. I'd like to also point out that it was just a few days ago when the members opposite voted at their policy convention to out students. Shameful.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ATA does a great job representing teachers, both as a professional association and as a bargaining unit. To the same minister: what would be the effect of splitting these two functions like the opposition would like to do?

Mr. Eggen: Well, Mr. Speaker, as you know, collaborating instead of attacking has allowed us to move this province forward on common-sense collective bargaining agreements, new professional practice standards that will support the continued excellence of teachers across the province, and investments such as the classroom improvement fund. Dismantling the ATA is an attack, and it undermines the collaborative relationship our government has with teachers, with parents, and with school boards. Quite frankly, it's a distraction from their real motive, which is to give big tax cuts to the rich.

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

Calgary Board of Education Funding

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, the Minister of Education has talked about how proud he is that his ministry has fully funded enrolment growth. The Calgary board of education would beg to differ. According to the CBE they are facing a \$35 million shortfall. Provincial funding simply has not kept up with enrolment growth, there's no backfill funding for reduced school fees for alternative programs, the funding they have provided is at 2015-16 levels, and that doesn't even consider the nearly \$200 million in urgent deferred maintenance. To the Minister of Education: who's right? How do you explain the discrepancy between your claims and the challenges faced by the CBE?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, this has become an annual event, where I have the Calgary board of education saying that they have this deficit, and then by the end of the year they end up posting a surplus, so I have had them under audit for the last few months. We've been working collaboratively for ways by which we can rectify this process, and we have a very collaborative and constructive relationship by which to do so.

What you really don't do if you want to make contributions to education is that you do not make massive 20 per cent cuts to education, as the members opposite are saying that they are going to do.

Mr. Clark: Well, good news, Mr. Speaker. The Alberta Party's shadow budget has a higher investment in education than this government's budget currently. Given that the shortfall in funding is going to result in jobs being cut and given that many of the jobs

lost will be support staff who work with students with complex learning needs, disabilities, or mental health challenges and given that reduced funding levels of support staff will have serious negative consequences for those students, again to the Minister of Education. You've been telling Albertans that your government supports public education, but your funding plan clearly says otherwise. How can you explain this to students, parents, teachers, and staff?

Mr. Eggen: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, you know, I did have the Calgary board of education under financial review, and we're looking for ways by which they can make sure that they prioritize to spend money in classrooms. Given the substantial investment that we have made into the CBE, it's my expectation and all Calgarians, for that matter, that they make decisions to make sure that they balance their budget without influencing and cutting front-line staffing levels in the city of Calgary.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, given that one of the reasons the CBE is facing a shortfall is this government's carbon tax and given that asking school boards to pay a carbon tax really is just transferring dollars from one level of government to another and given that school boards have a very limited ability to reduce the carbon tax they pay because there are a fixed number of school buses required to transport kids to school, once more to the Minister of Education: will you acknowledge the unintended consequences of your plan and eliminate the carbon tax on school boards?

Mr. Eggen: Well, you know, it's interesting. The members opposite want more money, and then they want us to make cuts. It's all very confusing. I can give a very simple process by which we are making sure that – we owe it to our children to give them great schools and education, that we are investing in, and to protect the planet that they will inherit from us. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, that is not negotiable, and I don't think it is for the majority of Albertans as well. We are making investments in schools. We've made significant investments in Calgary in regard to the solar energy initiatives in terms of upgrading schools, upgrading boilers, improving windows and lights to make sure that they are not just . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister. Thank you.
The Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Carbon Levy and Agricultural Costs

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government of Manitoba has announced its made-in-Manitoba climate and green plan, which will exempt natural gas for heating or cooling a farm building and for operating your grain dryer if metered separately. The Manitoba plan will be implemented on September 1, 2018. Minister, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition suggested similar exemptions when you introduced your crippling carbon tax on Albertans. Why are you making it harder for Alberta's farmers to remain competitive with other jurisdictions such as Manitoba and Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Early on with our climate leadership plan we recognized some of the challenges that producers might have, so we exempted marked fuel for farming operations right across the province. We've also very recently announced an \$81 million fund that will help them find that efficiency. When I talk to farmers and ranchers

across the province, they ask me what they can do. How can they do their part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? I'm very proud that this government is answering that call, being able to find those efficiencies, reduce those greenhouse gas emissions, reduce their costs as well.

Mr. Strankman: Again, Mr. Speaker, given that farmers produce commodities whose prices are set on a global market and given that these increased costs cannot be simply passed on to the consumer and given that you could easily go through 400 to 600 gigajoules when you're grain drying, even more if farming up north, Minister, was any thought given to how crippling your tax would be on these Alberta farmers' and ranchers' viability, or does ideology trump all?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an example, the Schuurman Dairy farm near Millett, Alberta, says:

The energy-efficiency programs offered by the government gave us the incentive to move ahead with installing solar power on our operation . . . we have found that by investing in solar power we have been able to lower our dairy operation's power consumption by over 60 per cent.

There's efficiency to be found. I will continue working with the producers, farmers, and ranchers right across the province that continue to find those efficiencies whatever their operation might be: dairy farms, chicken barns, irrigation structures, and grain drying as well.

Mr. Strankman: Given that with approximately 49,000 farms in Alberta the carbon tax will cost Alberta farms upwards of \$182 million and given that each year this total far exceeds any rebates from any of the available efficiency programs, Minister, with your government set upon increasing the carbon tax another 67 per cent to appease the Trudeau Liberals, has your government done any economic study on how much this increase will impact Alberta farms to compete in a global market?

2:30

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I already mentioned the exemption on marked fuel, for instance. Farmers and ranchers can do their part and want to do their part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficiency as well is available to them to lower their costs, make their operations more efficient, make them more competitive in the global marketplace. The rebates for the greenhouses, for instance, were called extremely good news by the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association. There continues to be good news from this side of the House. I'm very proud of this government and the good news that we are offering farmers and ranchers right across this province.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Economic Competitiveness (continued)

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The business climate in Alberta is truly heartbreaking. ATCO president Nancy Southern says that regulatory policy and a litany of roadblocks constrain our business environment, that governments in Canada are busy bringing in multiple and compounding policies and regulations, policies that are growing into boulders of burden on all manner of businesses

and that, in fact, Stats Canada reports that foreign investment has dropped from \$50 billion to \$31 billion, 38 per cent. Minister: name one regulatory policy that you are willing to remove to make business more competitive and bring investment back into Alberta.

Ms Jansen: Mr. Speaker, I think this whole narrative about the situation for business in Alberta that the opposition is trying to create is an absolute disservice to the people of this province. You know, I can only speak for Calgary in saying that it's the fastest growing city in the prairies this year. The Conference Board of Canada explicitly points to projects like the cancer centre, the green line. Compared to a year ago, Calgary created over 31,000 full-time jobs. Take a look at the business expansion in this province. Viking Air just added 150 aviation jobs in Calgary. They're looking at even further expansion. Goodfood Market Corp. is currently . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister. [interjection] Thank you.

Mr. Orr: It's not our narrative. We get it from the people of Alberta.

Alberta companies are being forced to diversify by moving away from risky Alberta government obstructionism to other parts of the world. Given that ATCO is building a hydrogen power plant – where? – in Australia and given that ATCO is building an office tower in Idaho because they say that it's not competitive building it in Alberta anymore, which are their words, not mine, and given that Alberta businesses are finding that opportunities are actually surfacing abroad and not at home and that companies are being forced to diversify Alberta risk and look into other jurisdictions: is this what the NDP government means when they say that they want to promote diversification?

The Speaker: I would again remind the House to please, hon. members, manage the preamble comments that tend to be raised in this place on occasion.

The hon. minister.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is committed to working with companies like ATCO – in fact, I met only a few months ago with Nancy Southern – as we transition off coal and stabilize our electricity market. You know, ATCO's CEO did donate more than \$21,000 to the opposition leader's PC leadership campaign. I understand as a former Conservative that they are certainly good friends of the Conservatives. We are still committed to listening to all Alberta businesses and certainly are happy to do so.

To continue on in talking about the successes in business in this province, Mr. Speaker, Amazon . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister. [interjection] Thank you. [interjection] Hon. minister.

Hon. minister, you were speaking while I was speaking, so you may not have heard me. But we try to be fair with the 35 seconds. I would ask that all members in this House make that a practice.

Folks, we have the whole of next week where we get a chance to not see each other, so be nice while you're here, okay?

I think we are at the second supplemental.

Mr. Orr: Well, there's also the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Canada has fallen from fifth to 34th out of 35 countries. Given that a delay is as good as a cancellation and that a delay is a deliberate strategy, will this government finally admit that delay, with risky ideological policies, is driving investment and industry out of Alberta, including our own ATCO corporation?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The more you talk about that narrative, the more we will stand up and talk about the successes in this province. In addition to Calgary's 31,000 new full-time jobs and Viking Air and Goodfood and Amazon, there's Champion Petfoods, 340 construction jobs and 200 jobs at the plant itself; Pinnacle, 70 new jobs; Cavendish Farms, the biggest private-sector investment in the history of Lethbridge; Aurora Cannabis, a hundred million dollar investment in Leduc, 400 new jobs in Edmonton, another 450 jobs in Medicine Hat. The list is long and getting longer. Our minister of economic development is always on a plane . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister. [interjection] Thank you again.

The hon. Member for Battle River-Wainwright.

Carbon Levy and Rural Education Costs

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The carbon tax brought in by this government represents the single largest tax hike in Alberta history. The result has been severely impacted school division costs. Buffalo Trail school division costs have increased \$65,000 since the tax was implemented, for the schools alone. Minister, this amount represents one full-time salary. With ever-increasing costs and decreasing student enrolment, what is this government doing to ensure the viability of rural schools?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What are we doing to ensure the viability of rural schools? They had a big ceremony, and the bulldozers were there. They were starting to build the foundation for Irma school in Buffalo Trail yesterday – very proud of that – an investment that not only builds a lovely school but a community centre as well, using the latest technology to reduce emissions so that they will save money on their utility bills. So, yeah, we're building schools. We're educating kids. We're making efficiencies, reducing carbon, and doing a great job.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you for building that school, but the carbon tax is cutting teachers' jobs.

Given that the government is set to raise the crippling carbon tax about 67 per cent to fund their green slush fund and help pay down the debt that they are currently racking up and given that nonprofits and school boards will continue to be harmed by this punitive tax, Minister, have you determined how much the average school division will have to pay when your increased carbon tax comes into effect, or have you not done any economic studies to estimate the burdening cost to school boards?

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, as school boards move forward in close co-operation with my ministry and in working with individual schools as well, we've come up with lots of ways by which we can save money, by which we can reduce carbon and improve education opportunities, too. We have a more than \$50 million solar program, for example, that's going on, that includes real-time activities for the kids to see how much electricity they're producing and so forth on the roof of their schools.

This is an ongoing process, Mr. Speaker. It's a learning process. It's a teachable moment. I'm very proud of the progress that my ministry has made in regard to . . .

Mr. Taylor: The Premier once said, quote: it could sometimes be a question of taking a bus, walking, you know, those kinds of things in terms of the patterns of fuel use that people engage in. Unquote. Given that walking is an option that rural school kids simply don't have, Minister, since busing or dropping off students at school by car are pretty much the only options rural parents have to get their children to school and to extracurricular activities, will you consider exempting school boards from any future increases?

Mr. Eggen: Well, Mr. Speaker, of course, we are working on a transportation initiative right now to build better transportation systems in all corners of the province. If the hon. member has some constructive ways by which we can do so, he can make a submission, and we will use it. We've had thousands of people that have contributed to this. I'm very pleased that we have created a co-operative means by which to build a better transportation system, build a better education system in general by making investments in four straight budgets, a budget that this hon. member and his party failed to support.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Klein

School Capital Construction

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The previous government failed to invest in maintaining and preserving government-owned facilities in this province. This led to many buildings and structures crumbling and falling apart. Two schools in particular in my riding fell victim to the previous government's neglect. To the Minister of Infrastructure: can you please give an update to my constituents on the status of the St. Francis and James Fowler high schools?

Ms Jansen: Mr. Speaker, St. Francis high school is currently undergoing a \$29 million modernization. That is expected to be done in May of 2019. James Fowler high school has a \$20 million modernization, including modernizations to its career and technologies classrooms and labs. That's going to be completed by September of this year, so students actually get to move in there.

Investing in infrastructure is something that benefits everyone in Alberta, not just the people like the kids who get to use it in the member's constituency but the folks who get great jobs out of that infrastructure. Maintaining infrastructure preserves . . .

2:40

The Speaker: Thank you again, hon. minister.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that there is still maintenance to be done to restore schools neglected by previous governments and given that our population continues to grow and we'll also need to build new schools and that this government has chosen to invest during the downturn instead of pursuing drastic cuts, to the same minister: can you please tell us what this investment has meant for schools in my constituency and for the province of Alberta?

Ms Jansen: Mr. Speaker, you know, the opposition stated that they would cut \$9 billion in infrastructure funding. That is on top of an infrastructure deficit that went back generations in this province. Those reckless cuts meant cramped classrooms for students – we saw that – out-of-work teachers, crumbling facilities, less opportunity for extracurricular activities. Seeing as how extracurricular activities aren't big on the list of the opposition, we can see from their policy that maybe that's not a priority for them. But classrooms and what they look like and kids' ability to operate in them . . .

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

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: what is the economic value of investing in school infrastructure?

Ms Jansen: Mr. Speaker, over the next five years we're investing \$2.2 billion in planning and building and modernizing school facilities. That's \$393 million for 20 new school projects across Alberta. You know, when kids have good schools, it's easier for them to learn. Infrastructure is critically important. I know that in the past infrastructure was the first and the easiest place for Conservative governments to cut, and they did it, pushing that debt onto a future generation. It's our job now to fix that problem, and we are doing it.

The Speaker: Hon. members, before we move on, I would invite the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre – you wish to make a statement with respect to a matter from earlier?

Mr. Nixon: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to withdraw and apologize for using the word “lie” during question period.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. member. That's good to hear because I know that the Government House Leader had a speech that he wanted to give, but he's not going to get that opportunity.

You're going to withdraw the point of order as well?

Mr. Nixon: That first point of order, yeah.

The Speaker: I also have had a request for unanimous consent for an introduction.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests

(continued)

The Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour for me to rise today and introduce to you and through you individuals who have travelled here from India to visit and see our beautiful province. Suniel and Mana Shetty are visiting their relative Ashok Gangwani, who's a good friend of mine. Suniel Shetty is a financial analyst involved with various NGOs and with raising funds for the welfare of various committees. Mr. Gangwani is a long-time resident of Edmonton and a founding member of the Press Council of Edmonton, a grassroots organization made up of local journalists that strive to connect with various multicultural groups and deliver up-to-date, relevant news in their own language. I wish you all a wonderful visit in our beautiful province of Alberta. Thank you for coming to visit us in the Legislature Building. I'd ask my guests, who are now standing, to receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Premier's and Official Opposition Leader's Allies

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Official Opposition and his caucus are fond of using the refrain: the Premier's good friend and ally Justin Trudeau. It is important to have friends, and it is a testament to the good working relationship

they've developed that Prime Minister Trudeau praised our Premier and said that he could not have approved the Trans Mountain project without the leadership of our Premier and Alberta's climate leadership plan.

But why just focus on the Prime Minister? The Premier has many good friends and allies, such as Mark Scholz, head of the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, who said, “We are very supportive of [the Premier]. She has shown some incredible leadership on this file,” and the Alberta Fire Fighters Association, who said, “We've been way behind other provinces as far as a lot of our WCB coverage, and I think this government is very proactive in trying to bring them up to date,” and Cenovus Energy, who called Alberta's climate leadership plan an important step forward in addressing climate change.

Now, to be fair, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to give the impression that the Leader of the Opposition is without friends. He, too, has many close friends and allies like Rebel media, who endorses the UCP leader and whose media outlet he and many of his colleagues have appeared on regularly; allies like the Campaign Life Coalition, who have given the opposition leader a 100 per cent rating for his voting record on life and family issues and who are helping him recruit candidates; and close friends like former Wildrose interim leader and Progressive Conservative cabinet minister Heather Forsyth, who called feminism the f-word and dismissed the idea that women face barriers in politics as socialist crap at the recent UCP convention.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to say that both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have many close friends and allies. As the old saying goes: show me your friends, and I'll tell you who you are.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Official Opposition Leader

Connolly: Mr. Speaker, it's flip-flop season, and the leader of the United Conservative Party has been out in full force this month, strutting his ability to both disagree and be disagreeable. He started off the month by going back on his grassroots guarantee. On August 1, 2017, the leader of the UCP stated, quote, the policies of the United Conservative Party must be developed democratically by its grassroots members, not imposed by its leader. On May 7, 2018, that same leader stated, quote: “Guess what? I'm the leader. I get to interpret the resolution.” I think the member opposite and I may have different interpretations of the word “grassroots.”

In 2009 the UCP leader voted for a nearly \$10 billion bailout for the Ontario auto industry, but when Alberta and Canada talked about investing in the Trans Mountain pipeline, the Leader of the Opposition said on May 14, quote: the fundamental message that this sends to investors is that if a project doesn't work, we'll buy your way out of it. It's interesting that the member thinks investing in Ontario is A-okay but investing in Alberta's oil and gas sector sends the wrong message.

On May 15 in this very House, Mr. Speaker, the leader of the UCP quoted Michelle Obama by stating, “When they go low, we'll go high.” Then a day later the leader of the UCP was quoted by the *Calgary Sun*, saying, “I know Justin,” referring to the Prime Minister of Canada. “This guy is an empty trust-fund millionaire who has the political depth of a finger bowl . . . He can't read a briefing note longer than a cocktail napkin.” I didn't realize that the height of the opposition leader's decorum would be at the bottom of the Mariana Trench.

If the UCP leader believes that he is best suited to sit in the Premier's chair, I would suggest he start acting like it. Going back on

promises and smearing people you have to work with are not helpful in any position, much less the top job in our province.

I'm proud to work with a Premier who is ensuring pipeline access and working with our federal and provincial counterparts rather than making ad hominem attacks.

Provincial Election Third Anniversary Reflection

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, this Saturday horse racing fans from around the world will be watching Pimlico raceway in Baltimore, Maryland, for the 143rd running of the Preakness Stakes. Meanwhile, back here in Alberta we've also been witness to a fair bit of jockeying for position this past year. Welcome, racing fans, to the Legislature Downs and the third running of what used to be called the NDP Stakes. That name has been dropped because the Environment minister doesn't think we should eat beef. As the horses are being loaded into the starting gate we have two late scratches. B.C. Wine Boycott and Licence Plate Brouhaha have been scratched.

They're at the post, and they're off. Breaking quickly from the gate is Green Shoots and Up Up Up. Following close behind is Blind Optimism, Mountain of Debt, and Credit in Shambles. Investor Confidence is lagging, and Pipeline Construction has yet to leave the starting gate.

As they go into the first turn, here comes the odds-on favourite, Carbon Tax. This horse is undefeated and looks 50 per cent stronger this year than last, but his stable mate Social Licence is once again nowhere to be seen. Social Licence has yet to start a single race this year, leading skeptics to speculate that it does not even exist.

Moving down the backstretch, Green Shoots is wilting, and Up Up Up is going down, down, down. Here comes Mountain of Debt, Credit in Shambles, Outta Here as well as the crowd favourite, Sewer Rat.

2:50

As they enter the clubhouse turn, it's Carbon Tax by two lengths over Mountain of Debt, Outta Here, Sewer Rat, and Credit in Shambles. There's a late charge by the curiously named We Want the NDP. According to the racing program this horse was bought by the Finance minister at 10 times market value, financed by craft beer and online weed sales. Investor Confidence has disappeared, and Pipeline Construction is still stuck in the starting gate. Now making up ground on the outside is Sewer Rat, 96 Billion Reasons, and prerace long shot Cannabis Causes Communism.

Down the stretch they come. It's Carbon Tax and Credit in Shambles going head to head. There's a late charge from Outta Here and 96 Billion Reasons. They're neck and neck, and at the wire it's Carbon Tax by a nose, followed by Credit in Shambles, and 96 Billion Reasons, We Want the NDP, Outta Here. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

By the way, hon. member, it was refreshing – very refreshing – to hear that. You might even get double time if you were to do that again.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Bill 18 Statutes Amendment Act, 2018

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, that was very, very impressive. I would just mention in the House that it has been done before by me. His was good, too.

I would request leave to introduce Bill 18, the Statutes Amendment Act, 2018.

Bill 18 contains a number of minor housekeeping amendments. The amendments are intended to provide clarity and update a number of other acts. The draft of the bill was provided to opposition MLAs for their review, as is typical for miscellaneous statutes amendment acts. At the request of the opposition the bill name was changed. We are expecting some debate as this bill proceeds, Mr. Speaker, on certain clauses.

[Motion carried; Bill 18 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I table a petition that was started by Leanne Zee on February 7, 2018. As of May 16, 2018, it has 17,004 signatures on it. I have the appropriate copies. These are 17,000 people who want to make it clear that this government has not consulted with them on the future of the Bighorn and would like the government to talk to them before they make decisions about their backyard.

I thank the pages in advance, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Any other tablings or reports, hon. members?

Now, hon. members, I just want to clarify. Government House Leader, I believe the hon. member acknowledged earlier your point of order. We can move past that, or was there a second one that you had?

Mr. Mason: No, Mr. Speaker, I only had the one.

The Speaker: Okay.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we had a second point of order. The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky has that point.

The Speaker: Okay. The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky has a point of order.

Point of Order Gestures

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under 23(h), (i), and (j). Earlier today the Minister of Advanced Education raised both fists in front of his face at the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre. Now, multiple people on this side of the House saw this. This member has repeatedly made outrageous and insulting comments. Multiple times we've had the Minister of Justice get up and say that she heard nothing even though she sits right in front of him and multiple people on this side have heard these things. I'm going to guess that the Government House Leader is probably going to get up and say the same thing, "Well, I didn't see anything," because it happened behind his back. I think it's about time that this minister grew up and cut the childish actions and comments and starting acting like a minister. I think he should stand up, apologize, and withdraw what he did there.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, I have in fact confirmed that this incident did in fact take place; therefore, on behalf of the Minister of Advanced Education I would like to apologize to the House and to the member.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. members. I believe there are no further points of order.

Orders of the Day
Government Bills and Orders
Second Reading

Bill 2
Growth and Diversification Act

[Adjourned debate May 16: Ms Larivee]

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

The Acting Speaker: Are there any members wishing to speak to Bill 2? The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have an amendment to put forward here. I'll have it distributed before I continue speaking.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member. Your amendment will be referred to as RA2.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Bill 2: I can't find particularly much redeeming about it. We were debating Bill 6 last night. It was a generally positive bill being tweaked, but Bill 2: I find very little redeemable about it. It won't come as a great surprise for members of this House to know how I feel about corporate welfare, that no government, regardless of their ideology or party stripe, is well suited to decide what businesses should be winners and what businesses should be losers. You know, Ronald Reagan said: if it moves, tax it; if it keeps moving, subsidize it; and if it stops moving, buy it. That seems to be this government's economic philosophy.

Now, governments of all stripes engage in this. You know, in Ottawa the Conservative Party of Canada, unfortunately, has regularly engaged in corporate welfare, going so far as even to nationalize the auto industry or partially nationalize it, causing me to actually leave that party for several years in protest. I thought it was completely against my beliefs as a conservative. I returned to the party during the leadership campaign of Maxime Bernier very specifically because of his commitment to scrapping corporate welfare. Conservatives engage in it sometimes, but they at least feel a little less comfortable with it because it's against conservatism, so Conservatives tend to feel less comfortable doing it.

But the NDP has no such scruples when it comes to corporate welfare. I find this difficult to understand because they're supposed to be the party of the blue-collar worker, of the regular guy, not handing multimillion-dollar cheques to billionaires and corporations, but they seem to very comfortable doing it. They seem to believe that they are very well suited to determine how businesses should be running their internal affairs, presumably because they believe that the government knows more about business than businesses.

3:00

Now, corporate welfare is bad enough. It's bad economics, but Bill 2 goes significantly further than regular corporate welfare. It gets into affirmative action, gender, and racial quotas. In its own bill this piece of legislation will require businesses that want the cash handouts and tax incentives provided from the taxpayers to these businesses – for them to be eligible for them, they're going to have to meet quotas for their employees, for their boards of directors, or for their CEOs, to fill those positions not on the basis

of merit, not on the basis of who's best for the job, but on the colour of their skin or their sex or other criteria that have absolutely nothing to do with who's best for the job.

Now, depending on the workplace, it often is good to have men and women and people from different backgrounds – it's a positive thing – but that is for that business to determine, not for the government. It is not the business of this government whatsoever to determine who is best suited to work at a business or to sit on its board. But if they want to receive these cash handouts from the government, then they're going to have to follow diktats about who they should be hiring.

Corporate welfare is bad economic policy, but affirmative action and racial and gender quotas are bad economic policy and bad social policy. It is social engineering extended into the private sector. It is contemptible when governments or even political parties engage in gender or racial quotas or any kind of affirmative action programs of their own to put people in jobs or positions on any other basis than merit and who is best for the job. It's bad enough when government does it internally or when political parties do it internally, but when they require that the private sector do it, when they require that private businesses in their own internal affairs accede to the government's social agenda, whatever it may be, they are far overextending themselves. It's not their business.

If businesses of their own accord wish to hire people on a basis other than merit, if they want to hire someone simply because they maybe meet an internal quota that they have decided upon themselves, independent of the government, that's their business. Quite literally that is their business. That is their decision to make. If a business decides that they're going to have a quota for X group to be filled, they can do that. They do not require a government to do that. But most businesses that I know don't have quotas for race. They don't have quotas for gender or any of the many different categories or boxes that we can tick off in these things.

You know, the government, I think, should not be engaging in this themselves. If they wish to engage in it themselves as a political party, I suppose that's their discretion. I don't believe it's the right thing to do, but that is their discretion. I don't think any political party should be engaging in gender and racial quotas, but I suppose that's their own business. But it is complete overreach for the government of Alberta to use legislative powers and tens of millions of tax dollars to require that private businesses meet racial and gender and identity quotas.

The amendment that I have put forward would scrap this bill. It would send it away. I don't think it needs to even come back. I think there's very little redeemable about it to begin with. Beyond just the affirmative action quotas within it, it is engaging in gross corporate welfare, and I don't think there's much in it, that it even needs to come back. It doesn't need to go to committee. It just needs to be scrapped outright. The motion that I have put forward in the form of a reasoned amendment to members right now will scrap this bill, send it back to the trash pile, and we can consider better economic policy moving forward that doesn't pick winners and losers in business and doesn't require business to pick winners and losers in a quota system.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak to the referral amendment? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have to tell you that I'm a little bit surprised to see the Member for Strathmore-Brooks bringing this motion forward, seeing that he does not support tax credits for gender and for ethnicity and for those with disabilities,

but he's more than happy to take government subsidies for Airbnb. That's quite interesting.

But on a more serious note, our government has been working very hard to support diversity, whether it be in our creation of the Ministry of Status of Women, our work on agencies, boards, and commissions to create more spaces for gender and ethnic diversities, as well as our many programs like the \$15 minimum wage as well as \$25-a-day daycare programs or child care programs, that most often do support women getting back into the workforce and support them to be able to have jobs that can help support a family.

There is no doubt that throughout history those who are Caucasian and of male gender have been advantaged in the workplace. Through my conversations with those in the interactive digital media industry who I've had chances to consult with – I'm not sure that the Member for Strathmore-Brooks has done any consulting on this issue, but it's well known within that industry that those with a disability or those that consider themselves of a female gender or those of a different ethnic background are disadvantaged.

You know, that's on the one point of the interactive digital media tax credit piece and the inclusion parameters within that and the 5 per cent extra tax credit for that. But to say that we should throw this entire bill away because of that one issue? I just don't understand that at all. We've seen the track record of the capital investor tax credit. We've seen the record of the AITC. It has created a lot of diversity within our province, and it's brought massive amounts of money into our province.

The conversations that I have with companies, especially start-up companies in our province – you know, we go back to this debate of: oh, we need to lower corporate taxes. We have an \$11.2 billion tax advantage over the next lowest taxed province, which I support for the most part. I think it's important to have that competitive advantage. But what I hear when I talk with these companies is that they need that start-up capital. So for the member across the way from Strathmore-Brooks to say that we should throw this entire bill away because he doesn't like one section of it: I find it to be quite disingenuous.

I would be happy to speak to more amendments, which I probably won't support judging on the track record of his amendments, but I'm not willing to throw this whole bill away. I think it's an important bill. I think that it will help our economy diversify and that it will help corporations, both start-ups and larger, in my communities get to a place where they need to be to create jobs throughout all of our communities.

I would recommend that none of my colleagues support this. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, are there any other members wishing to speak to the amendment?

Seeing none, I will call the question on the amendment.

[Motion on amendment RA2 lost]

The Acting Speaker: We are now back on the original bill. Are there any members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's an honour to rise to speak to Bill 2, the Growth and Diversification Act. Just a little recap. As laid out by the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Bill 2 continues on the important work of the Alberta

investor tax credit, which offers a 30 per cent tax credit to investors to provide capital to Alberta small businesses doing research, development, or commercialization of new technology. Bill 2 also supports the continuation of the capital investment tax credit, which provides a nonrefundable tax credit valued at 10 per cent of a corporation's eligible capital expenditures for manufacturing, processing, and tourism infrastructure, making an investment. The CITC program alone has brought in over \$1 billion of investment to our province, creating thousands of new jobs in emerging markets.

Both of these programs have been widely supported by chambers of commerce across the province. I'm very supportive to see them move forward, creating more success stories like the second-round recipient Aurora Cannabis, who's CCO explained:

Our Aurora Sky facility will be larger in capacity and more advanced than anything that's ever been built or operated before in the cannabis sector. With support [specifically] from the CITC, we are using an unprecedented level of new technology and automation. This will be the most sophisticated and efficient cannabis production facility in the world . . . technical positions requiring advanced science degrees, and we're proud to have established this flagship site in Aurora's home province of Alberta.

Madam Speaker, continuing these two important tax credits will mean companies will continue looking to Alberta to start or expand their business, leveraging these credits to raise capital, creating good jobs and helping to diversify the local economy.

3:10

While our government continues on these two important tax credits, we are also creating more opportunities for investment through the interactive digital media tax credit. The IDMTC would provide a 25 per cent tax credit for labour costs to eligible digital media companies. This investment will ensure our province plays a bigger role in the growing digital media and technology sector, fostering new development, encouraging innovation, and accelerating growth in new industries.

Of course, we have many success stories within our province in the IDM sector, including Edmonton's own BioWare, founded in 1995, the creator of the truly exceptional titles Mass Effect, Dragon Age, Star Wars: The Old Republic, Baldur's Gate, and Neverwinter Nights, all truly fantastic games if I do say so myself. I do have to give a plug today to the creators of BioWare: Ray Muzyka, Greg Zeschuk, Trent Oster, Brent Oster, Marcel Zeschuk, Augustine Yip. Of course, Muzyka, Zeschuk, and Yip had recently graduated through the medical program at the U of A and decided to make the jump into creating video games. I'm not sure how that connection happened. You'd have to ask them. But they pooled some resources together and were able to pull together about \$100,000 in capital to create BioWare.

Like I said, I'm sure they could tell you this story better themselves, to find out how they made that jump, but it is an incredible story nonetheless. With the interactive digital media tax credit we will see more stories like this develop, ensuring that we are exporting products across the globe, not exporting our talent.

As I was reading comments from people in my community in regard to Bill 2, someone made a great point that though we have a few incredible game developers in our community, talent will often look elsewhere, to places like Quebec. They want to settle in a community where there are more opportunities, more gaming companies because they want to have more job opportunities. If this legislation is passed, I'm confident we'll see more companies popping up, which means more people are willing to come and stay here because if they were to lose their job, well, in some cases, they

might not be able to find another company to work for in this jurisdiction.

It's also important to note that organizations like BioWare bring between \$50 million and \$80 million to our local economy, with their workers making an annual wage of \$71,000. When we look at the costs for the IDM industry and the video game industry, we see that labour costs make up the majority of those costs, around 65 to 90 per cent of the production costs. That is why this tax credit is aimed at labour specifically.

We do see similar programs, as was mentioned, across the country. B.C. has a 17.5 per cent tax credit, Quebec a 37.5 per cent tax credit, with Manitoba and Ontario at a whopping 40 per cent. With those figures, you can quickly understand why it's so important for us to move forward on this initiative and another reason why it's important to understand the difference between having a low corporate tax above all else. It's important that we are able to compete on all levels, and in this case it's a tax credit offered to interactive digital media companies.

Companies like BioWare have long explained that Alberta is losing when it comes to holding on to our talent, and I'm extremely happy to see, moving forward with Bill 2, that we will be able to level the playing field. We won't have tax credits as high as 40 per cent, but we'll at least be levelling it a bit better.

Madam Speaker, I'll admit that I'm a bit of a video game enthusiast. For the last two years I've participated in a fundraiser for the local Stollery children's hospital, who was here within the last two weeks. It's called Extra Life. I will also mention that the Minister of Labour joined me as well as a few other MLAs. Edmonton-Centre, Edmonton-South West, and Edmonton-Decore also made an appearance. Edmonton-South West beat me in the game that we played at the beginning, but I won't hold it against him. Extra Life is a 24-hour gaming marathon where gamers from across North America come together to play games for 24 hours. It's the only marathon that I participate in, and it's sponsored by many local game companies like Retro Active Arcade, Happy Harbor Comics, Fragapalooza, and The Gamers' Lodge, just to name a few.

Now, Edmonton has an incredible community of game developers and, of course, game players, and this bill will definitely be good news for them, especially when we look at the 3,000 postsecondary tech spaces that we're talking about creating through this legislation. It's important, when we look at the postsecondary institutions, that we're able to help them grow in this industry and expand the scholarships that will be offered for programs in the high-tech industry.

At the announcement of Bill 2 the minister of economic development and the Minister of Advanced Education were joined by Trent Oster, who cofounded BioWare and started the international gaming company Beamdog. I'll add that just last week they released their – oh, this is a bit of an old speech. A couple of weeks ago they released their *Neverwinter Nights: Enhanced Edition*. Just a shut-out for them: go pick it up on Steam.

He explained that the tax credit will help the industry in Alberta. He said: I'm happy to be an Albertan, and to be able to play here with a level playing field excites me greatly; we're the best in the world at interactive content, high-speed simulation, user interface; the next 20 years is going to be built on these technologies; augmented reality, virtual reality are all based on high-performance simulation; the games industry is going to feed that, and it's going to grow huge.

Once again, in the past we saw companies like BioWare increasingly move their operations to provinces with these tax credits, specifically Quebec in this case. Now we can keep our

homegrown talent here, benefiting from the jobs they create and the products they export.

Now, as somebody who graduated from the radio and television broadcasting program at NAIT, I've always hoped that one day my voice might make it into a video game. It hasn't happened yet, but, you know, BioWare, you can give me a call any time. With this funding I think that we'll see more opportunities for postsecondary spaces to work together with programs across the board, and I would love to see more partnerships like that for future students and graduates.

Now, I also have to mention another conversation I had, with a fellow named Aaron Clifford, who is a virtual reality producer with an Edmonton company, KOVR. Robert Lennon is the CEO there, and Mike Bowman is the managing partner. This organization uses VR programs like Unity 3-D and Google augmented reality core to show their clients how final projects like lighted signs on buildings will look before they make their final decision to buy their product. In my conversations with Mr. Clifford he explained that they are bidding on interactive projects for businesses and media and that the IDMTC program will help them compete globally. He explained: we're still finding our path, and this credit will give us 25 per cent more time to find those amazing clients.

Madam Speaker, this is a perfect example of an organization filled with experienced leadership working on projects that will diversify our local economy. It's also a great example of the flexibility of the jobs within the industry as in their spare time they are working on VR games that will soon be in the beta stages, which I look forward to testing on my own virtual reality product Oculus Rift.

We see examples of VR and AR more and more in industries like advertising. Realty organizations are moving to this platform to give homebuyers the full experience before making the final decision to purchase a home, and the same is happening within the architecture and project development industries. It will truly revolutionize the way that we see concept projects, not to mention the breakthroughs that are happening within the medical industry and education as a whole, using VR and AR to experience situations that can help students practise before the real thing. I've also seen a few instances where retirement homes are using it for people and where long-term care facilities are using it for seniors that are experiencing Alzheimer's and even dementia. It's an opportunity for them to experience, whether it's music or certain places, you know, Paris or anywhere else, that again without having to leave the facility. So there are some great opportunities there.

Back to the contents of the bill. I was also incredibly proud to see the diversity and inclusion component within Bill 2, although the Member for Strathmore-Brooks doesn't find it to be particularly important to him, adjusting the AITC program for these investors who invest in companies where the majority of the board, including the CEO, are members of an unrepresented group, providing an extra 5 per cent tax credit. This extra 5 per cent tax credit also extends to the programs that were already in place, the AITC and the CITC, but also to the digital media tax credit as well, and it is the first of its kind across Canada when it comes to truly supporting those who focus on inclusive employment.

Finally, if Bill 2 passes, it will enable this government to strengthen our ties with the unmanned aerial systems sector. Partnerships with institutions and industry will enable the testing of technological applications and will expedite the uptake of advanced technology industries in Alberta. Of course, Alberta is already home to the Canadian Centre for Unmanned Vehicle Systems, and we want to continue to support the centre. Unmanned aerial technologies have economic applications in a number of sectors, including oil and gas, agriculture, resource management, wildlife

tracking, transportation systems, and emergency response processes. All of this has the potential to create new employment opportunities and positions Alberta as an attractive investment location.

3:20

Madam Speaker, I'm very proud to see the initiatives put forward in Bill 2 moving forward: extending the existing tax credit programs, creating the interactive digital media tax credit program as well as 3,000 postsecondary spaces and more scholarships for those attending our postsecondary institutions. I'm very proud to stand in support of this legislation, and I look forward to seeing it move forward. I'm very thankful to the minister and all of my colleagues here, who have helped to shape this program moving forward, as well as the many stakeholders that have been consulted on it, and I look forward to seeing it move forward.

Thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Hanson: Very good. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I know that it's getting late and it's the last day here, but I couldn't miss an opportunity to stand up and point out the failings of our government one last time before the break.

Madam Speaker, although I would like to find the humour in this situation, it simply is no laughing matter. The government has implemented so many disastrous policies that investors have fled the province.

Mr. Mason: We miss them, too.

Mr. Hanson: The Minister of Transportation misses all those companies. Is that what he said?

Their administrative and corporate tax hikes, their complete bungling of the electricity file – and who can forget the job-killing carbon tax? You know, let's talk about the carbon tax for a minute. We've brought it up in question period many times, looking for exemptions for school bus drivers, school boards, food banks, virtually every business in Alberta, and virtually every family in Alberta. Now that they've driven out investment and are scrambling, they need to introduce legislation to attempt to make Alberta once again the attractive place to invest that it once was. Unfortunately, the damage has been done. Not only that, but the damage continues to be done. Introducing a bill that would promote investment when their carbon tax still has its grip on Albertans seems counterintuitive. It seems to me as if they are trying to mop up the water without having plugged the holes in the bottom of the boat.

The first logical, common-sense step would be to repeal the carbon tax, would it not? Madam Speaker, we are now at a point where we need to use incentives, a.k.a. the money of hard-working Albertans. A reminder: it is the taxpayers' money, not the government's money. We're using that money to try to encourage investors back to Alberta and to promote the diversification of Alberta's technology sector.

Of course, a large, blossoming tech sector would be a great thing for Alberta, and I certainly support that, as I'm sure my colleagues on this side do as well. Where my issue takes root is that providing tax credits to a specific sector of the market has the potential to distort that market. The NDP government insists on having a hand in all free-market activity in this province, but this has the potential to create tax credit or subsidy-dependent industries.

Madam Speaker, when it comes to the economy, the NDP has no leg to stand on. We've seen this over and over with their track record of increasing the regulatory burden as well as the tax burden for businesses, driving investors out. They've damaged the playing field. As a matter of fact, they've plowed up the playing field and have no other choice but to bring in yet another bill that tries to repair a sector that they've bungled up.

Let me remind you of what happened when they thought they knew better on the electricity file. They pushed that legislation through, and then Albertans were left with volatility and unpredictability. Investors urged the government to do something, so they were forced to bring in Bill 13. This is yet another one of those bills that has been brought in to do damage control by the NDP after they have scared investment away with their tax and administrative hikes.

According to CFIB, and I quote: 92 per cent of business owners are not confident the Alberta government is committed to improving the business climate. Madam Speaker, that says a lot. The overwhelming majority of Alberta's hard-working business owners do not believe that their government has any interest in actually welcoming investment back to our province, getting private capital flowing, increasing jobs, or getting Alberta back on track. They do not feel that this government has their backs. Albertans are not confident that their government wants what's best for their business. But now the government will do what it takes, meaning taking more of taxpayers' money to fund these credits, to lure investment back, only to see that the economic climate here has not in fact changed at all.

CFIB has also stated – and I quote – that entrepreneurs in Alberta are the least confident in the country. In the entire country Alberta now has the least confident entrepreneurs. Alberta used to be the province that people would think of in Canada when they imagined opportunity and economic success, or what we Albertans called the Alberta advantage. Now the NDP government has bungled it up so badly that they need Bill 2 to try to get back at least some of the investor confidence they lost.

To re-emphasize, we don't have trust in their ability to restore the economy when they have already damaged it so recklessly by raising taxes on larger businesses and high-income earners, increasing environmental and other regulations, imposing a carbon tax, and creating increased labour costs. According to the Calgary Chamber of commerce it's becoming harder to run a successful business in Calgary, which cites the carbon tax in addition to rising labour costs and increasing personal and corporate taxes as the causes. When the Calgary Chamber of commerce is citing the carbon tax as well as other tax hikes as the causes of hardship for business owners in Alberta, it should be as clear as day to the NDP government.

Madam Speaker, any time the government wants to introduce something new into an existing market, the NDP's track record is cause for concern for me. Last year there were difficulties and delays in providing the Alberta investor tax credit funding in a timely fashion. Meanwhile the interactive digital media tax credit program will not have any program or application details until the summer of 2018, probably not a great surprise to anyone as these last three years have proven the great inefficiency of the NDP government. In fact, the *Calgary Herald* published a headline last year that read: New Alberta Tax Credit off to Slow Start with no Money Awarded Yet. The government's own program, and they couldn't get it out the door.

Madam Speaker, the government continues to play favourites. We've seen them introduce tax credits in relatively narrow sectors, with the potential of creating market distortion. Alberta not only

needs to remain competitive to neighbouring provinces as well as all Canadian provinces, but it needs to stay competitive globally. Alberta is competing on a global stage, and when the investment has left us, it has gone somewhere it deems more favourable to set up shop, to safer investment climates like Iran.

This side of the House has lost trust in the government's ability to restore the economy and investor confidence, and so have Albertans. For that reason, I will not be supporting this bill.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Mr. Mason: Just a question. I'm not sure that I caught what the hon. member said correctly. Did he really say that he felt that Iraq had a safer investment climate than Alberta?

Mr. Hanson: Iran.

Mr. Mason: Iran. Okay. Just wanted to make sure we had that on the record, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak?

Seeing none, hon. minister, would you like to close debate?
Then I will call the question.

[Motion carried; Bill 2 read a second time]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank all members of the House for their co-operation and contribution this afternoon and this week. I think it would be nice, to start our long weekend, if we had, you know, maybe just an extra hour so that people can beat the traffic and travel on those beautiful Alberta highways. I'll move that we adjourn the House until 10 o'clock – no, until 9 o'clock . . .

An Hon. Member: It's 1:30 on Monday, May 28.

Mr. Mason: I've got to get better notes, Madam Speaker.

Okay. Yes. I'll move that we adjourn, and I wish everybody safe travels and a very productive constituency week.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:30 p.m. to Monday, May 28, at 1:30 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, May 17, 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*)

Second Reading — 50-51 (*Mar. 13, 2018 morn.*), 184-87 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft.*), 233-43 (*Mar. 20, 2018 morn.*), 301-08 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft.*), 919-27 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 981-84 (*May 9, 2018 eve.*), 1054-59 (*May 14, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Bill 2 — Growth and Diversification Act (\$) (Bilous)

First Reading — 118 (*Mar. 14, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 243-46 (*Mar. 20, 2018 morn.*), 294-96 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft.*), 314-25 (*Mar. 22, 2018 morn.*), 411-12 (*Apr. 4, 2018 aft.*), 702-05 (*May 1, 2018 eve.*), 928-33 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 1061-68 (*May 15, 2018 morn.*), 1101-04 (*May 15, 2018 eve.*), 1163-67 (*May 16, 2018 eve.*), 1202-06 (*May 17, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 3 — Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2018 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 184 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 221-26 (*Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 261-68 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 296-98 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c1]

Bill 4 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2018 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 165 (*Mar. 15, 2018 morn., passed*)

Second Reading — 226-32 (*Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 268-75 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 298-301 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c2]

Bill 5 — An Act to Strengthen Financial Security for Persons with Disabilities (Sabir)

First Reading — 200-201 (*Mar. 19, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 360-62 (*Apr. 3, 2018 morn.*), 482-87 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 847-54 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 1084-88 (*May 15, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 6 — Gaming and Liquor Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Ganley)

First Reading — 448 (*Apr. 9, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 533-34 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft.*), 669-79 (*May 1, 2018 aft.*), 1010-13 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1101 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1158-63 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Bill 7 — Supporting Alberta's Local Food Sector Act (Carlier)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 491-97 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft.*), 534-36 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft.*), 679-83 (*May 1, 2018 aft.*), 908-09 (*May 8, 2018 eve.*), 913-14 (*May 8, 2018 eve.*), 1097-98 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Bill 8 — Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2018 (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 374 (*Apr. 3, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 9* — Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act (Hoffman)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 497-502 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft.*), 785-93 (*May 3, 2018 morn.*), 775-76 (*May 3, 2018 morn.*), 807-08 (*May 3, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 909-13 (*May 8, 2018 eve.*), 957-61 (*May 9, 2018 aft.*), 992-94 (*May 10, 2018 morn.*), 1088-96 (*May 15, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Bill 10 — An Act to Enable Clean Energy Improvements (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 528 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 611-12 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft.*), 643-50 (*May 1, 2018 morn.*), 761-72 (*May 2, 2018 eve.*), 973-81 (*May 9, 2018 eve.*), 1049-54 (*May 14, 2018 eve.*), 1180-87 (*May 17, 2018 morn., adjourned on amendment*)

Bill 11 — Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

First Reading — 505 (*Apr. 11, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 612-13 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft.*), 650-56 (*May 1, 2018 morn.*), 772-74 (*May 2, 2018 eve.*), 967-73 (*May 9, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1157 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Bill 12* — Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 547 (*Apr. 16, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 736-46 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 854-55 (*May 7, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 961-65 (*May 9, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 994-96 (*May 10, 2018 morn.*), 1135-54 (*May 16, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 13 — An Act to Secure Alberta's Electricity Future (\$) (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 606 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 746-53 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 808-16 (*May 3, 2018 aft.*), 855-64 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 947-57 (*May 9, 2018 aft.*), 1169-80 (*May 17, 2018 morn., adjourned on amendment*)

Bill 14 — An Act to Empower Utility Consumers (McLean)

First Reading — 590 (*Apr. 18, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 718-24 (*May 2, 2018 morn.*), 915-19 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 1098-1101 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Bill 15 — Appropriation Act, 2018 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 610 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Second Reading — 683-89 (*May 1, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 753-56 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 757-60 (*May 2, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 776-85 (*May 3, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 14, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 14, 2018; SA 2018 c3]

Bill 16 — Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

First Reading — 879 (*May 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1010-13 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1105-22 (*May 16, 2018 morn.*), 1155-57 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Bill 17 — Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Ceci)

First Reading — 806 (*May 3, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 864-65 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 1014-15 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1058-59 (*May 14, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1157 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Bill 18 — Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Mason)

First Reading — 1201 (*May 17, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 201 — Employment Standards (Firefighter Leave) Amendment Act, 2018 (W. Anderson)

First Reading — 118 (*Mar. 14, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 201-14 (*Mar. 19, 2018 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future*)

Bill 202 — Alberta Taxpayer Protection (Carbon Tax Referendum) Amendment Act, 2018 (Kenney)

First Reading — 179 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 549-63 (*Apr. 16, 2018 aft., defeated on division*)

Bill 203 — Long Term Care Information Act (Schreiner)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 632-40 (*Apr. 30, 2018 aft.*), 829-33 (*May 7, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 204 — Land Statutes (Abolition of Adverse Possession) Amendment Act, 2018 (Gotfried)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 833-41 (*May 7, 2018 aft., adjourned*), 1031-37 (*May 14, 2018 aft., reasoned amendment agreed to*)

Bill 205 — Supporting Accessible Mental Health Services Act (Jabbour)

First Reading — 1008 (*May 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1037 (*May 14, 2018 aft., deferred to Monday, October 29, 2018*)

Bill 206 — Societies (Preventing the Promotion of Hate) Amendment Act, 2018 (Coolahan)

First Reading — 1008-09 (*May 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1037 (*May 14, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

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