



Province of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, October 31, 2024

Day 63

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 31st Legislature

First Session

Cooper, Hon. Nathan M., Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UC), Speaker
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UC), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UC), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Deputy Government House Leader
Arcand-Paul, Brooks, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Hon. Jackie, ECA,
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)
Batten, Diana M.B., Calgary-Acadia (NDP)
Boitchenko, Andrew, Drayton Valley-Devon (UC)
Boparai, Parmeet Singh, Calgary-Falconridge (NDP)
Bouchard, Eric, Calgary-Lougheed (UC)
Brar, Gurinder, Calgary-North East (NDP)
Calahoo Stonehouse, Jodi, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, ECA, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
Chapman, Amanda, Calgary-Beddington (NDP),
Official Opposition Deputy Assistant Whip
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
de Jonge, Chantelle, Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)
Dreeschen, Hon. Devin, ECA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UC)
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)
Eggen, Hon. David, ECA, Edmonton-North West (NDP)
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Ellis, Hon. Mike, ECA, Calgary-West (UC),
Deputy Premier
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Eremenko, Janet, Calgary-Currie (NDP)
Fir, Hon. Tanya, ECA, Calgary-Peigan (UC)
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Haji, Sharif, Edmonton-Decore (NDP)
Hayter, Julia K.U., Calgary-Edgemont (NDP)
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Hoyle, Rhiannon, Edmonton-South (NDP)
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Ip, Nathan, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),
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(UC)
Johnson, Jennifer, Lacombe-Ponoka (UC)
Jones, Hon. Matt, ECA, Calgary-South East (UC)
Kasawski, Kyle, Sherwood Park (NDP)
Kayande, Samir, Calgary-Elbow (NDP)

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Nixon, Hon. Jason, ECA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre
(UC)
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Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)
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Sinclair, Scott, Lesser Slave Lake (UC)
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Smith, Hon. Danielle, ECA, Brooks-Medicine Hat (UC),
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Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC)
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP)
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Wright, Peggy K., Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC),
Deputy Government Whip
Yaseen, Hon. Muhammad, ECA, Calgary-North (UC)
Vacant, Lethbridge-West

Party standings:

United Conservative: 49

New Democrat: 37

Vacant: 1

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Nathan Neudorf	Minister of Affordability and Utilities
Demetrios Nicolaides	Minister of Education
Jason Nixon	Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services
Rajan Sawhney	Minister of Advanced Education
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Andrew Boitchenko	Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Relations
Chantelle de Jonge	Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities
Shane Getson	Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Corridor Development
Grant Hunter	Parliamentary Secretary for Agrifood Development
Martin Long	Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health
Chelsae Petrovic	Parliamentary Secretary for Health Workforce Engagement
Scott Sinclair	Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Policing
Tany Yao	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Northern Development

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Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Yao

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Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee

Chair: Mr. Getson

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Rowswell
Sabir
Wright, J.

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Lovely

Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

Batten
Boitchenko
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Lunty
Metz
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Tejada

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Getson

Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Chapman
Dyck
Eremenko
Hunter
Long
Renaud
Shepherd
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Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Cooper

Deputy Chair: Mr. Getson

Eggen
Gray
Long
Rowswell
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Vacant

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Ms Pitt

Deputy Chair: Mr. Stephan

Bouchard
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Deol
Dyck
Hayter
Petrovic
Sigurdson, L.
Wright, J.

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Mr. Yao

Deputy Chair: Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk

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Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Sabir

Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Armstrong-Homeniuk
de Jonge
Haji
Lovely
Lunty
McDougall
Renaud
Schmidt

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Deputy Chair: Mr. Schmidt

Al-Guneid
Armstrong-Homeniuk
Dyck
Eggen
Hunter
McDougall
Sinclair
Sweet

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 31, 2024

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King and to his government, to Members of the Legislative Assembly, and to all in positions of responsibility the guidance of Your spirit. May they never lead the province wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideas but, laying aside all private interests and prejudices, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all. Amen.

Hon. members, it being Thursday, we will now be led in the singing of *God Save the King* by Mr. Michael Peters.

Hon. Members:

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King!

The Speaker: Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: Hon. members, today I have the great pleasure of introducing a former member and a good friend of mine, Mr. Mark Smith. He was the 896th member ever to be elected to the Assembly. He represented the constituency of Drayton Valley-Devon from 2015 to 2023. I invite him to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

It's also my honour and privilege to introduce a very special visitor joining us in my gallery today. Mr. Ethan Williams is a member of the Didsbury town council and a very dear friend of mine who just happens to also work in the outstanding constituency office of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. I first met Ethan in 2016, when he was a senior in high school. Following his graduation from Olds College in 2018, he interned with the Official Opposition, and our friendship grew. As the youngest councillor in Didsbury's history, he brings a perspective that is valued by his colleagues and his constituents. As a valued member of my team he's someone who always makes sure I am wearing pants. I ask him to please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park has a school group.

Mr. Kasawski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the members of the Assembly it's my pleasure to introduce the 42 grade 9 students from New Horizons School in Sherwood Park. This school is extremely successful, bursting at the seams, and, Minister, it is ready for a high school. Students, will you please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you Andrew Ferguson, a 14-year-old grade 9 student at New Horizons charter school in Sherwood Park. Andrew is an avid hockey and baseball player, and he is the son of my deputy minister. Andrew, please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and happy Diwali, everyone. I'm glad to rise and introduce to you and through you Hari Rawat, who is the vice-president of programming from the Hindu Society of Alberta, the first-ever Hindu temple in the province, built in 1967. I'd like to congratulate Mr. Rawat and the team for organizing an excellent Diwali event, and thank you for hosting us last night.

Mr. Boitchenko: Mr. Speaker, it's my honour and pleasure to introduce to you and through you Regina Hansen and Valentina Martens from the town of Devon. Valentina is a teacher, and Regina serves on the school board. They both are strong advocates for the safety and well-being of children in our province. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Nicolaidis: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I'm happy to rise to introduce Tiffany Gillis, a strong supporter of our province's oil and gas industry, a parent of two school-aged children, and an advocate for strengthening parents' involvement in their education. I'm also happy to introduce Mike McMann, superintendent of the Fort Vermilion school division. I ask that they both rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Mr. Eggen: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce my constituent Marni Panas – she's an incredible trans advocate, lifelong Albertan, and inclusion professional – and her partner, Cheyenne McLean, a surgical resident. Please rise and join me in welcoming them.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Cameron Friesen, former member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, former minister of health, seniors and active living, Finance, and Justice and Attorney General. As well, I want to thank our special guest Ms Kellie Lynn Pirie for joining us today, and a special shout-out to my friend Sheila Cunningham. Please, all, rise and receive the warm welcome.

Mr. Haji: Mr. Speaker, it's my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly Dunia Nur, president and founder of African Canadian Civic Engagement Council; Habiba Shurie, who does great work in our schools; and Emmanuel Onah. They all do fantastic work to create an inclusive society in a lot of neighbourhoods in our communities. I ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

Mr. Stephan: Happy Diwali, Mr. Speaker. It's good to celebrate good over evil. I introduce Savita Patel, a community servant for over 30 years, representing today Purnima Chaudhuri Thumri Foundation & Centre for Performing Arts. Please rise and accept the warm welcome of this Legislature.

The Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader has an introduction.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you two constituents of mine, Hannah and Dave Pilling. They're amazing people. Hannah herself was just awarded rookie of the year for ACAC female athlete of the year. I'd ask them to rise and please receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Mr. Dyck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Legislative Assembly my guests from the Hindu Society of Beaumont. They are president Yash Sharma and treasurer Shekhar Desaiogudar. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mrs. Petrovic: Hi, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you three amazing constituents: Shain, Rhonda, and Anaya, who was part of the youth minister council for education. I ask that you please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Chestermere-Strathmore.

Ms de Jonge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce to you and through you a group here from PAKT, parents and kids together, here to show support for the important legislation our government is bringing forward today to protect children and their future choices. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Ms Fir: Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Legislative Assembly several friends of ours: Taylor Elliott, James Decker, Lois Cardinal, Jason Brandick, Blaine Badiuk, Tiffany Gillis. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Are there are others? The Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today and introduce to you and through you friends from near and far that came over here to talk about the potential sukuk financing for major projects and economic corridors: from the Kuwait Finance House, Mohamed Habibi and Iqbal Mohammed; from Denton Financial, Mike Harris, Peter Inglis, Keith Hennel, Robert Bothwell; and from the Prairies Crossing Group, Ahmed Mohamed, Mohamed Bihi, Imran Syed, and Dr. Habiba Mohamud. I apologize, folks. I'd like to request you to rise and please receive the warm welcome.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Children and Family Services.

Mr. Turton: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislature my good friend Spencer Bennett from the amazing riding of Spruce Grove-Stony Plain. He's a local teacher, a good friend, and a great supporter. Please rise and accept the warm welcome of this Assembly.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow has a statement to make.

Diwali

Member Kayande: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise here today to mark the many celebrations on October 31, 2024, in the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, and Jain communities, including over 200,000 Albertans and over 1.3 billion people world-wide. For so many Albertans and myself today is a holy day, a day that highlights the values of our faith and brings together family, friends, and community.

1:40

Hindus across our province are celebrating Diwali, or Deepavali, the festival of lights. It celebrates the victory of good over evil and light over darkness, honouring Lord Rama on his return after 14 years of exile upon defeating the demon king Ravana. It is a day that reminds us all to celebrate light, joy, and unity.

Sikhs across our province are celebrating Bandi Chhor Diwas, the Day of Liberation. It marks the release of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji and 52 other prisoners from Gwalior Fort in 1619. It is a celebration that commemorates justice, selflessness, and freedom, values paramount not just to the Sikh faith but to all of us. On this day friends and families come together to share meals, exchange gifts, light diyas, and decorate their homes. The symbolism of this day, the triumph of light over darkness, of good over evil, reminds us of the values that we must continue to strive for as Albertans.

As we mark Diwali and Bandi Chhor Diwas, I also want to recognize the immense contributions of the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, and Jain communities in building Alberta. Across sectors, industries, communities, urban and rural, they are leaders. My parents arrived here in the '60s and were part of a generation that built a strong, vibrant Hindu community in Alberta, and I am so proud of each and every single one of them.

On behalf of my caucus and the Official Opposition I wish everyone celebrating a very happy Diwali, a very happy Lakshmi Puja today, and Bandi Chhor Diwas.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland has a statement to make.

Regulation of Professional Standards

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased that the government review of Alberta's regulated professions is under way. I and other members of this House have heard from regulated professionals that regulatory bodies may be going too far in limiting freedoms of expression. We're initiating this review in response to increasing concerns that professional bodies are going too far in limiting individual freedom of expression and imposing compulsory training beyond the scope of their professional practice. In some cases regulated professionals are even facing actual discipline. We're concerned that this has led to self-censorship, a chilling effect on professionals, and the ability to speak and express themselves freely.

Mr. Speaker, these concerns must be addressed. These hard-working Albertans must be confident in the expertise and the ethics of the regulated professional bodies. Professional regulatory bodies play an important role in protecting the public interest by setting standards of competence and conduct for their members and disciplining those who fail to meet them.

However, professionals must be free to express their personal opinions and beliefs when not practising or representing that profession. This is a matter of protecting Alberta's civil rights, Mr. Speaker. Organizations that regulate professionals must strike a balance that upholds the competence and the ethics without

restricting members' rights and freedoms, and we are working to ensure that balance is met.

This review is an important first step in considering whether legislative changes are needed to clarify that professionals' regulatory bodies are limited in regulating member professionals' competence and behaviour. I'm pleased that our government is gathering input from regulated professionals, their regulatory bodies, and other associations and experts on how any potential changes would impact the role that regulatory bodies play.

This review would ensure that Alberta's rights and freedoms are protected, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking forward to the outcome, and I'm sure a number of my colleagues are.

Thank you.

Government Policies

Mr. Shepherd:

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak
and weary,
O'er another troubling transcript of a UCP townhall
As I sat there, mildly cursing, both my mind and heart
were hurting
To read the Premier half-affirming truths that were not
truths at all
"Tis quite a thing," I muttered, "To see a leader caught in
such a thrall
With no shame, no, none at all."
It was, I do remember, in the month before September
That the Premier blew on embers of conspiracies galore
Like that vaccines were actually deadly, for young
children especially,
And strange deaths increasing readily, people dying by
the score,
And though the facts did not support it, she said it's
something she'd explore
Members spoke 'bout immigration, and the pace of its
inflation,
Claimed Ukrainians we welcomed led to swastikas in
our streets
Said access to ivermectin should have no peer-reviewed
direction
Just the feeling of a single doc who'd do just as they
please
And claimed that teachers in our schools handed out
pornography
And we know it's been a pattern, it's been more than just
a smattering
Of occasions when the Premier's flirted with
conspiracies
Like that people commit arson to frame burning
hydrocarbons
For non-existent climate change so they can force
through policies
And that planes are spraying chemicals to bring us to our
knees
Now, I'd laugh, but it's not funny. Millions in public
money
are being spent now just because this government is
pandering to this:
creating binding legislation based on lies,
misinformation
that will, in its application, hurt real people in our midst,
breaking systems we depend on for their gain and
benefit.
I think it's cold and callous, almost bordering on malice,
for a government to encourage this. It's something to
abhor.

But I know we can have better and we're working hard
to get there
with our leader Naheed Nenshi in three years from '24.
Albertans, well, they'll have the chance to vote for
something more.
Yes, they'll vote for something more and tell this
Premier: nevermore.

[some applause]

Rural Crime Prevention

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, government's primary and first responsibility is to protect its people. When civilizations first made their collective decisions to forgo a portion of their individualistic tendencies and band together, it was with the intent to add a measure of protection to their families and societies as a whole. Today governments across the globe have expanded their scope and practice. Working together for a common goal has on the whole benefited humanity and has enriched a civilized society. But we should never forget the primary reason why we first formed governments, and that was and still is to protect its people.

In Canada the criminal element has sadly been empowered by bad federal bail legislation and liberalized drug policies. We in the provinces have been begging the federal Liberals for bail reform. In Alberta we have embraced a holistic approach to breaking the bands of drug addiction through our recovery-oriented approach. It is not compassionate nor humane to facilitate or prolong another's drug addiction. I have lived in rural Alberta for most of my life, Mr. Speaker. It is a peaceful and serene life. It's a great place to raise a family, but the criminal element has learned how to operate in rural Alberta, and that is of great concern to me.

One Albertan told me that he is a heavy duty mechanic and operates out of his Quonset on his acreage. He has been broken into so many times, Mr. Speaker, and his tools stolen that his insurance won't insure him anymore. So now he sleeps in the Quonset to protect his livelihood. The government has failed this man and his family, and I submit that we have deviated from our long tradition of successfully protecting our people. If we fail to help our people feel safe, to live and work and enjoy their property, then our primary reason for forming governments has been lost. I believe we can and must do better for our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Continuing Care Standards

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is Halloween. This is a day when darkness reigns and evil lurks. Instead of suppressing the troubling aspects of our society, Halloween is a day to reveal them. That's why today is the perfect day to talk about continuing care.

Many disturbing events are occurring inside the halls of facilities throughout Alberta. Hellish events include neglect, violence, even acts of sexual violence, odour, mould, and improper food-handling practices or other gruesome shortcomings too often occurring in continuing care. All these are compromising the health of seniors. These are dreadful circumstances. In addition, seniors are afraid to leave their rooms because of dangerous situations in their hallways. Some report feeling terrorized by ghoulish circumstances. Yet the UCP, instead of mitigating the circumstances, cruelly ignores them. Alarming this is for sure.

Strangely, the UCP make administrative changes rather than dealing with the haunting reality. Moving continuing care from the Health ministry to the Seniors, Community and Social Services

ministry does nothing to address this dangerous situation. Horrendously as well, the new continuing care legislation has eliminated the minimum daily care hours for seniors. This grisly truth gives no support to families worried about their loved one's care. The minister alarmingly says she wants to be flexible for providers. Excuse me, Mr. Speaker: what about seniors? The nightmare continues for families. Their concerns about lack of care cannot be legislated as no minimum daily hours are identified.

On this Halloween I'm imploring the UCP to stop these horrors. It's time to shine the light on continuing care by ensuring that the needs of seniors are paramount. Seniors deserve high-quality care. It is the responsibility of the UCP to make this happen.

1:50

Statement by the Speaker

Table Officer Vani Govindarajan

The Speaker: Hon. members, some of you may have noticed a new face at the table this afternoon. Although not new to the Legislature, new to the table, Vani Govindarajan will be spending some time in the Chamber learning about the duties of a table officer. She has done a wonderful job working in Parliamentary Counsel from 2012 and 2013. As a law student at that time, she then joined the Legislative Assembly Office full-time as legal counsel in 2018 and was promoted to Parliamentary Counsel in 2022. Vani has a bachelor of arts degree and Juris Doctor from the University of Alberta; a master of arts degree from Carleton University. I hope that you will all join me in welcoming her to her new role.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition has question 1.

Nurses' Contract Negotiations

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, Alberta's nurses deserve way more respect than this government shows them. In a vote last night nurses rejected this government's offer. They voted 60 per cent opposed. Nurses are done with the lack of respect while this government leaves our health care system in disarray. The UCP has introduced too much instability with their privatization disguised as reorganization, and Alberta nurses have had it. Will the Premier admit that a huge rejection from nurses on their contract means that she's failed to show them respect?

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Ms Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The United Nurses of Alberta did reject a mediator's report for a new labour agreement. We are disappointed in that result. Even though both parties recommended accepting the mediator's report, early this morning they announced that their membership voted to reject the recommendations. The majority of locals agreed; the majority of members did not, and they do have a double majority. I think it's unfortunate because it would have made Alberta's registered nurses the highest paid in Canada, created more capacity by hiring a thousand new graduates. We hope that they'll get back to the table.

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, what I'm hearing from nurses is that this is about respect. We've just learned that 48 per cent of nurses leave the profession when they turn 35. The government chases nurses out of their own jobs, and so it's really not a surprise that nurses are so motivated. Last night's vote had over 75 per cent turnout. Every local in the province voted. The UCP seems to love to fight with

unions because they don't believe in supporting working people like our nurses, who are the heroes of our health care system. Will this government agree to get back to the bargaining table and negotiate a fair contract with the Alberta nurses, with the respect that they deserve?

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Ms Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, the mediator's recommendations would have made Alberta nurses the highest paid in Canada, would have created more capacity by hiring a thousand new graduating nurses into full-time positions, tripled investment into recruiting to rural and remote health care locations. It sounds like a great investment for individual nurses and a great investment for the health care system. I encourage the UNA to work with its members so that we can find a solution. I think part of the frustration may have come from the fact that when the other guys were in charge, they got zero, zero, and zero.

Ms Gray: I think the Premier and her government don't understand that it's not about the dollars; it is about respect. The government showed nurses no respect when they left NICUs understaffed. They showed nurses no respect when they failed to hire the physicians and support staff needed to give nurses relief. Every shift nurses are rushed off their feet. It's time that this government finally listen to health care workers across Alberta. What is the government's plan to show nurses and all health care professionals the respect that they deserve?

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Ms Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Giving nurses pay increases that make them the highest paid in the country looks to me like respect. Having a thousand more full-time nurses hired out of school to address the issues of being able to have enough staff in our hospitals, that looks like respect. What doesn't look like respect is what we saw under those guys: in 2017, zero per cent increase; 2018, zero per cent increase; 2019, zero per cent increase. We are trying to correct the errors of the government in the past.

The Speaker: The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition for her second set of questions.

Members' Acceptance of Gifts and Benefits

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, something happened these last six months, because the Premier's priorities are completely out of step with Albertans. During the Oilers playoffs the Premier and at least five of her cabinet ministers attended games and box seats with none other than the company that bought us the completely failed Turkish Tylenol. It's only because of investigative journalism, not government accountability and transparency, that Albertans even know which cabinet ministers went. Can the Premier tell Albertans today which cabinet ministers attended these box seats for playoff hockey games?

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Ms Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, we have a requirement with the Ethics Commissioner that any time we attend as an invited guest, we have to report it to them. I've gone to games. I've gone to derbies. I have gone to air shows. I've gone to rodeos, and many of my members have as well. It's a part of the job. I expect every one of our members to report, and the Ethics Commissioner has not raised any issues with me.

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, all of this might have been old news had the Premier simply released the list of every cabinet minister and staffer who accepted these expensive tickets because the reality is that the only reason she is actually meeting the ethics requirements is because she changed them to lower the bar to a standard Albertans don't find acceptable. The Premier said that Invest Alberta hosted her, but when we wrote to Invest Alberta, they said: "I can confirm that Invest Alberta did not host or pay for Premier Smith or any elected officials to attend NHL playoff games." Will she end this scandal today and come out with the truth?

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Ms Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said a board member of Invest Alberta had hosted me at the game in Vancouver, Explore Edmonton in Edmonton as well as the Oilers group. But we're only syncing up our system with the same one that they have in Calgary, where their unelected leader included box seats to watch the Calgary Flames in April 2015, a single ticket from ATCO to see the Flames in 2014, more Flames tickets in March 2017, tickets to a western final football game, multiple tickets for opera, ballet, Cirque du Soleil, theatre shows at his tenure as mayor – oh, yeah – plus tickets to an Olympic soccer game in England. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, every day it's more of the same. We ask for accountability from this Premier and she talks about Justin or she talks about Naheed. These are people she can't stop thinking about. She has changed the rules for her own benefit, and Albertans watched it happen. She has no problem with her ministers and political staff hobnobbing in luxurious box seats with the company behind Turkish Tyleneol, and now there are new rumours about just who's funding the shady new PAC that popped up this week called Alberta conservative action fund. So why won't she come clean, own up to it, and tell Albertans who attended?

Ms Smith: Well, Mr. Speaker, you know what else is a job expected of elected politicians, particularly elected leaders? It's to hold a seat in this Legislature. That is why I encourage some accountability on the other side. I would love to be asking questions to the unelected leader of the NDP, and there are a couple more days left before one of the members across – there's 37 of them – steps down, does the right thing, so that their leader can come in here and be accountable to the public for the position that he now wants. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

Member Calahoo Stonehouse: Mr. Speaker, Albertans deserve much more transparency than what this government has offered on these hockey tickets. The Premier's office told media six months ago that all expenses were paid back. They said that their staff, quote, paid both their own expenses. That statement was on May 13. A freedom of information inquiry shows that is not true. The Premier's office didn't even request the invoice for the expenses until May 15. Why did the Premier's office tell the public these expenses were already repaid when that's simply not the case?

Mr. Amery: Mr. Speaker, as the Premier just mentioned a few moments ago, all of the rules have been followed by ministers and staff, and the Premier, in fact, herself will happily work with the

Ethics Commissioner and the Ethics Commissioner's office if there are any disclosures that are required. As far as we can tell, all ministers have disclosed their attendances and all have complied with the Conflicts of Interest Act, and none of those are an issue as of today.

2:00

Member Calahoo Stonehouse: After six months we know at least five ministers took tickets from the same company that brought us the Turkish Tyleneol. The Finance minister went to these games, the Deputy Premier went to one game, the Minister of Affordability and Utilities went to a game, the Tourism and Sport minister went but refused to say who paid for the ticket, and only yesterday the Infrastructure minister owned up to a ticket as well. To the Premier: which other cabinet ministers did she give permission to take free box seat tickets to these hockey games?

Mr. Schow: Point of order.

The Speaker: A point of order is noted at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Amery: Mr. Speaker, I think the opposition member has to take yes for an answer. All of the rules on the Conflicts of Interest Act have been followed by the ministers. We often attend various events. We attend events that contribute to Alberta's success, to its culture, and to its liveliness. Unlike the members opposite, we engage with our communities. We're proud of what the Oilers did this past season. We're looking forward to seeing them do that again, and we will support everybody in this province on this side of the House.

Member Calahoo Stonehouse: Mr. Speaker, this whole thing is embarrassing.

Mr. Nixon: You're right. You are embarrassing.

Ms Gray: Point of order.

Member Calahoo Stonehouse: The Premier's besties at Take Back Alberta are furious because David Parker wrote: corruption seems to have seized the whole office. End quote.

Mr. Nixon: Very embarrassing.

Member Calahoo Stonehouse: This government took box seats to Oilers playoffs that a lot of Albertans would have loved to have attended. It is time for honesty and transparency. Will the Premier table the names of every minister that took the tickets, and when the Oilers get to the playoffs this year, will she guarantee that no one – not her, not her staff, not her cabinet – will take tickets from her insiders?

The Speaker: A point of order is noted at 2:02.

Mr. Amery: Mr. Speaker, the only thing embarrassing are the events that the unelected leader of the NDP attended during his time as mayor in Calgary: box seats to watch the Calgary Flames in April of 2015; a single ticket from ATCO to see the Flames in 2014; more Flames games in March of 2017; tickets to a western final football game; multiple tickets to the opera, ballet, Cirque du Soleil, and theatre shows during his tenure as mayor; and, finally, an Olympic soccer game in England. That's the only shameful thing in this House. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

Automobile Insurance

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, Halloween seems like the perfect day to remind the Premier that Alberta families are haunted by the highest auto insurance rates in the country. Since the UCP lifted the NDP's rate cap in 2019, premiums have spiked by 30 per cent, terrifying Albertans more than any ghost story ever could. This government's so-called caps are doing nothing to lower real costs for anyone. Will the Premier admit her government's policies have failed Albertans and left them holding nothing but an empty bag of tricks?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, no decisions on auto insurance reform have been made at this time, but they will be made shortly, and we will announce our changes by the end of the year. As this House knows, we engaged Oliver Wyman to commission a study and Nous to look at the impacts different systems would have on the province. We know that Albertans are expecting long-term reforms. That's what we've promised them. We will also have to deal with probably more short-term changes as well. There's 17 to 19 per cent pressure built up in the system.

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

Ms Pancholi: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans wish that this government would pay attention to the cost of living and the affordability crisis that they're facing with the same level of urgency that the Premier attends to chemtrails in this province. The truth is that Alberta drivers pay the highest auto insurance premiums in Canada, \$770 more on average than drivers in Manitoba, B.C., or Saskatchewan. These provinces prove that better models exist. In fact, the UCP's own report, which came out ages ago, said that public insurance options can bring real savings for drivers, yet they've done little to help Albertans. When will they take meaningful action? No more delays, Minister. Please take some action now for Albertans.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, the part of that question I'll agree with is that the reports have shown that there are more affordable models out there, and that's what we're pursuing. We need to understand that system change like that will require time. It requires a lot of consultation, but it also requires time to change IT systems. All of those things are being considered while we consult with industry, but I can assure you that we're doing this from the Albertans' perspective. That's the way it was put in my mandate letter, that Albertans demand lower insurance rates, and that's our focus.

Ms Pancholi: Well, Mr. Speaker, the only thing that seems to take time for this government is to take action for Albertans. They seem to waste no time to take action for their party's members. Alberta not only has the highest auto insurance rates, but we also have the longest hospital wait times, the lowest per-student funding, and the slowest wage growth in Canada. While the UCP is focused on chemtrails and conspiracy theories and punching down on vulnerable youth, they've left Alberta families in the dark. Will the Premier admit that her policies have created nothing but a house of horrors for everyday Albertans, who are dying for a reasonable, competent government?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, we're focused every day on the needs of Albertans. I think that's why we're all here. We can agree on that, and I'm never going to say that there aren't challenges in this province. There are some sincere challenges, and we're seeing them right across the country in health care, in education. We're seeing them in housing costs, yet people from across the country and

around the world continue to flock to Alberta. That says something in and of itself. We will work every day to make life better for Albertans, keeping that perspective as our own, but we should be thankful we're here, and let's all work together to make it better.

Energy Industry Property Tax Payments

Mr. Kasawski: I'm haunted by the memory of the Minister of Municipal Affairs standing in this House and committing that oil and gas companies would pay rural counties the taxes they are owed. A year ago these taxes totalled \$250 million. Now they owe over \$330 million. To the minister. The tax bill is going up under his watch. Can he explain why he hasn't fulfilled his promise to help collect property taxes from oil and gas companies and pay municipalities what they are owed?

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

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've done exactly what we said we'd do. We have helped municipalities out in several different ways. We've made it harder for those oil and gas companies that don't behave well to transfer wells. We've made it so that they can be sued successfully by municipalities, and the problem goes on. As long as it does, we'll work with them. In fact, let's be clear. A vast, vast, vast majority of oil and gas companies pay all their bills. They pay them on time. They pay them in full. We are dealing with a small number of mostly foreign-owned companies that don't care, and we will get to the point where we're just going to have to force them.

Mr. Kasawski: Given that the minister of energy once told the Alberta Energy Regulator what the minister just said, that municipalities should be made whole for all the unpaid property taxes before any assets change hands, and given that the minister has now removed that same requirement mandating that the industry pay its bills, will the minister provide a clear timeline to municipalities across Alberta, who have lost so much revenue due to this government's failures, when they will finally be paid what they are owed?

Mr. McIver: You know what, Mr. Speaker? As I said a minute ago, we will continue to work on behalf of rural municipalities to either get the companies that owe the money to pay or to find a way to put them out of business. Everybody's got to pay their taxes. I have to pay my taxes, we all have to pay our taxes, and those oil and gas companies do. The ones that don't, frankly, I will keep advocating for the AER to put them out of business because allowing any company from any industry at any time to continue without paying their taxes is unacceptable.

Mr. Kasawski: Minister, you're not paying property taxes to some cities.

Now, given that municipalities have lost significant revenue to this government's tax holiday on new wells, the removal of the well drilling equipment tax, and the minister's failure to guarantee payment of overdue municipal taxes – I'm looking for a clear timeline – and given that these funds would be used for essential infrastructure like roads, bridges, and services that benefit their residents and the very same oil and gas companies that use their land, how exactly does the minister plan to ensure and when will he make sure they are paid whole once again?

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, frankly, the lack of knowledge of my critic is astounding. We don't pay property taxes. No government in Canada pays taxes to another government. My critic should know

that. We all should know that. It seems like the only one in the room that doesn't know that is the one on the other side that most should. On that file we make a decision every year on a grant that we pay in place of taxes. We know what we've done this year. We don't know what we're going to do next year. As the Premier and I have discussed with municipalities, it will be part of the discussion in this next year's budget.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose is next.

2:10 Career Education Programming in Alberta

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have great news for high school students across the province. Alberta's economy is growing rapidly, and after your graduation there are endless opportunities to pursue good-paying careers in emerging industries such as technologies, the skilled trades, aviation, and so much more. My question is to the Minister of Education. How are you ensuring students are prepared for their life after graduation in Alberta's rapidly growing economy?

Mr. Nicolaides: Well, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we're doing to make sure that young Albertans have opportunities right here at home is to make sure that our economy is strong, vibrant, and diverse. Unlike when the NDP was in power and our economy was in the toilet and they drove Albertans out of the province, we are seeing people flocking back to Alberta for economic opportunity. That is a precondition to making sure that our students have success.

We are also making sure that we are investing in career education opportunities, including a \$12 million investment in Budget '24 alone over the next three years to enhance dual credit opportunities and other opportunities for students.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

Ms Lovely: Thank you to the minister and to the Speaker. Given that our government is committed to expanding captivating, hands-on career education courses for students across the province and given that this will help students earn valuable skills and postsecondary credits while completing their education and given that our government just announced more funding to support school authorities across the province in enhancing and starting up dual credit programming, can the same minister share what opportunities our government's recent investments are unlocking for students?

Mr. Nicolaides: I'd be happy to, Mr. Speaker. As the member noted, earlier this week we announced that we're providing an additional investment of \$4.9 million into dual credit programs this school year alone. This money will go to help support 55 new programs and enhance 22 existing programs for students across approximately 58 school divisions across the entire province. Dual-credit opportunities are fantastic opportunities for students. They help them pursue career options and opportunities and help set them up for success after graduation.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for that answer. Given that enhancing dual credit programming is just one part of our government's commitment to giving students opportunities to pursue their education pathways while in school and given the minister's announcement that there are seven new collegiate schools that are welcoming students this school year and further given that these new collegiates will offer students

programming in science, aviation, technology, engineering, agriculture, business, information, communications, and the trades, to the same minister: how do collegiate schools fit into our government's commitment to give students a head start on life after school?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Collegiate schools are such a key part of Alberta's amazing and successful model of school choice. They're driven primarily by our school divisions, of course, first and foremost, but they're done so in partnership with a postsecondary partner. And through those partnerships students are able to explore exciting career opportunities and double down on career education while at the same time completing their high school diploma and earning credits for postsecondary education. As the member noted, there are exciting dual credit opportunities in many in-demand occupations across the province.

Unemployment, Wages, and Cost of Living

Member Kayande: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the affordability crisis is another job according to my friends on the other side of the aisle. Indeed, life would be easier for all Albertans if we made more money. Alas, Alberta has the second highest unemployment rate in Canada. We're just ahead of Newfoundland. Seven and a half per cent of people looking for work in Alberta can't find it. Why is this government choosing to eviscerate health education as its top priority instead of focusing on job growth?

Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Speaker, job opportunities, high wages, low taxes, competitive cost of living, quality of life have motivated record numbers of Canadians to relocate to Alberta. This growth and recent high interest rates have impacted Alberta's unemployment rate as new Albertans take time to settle into their jobs. But Alberta is seeing consistent and strong job growth. In August alone we added 12,800 jobs to our workforce, representing 58 per cent of all new jobs created in Canada. Mr. Speaker, people are coming here for opportunity and prosperity.

Member Kayande: I'm so glad the minister thinks everything is going great. Given that Albertans know that in addition to high unemployment, we have the weakest wage growth in the country since 2019 – ordinary Albertans aren't feeling this rosy picture – given that we're doing worse than Saskatchewan and given that since the UCP was elected in 2019, Alberta is the only province in Canada where wages haven't kept up with inflation, why is the UCP government okay with low wage growth, high inflation, and falling real wages?

Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Speaker, Alberta is leading the country in economic growth, job creation, productivity, weekly earnings, and more. While Alberta's unemployment rate is being impacted by record population growth, our government is taking action. We're investing into education, postsecondary, and employment and training programs to ensure that workers are well positioned to succeed in our growing economy. There are more than 73,000 people working in Alberta today versus 12 months ago, so we remain confident in Alberta's economic future.

Member Kayande: Given that it takes a special kind of government to so comprehensively avoid accountability for making Albertans' lives worse, given that instead of fuelling economic growth by lowering costs and allowing businesses to invest, this Premier became the first in Alberta's history to ban energy

investment by the private sector, given that Microsoft bought clean energy in Pennsylvania, not here, given that energy investment in Texas has taken off while here we banned it, why is this government destroying our competitiveness, thereby increasing unemployment and hammering Albertans' wages?

Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Speaker, the NDP increased taxes, they increased regulatory burden, and they were proudly antienergy and antibusiness. It's no surprise to anyone except for the NDP that billions of dollars of investment and tens of thousands of jobs, for that matter, left the province. For 13 consecutive quarters Albertans fled in droves under their leadership. We reduced taxes. We reduced regulatory burden. We're pro energy. We're pro business. We restored the Alberta advantage when they tried to trash it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Faith-based Holidays

Member Loyola: Alberta's strength is its diversity because we welcome people from all over the world and celebrate cultures, religions, and beliefs. However, Alberta's statutory holidays do not reflect our rich cultural diversity, so many Albertans have to go to school or work on their holiest and most culturally significant days. Last year the Premier told the Muslim community that she would work to celebrate Eid the same way others celebrate Christmas. She said last April that she'd bring in legislation to make this change. When can the Muslim community and other diverse communities expect the Premier to follow through with her promise?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much to the member for the question. As the member opposite knows, yes, it is in my mandate letter to look into the possibilities of celebrating faith-based holidays, cultural-based holidays in this province. We are looking at various options and around various jurisdictions to make sure that we are able to do so.

Member Loyola: Given that too many Albertans know the frustration of having to miss out on Eid celebrations, the Lunar New Year, Rosh Hashanah, or Diwali and given that other important celebrations are missed because families have to go to work or school on days that go beyond Christmas and Easter, why hasn't this government followed through on their commitment of giving people time off from work and school, in particular the Muslim community the Premier wrote to in her open letter? Is this just another instance of the Premier making promises to secure her leadership vote that she never intends to keep?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member again for the question. As I said before, we are looking at not only the faith-based holidays as well as other issues around newcomer communities here to make sure that they are fully happy and incorporated in our system here. We are doing our best to make sure that they are able to take time off from work, from school to celebrate their holidays and cultural events.

2:20

Member Loyola: Given that these days help Canadians participate in the religious and cultural traditions of their families and given that recognizing these days would send an important signal that not

only does the government acknowledge diversity but actually supports it, what is the UCP's plan to action this commitment of the Premier specifically to the Muslim community to bring in legislation for Muslims to receive statutory holidays for Eid this coming spring?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned before, our government is looking at all options for all faith days, including Muslim holidays. Once we have reviewed the process that we need to review to make sure that we are able to do it in a way that's sustainable and workable with our businesses in this province and other cultural communities, we will be able to do that.

But let me tell you how much we have done for newcomers. We have done a lot of things for newcomers, including heritage recognitions, personal recognitions, and . . .

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

Federal Oil and Gas Emissions Cap

Mr. Wright: Mr. Speaker, for generations Alberta's energy sector has fuelled economic growth, prosperity, and hope. The wealth generated by oil sands development supports jobs in every region of our province and provides revenue for important services and infrastructure. Despite the critical role energy plays in our economy, the Trudeau Liberals are proposing a 40 per cent emissions cap on oil and natural gas production. To the Minister of Energy and Minerals: how would the federal government's emissions cap impact Alberta's economy?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Energy and Minerals.

Mr. Jean: Mr. Speaker, thank you. There's no doubt that the emission cap proposed by the Alberta NDP's leader in Ottawa, you know, the Nenshi-Justin cap, will devastate our economy. It will devastate the lives of Albertans. It's been estimated that up to 150,000 Canadians will be out of work as a result of this. As well, it will make the lives of Canadians, and especially Albertans, more expensive than ever. This will have the biggest impact on Albertans, and we believe that it will mean lost jobs, hurt families, shuttered businesses, and lost money. It needs to stop. We need to get rid of the cap.

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

Mr. Wright: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for this vital information. Given that energy is the largest contributing sector of Alberta's economy and given that Ottawa is proposing an emissions cap amid a period of growth and job creation in our energy sector and given that energy security has never been of greater importance to Canadians, to the same minister: how is Alberta's government standing up for energy workers and spreading our message nation-wide of axing the cap?

Mr. Jean: Mr. Speaker, it is true; fewer schools will be built, fewer hospitals will be built right across Canada. We're asking all Albertans, all Canadians to have their say with MPs to scrap the cap. We need to make sure we stop this as soon as possible. We've launched a campaign to inform Canadians of the danger of this latest bit of misguided direction from the Liberals in Ottawa. Both Justin Trudeau and Stephen Guilbeault are misguided. We're encouraging all Canadians to help us scrap the cap; www.scrapthecap.ca. Join today. This is an effort worth moving on.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Wright: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister. Given that Albertans understand the importance of maintaining healthy ecological systems for future generations and given that innovations are currently under way in our energy sector that contribute to a cleaner environment and given that an emissions cap would only replace low-carbon Canadian production with higher polluting, less responsible oil from other countries, can the same minister share how Alberta's energy sector is already contributing to emissions reduction?

Thank you.

Mr. Jean: Mr. Speaker, it doesn't make any sense. The Liberals' approach is just not working. Alberta is positioned to be a global solution to emissions reduction. We need them to work with us, not against us. We're already leading the way in the world on carbon capture technologies. We are set up to be world leaders in supplying low-emission and high-demand fuels and minerals like hydrogen, ammonia, and lithium. You might have heard of oil and gas as well. We are here. We can service the world with natural gas, low emissions, less pollution. Alberta energy is better.

Registry Services in Northeast Calgary

Member Brar: Residents in Calgary-North East wait in very long queues to get access to basic services like drivers' licences, car registrations, health cards, and much more. When the majority of residents have to go to work, drop off their kids or pick up their kids from school, get their senior parents to doctor appointments, they wait in endless queues to get services they rely on, and these queues are getting longer. What is the minister's plan to build more registry services so Albertans can get these services in a timely manner?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction.

Mr. Nally: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to say that our government will continue to do market analysis where demand warrants. But what I would suggest to that member and his constituents is that drivers' licences, licence plates can all be renewed online. It's just one more example of how we've cut red tape in this province to make life better for Albertans.

Member Brar: Given that the northeast is the fastest growing neighbourhood in entire Calgary and most Albertans need services like getting their car plates changed or updating the health card for Alberta Health Services, which is also in a mess thanks to this UCP government, and given that it's not just the long wait times for AHS but also longer for registry services in communities, why did the minister not plan an expansion of registry services ahead of time so things did not have to get to this point?

Mr. Nally: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is asking the wrong question. The question he should be asking is: when is someone from that side of the House going to resign so the leader of the NDP can run for election? Are they waiting for us to do it? We're not going to step aside for them. Absolutely not. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

The hon. the minister of service Alberta has 10 seconds remaining.

Mr. Nally: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The leader of the NDP is humiliated as they refuse to step aside for him. When our leader

won the race, we had somebody that stepped aside the next day. When is it going to be? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

Member Brar: Given that this UCP government has continuously ignored northeast Calgary, whether that would be failing to build new schools, new hospitals, recreation centres, the green LRT, hail damage, and much more, given that Calgary-North East residents are now struggling to get more basic services that the government offers, when will the UCP stop ignoring northeast Calgary, and will the minister commit today to building more registry services in northeast Calgary? The question is simple. The minister doesn't have to get angry on this. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nally: Mr. Speaker, I will commit to campaigning in Calgary-North East if that member agrees to resign for the leader of the NDP. He's forced to watch Alberta Leg. TV from his home as his caucus drinks Perrier like it's happy hour. Albertans want to know: who's going to resign? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

Federal Carbon Tax

Mr. Wiebe: Mr. Speaker, Albertans, including those in my constituency of Grande Prairie-Wapiti, are increasingly concerned about the carbon tax and its impact on utility costs during Alberta's long winters. It's evident that the Trudeau Liberals along with their NDP allies are prioritizing an ideological agenda over making life more affordable for Canadians. To the Minister of Affordability and Utilities: how has the federal carbon tax affected the cost of living, and what are the economic consequences for Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Affordability and Utilities.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for that great question. The federal carbon tax is driving up the cost of everything, including food, fuel, and home heating. The carbon tax exacerbates the high cost of living that Albertans and Canadians are already experiencing, a situation fuelled by poor NDP-Liberal economic policies and out-of-control spending from the federal government. If the Alberta NDP truly cared about affordability and Albertans, they would join us and their own counterparts in British Columbia and Saskatchewan and call on Ottawa to axe the tax.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Wiebe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and through you to the minister for that answer. Given that the carbon tax costs Albertans and Canadians hundreds of dollars each year and these costs will continue to rise and further given that just last April Canadians faced a staggering 23 per cent increase in the federal carbon tax, to the Minister of Affordability and Utilities: could you please elaborate on how our government is working to lower the cost of living for all Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Affordability and Utilities.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the NDP-Liberals in Ottawa are making everything more expensive and driving up the costs of inflation with their carbon tax, our government is focused on lowering the cost of everyday essentials. We are breaking down economic barriers and helping Albertans to earn more to keep pace with the cost of living. This includes maintaining the lowest overall

taxes in the country, creating the seniors' discount, removing NDP fees for recovery services, and supporting our food banks, just to name a few of the many things that we are doing that the NDP failed to do in their time in office.

2:30

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Wiebe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and, through you, to the minister. Given that this disastrous tax does nothing but hurt Albertans and, frankly, all Canadians and further given that the Alberta NDP leader still refuses to clarify his stance on the carbon tax, could the same minister please elaborate on our government's stance on the carbon tax and our plan to lower utility costs for all Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll note to my colleague that while the NDP leader continues to be evasive on carbon tax – make no mistake – the Alberta NDP support Trudeau's carbon tax. On this side of the House we will put Albertans first, not Ottawa, like the members opposite. Our UCP government demands that the NDP-Liberals axe the tax, and we're taking Ottawa to court on their unconstitutional, unlawful heating oil exemption. Despite the carbon tax Alberta's electricity inflation rate is down 36 per cent year over year thanks to our government's policy, and our work has only just begun to lower Albertans' utility bills.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall has a question.

Calgary Hailstorm Damage

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past August 5 the Calgary area was hit by a massive hailstorm, which, according to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, has resulted in \$2.8 billion in insured losses. The hailstorm is the second-costliest disaster in Canada's history following the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire, yet we didn't see anyone from the UCP government visit or listen to the concerns of those impacted by this disaster. Can anyone from the government side get up and tell us one meaningful step that they have taken to help those affected by this hailstorm? Just one step.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, the claim the member just made about \$2.8 billion is correct, and I can share with everyone that about \$1 billion of that was on auto alone. That hailstorm hitting the Calgary airport: I don't know if there are many more dangerous or expensive places a hailstorm could hit, maybe an airport in Dubai, but that's added just more pressure into the system. We're currently seeing 17 to 19 per cent pressure in the insurance system, and that's why we're going to need to act swiftly with short-term and long-term reform.

Mr. Sabir: Given that the people affected by the hailstorm are asking for fairly basic information and transparency, it won't cost government much. So my question is: can the government share with Albertans how many claims have been registered, how many have been processed, how many are pending? And when can people expect to see all their claims processed and dealt with?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, the Alberta government doesn't regulate property insurance, but we have worked closely with the different insurance companies and firms also with the fire in Jasper. We've worked closely to make sure that they're working as swiftly and efficiently as possible to deal with the claims that they're seeing on

the ground. We'll continue to do that work. But we also have to be very careful that the government of Alberta stays in their lane when it comes to insurable and uninsurable losses. That's very important for now and into the future.

Mr. Sabir: Given that prior to this hailstorm the 2020 hailstorm caused over \$1.2 billion in damages, mostly around northeast Calgary, and given that government refused to help with it then in any meaningful way, is it the government policy to ignore northeast Calgary and do nothing to help them? Has the government learned anything from these disasters? Are there any plans to change building codes to mandate more hail-resistant building materials in hail-prone areas?

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is suggesting we make housing more affordable by taking away more affordable siding choices on the homes. I appreciate it's kind of a natural thing that something that's less expensive doesn't stand up always as well as something more expensive. I'm just curious if that's the NDP's position, to make housing less expensive for people that can least afford it. I think that's what I just heard.

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

International Postsecondary Students

Member Tejada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I met with the Alberta Students' Executive Council and international students, and they shone a light on unique challenges faced by these students in light of federal immigration changes. This includes limits to hours of work, predatory recruitment practices, no flexibility in program changes, and all of this with a background of an affordability crisis that is affecting all Albertans. We know we need to keep recruiting skilled folks in economic target areas to build a robust economy that serves all of Alberta. What is this government doing to ensure that international students are well supported?

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you for that very important question. We know that government policies at the federal level have really impacted international students, and we know that international students are important as well. But the fact of the matter is that that resides with the federal government. They make the policies related to international students. I do want to take a moment just to say that our postsecondary institutions have done a great job in terms of providing quality education to these students.

Member Tejada: Given that international students are impacted by the recent spike in anti-immigrant sentiment, with no help from the Premier signalling that immigrants are actually the problem, and given that what we really need is a government that takes action and invests in health care, housing, student services, and education and given that as late as August this Premier had Alberta calling and has now unceremoniously hung up, can she let us know how she will now assist and advocate for international students, the international students we called?

Mrs. Sawhney: Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. International students are not to blame for this situation. The blame falls exclusively on the Trudeau government and their irresponsible open-border policies. That is the reality of the situation. But having said that, I've met with all of the postsecondary institutions here in this province and have made a special request to make sure that international students are cared for by their students' associations and by administrations. That is what we can do here in terms of the government of Alberta, but the responsibility does reside with the federal government.

Member Tejada: Given that the government MO of throwing vulnerable populations under the bus isn't just cruel; it actually won't help us meet our economic goals and given that ensuring the success of all students in Alberta regardless of their nationality helps to move our province forward and makes us more competitive and given that on this side of the House we support all newcomers, whether they're students, workers, future citizens, because they are part of our communities, will this government stop picking fights, look at other orders of government, co-operate, stop fomenting fear and division, and commit to respecting the students we need to build the province?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, all newcomers are valued here in this province and in this country. International students are valued as well, and Alberta is a good actor. We haven't seen the same problems that other jurisdictions have, and our postsecondary institutions have been incredibly responsible in making sure that international students receive a quality education and that they do receive supports when they are required. So I'm very proud to again advocate for our postsecondary institutions and the work that they have done with international students, and, again, any issues that are related to them are really within the purview of the federal government. I can't emphasize that enough.

Bill 28

Mr. Long: Mr. Speaker, Albertans deserve the assurance that the food they serve to their families is safe and that their government is taking action to protect it. Food safety is essential to our health, our economy, and it is something that cannot be taken for granted. Safe food is not only essential to public health but also to Alberta's reputation as a world-class leader in livestock production. To the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation: what is Alberta's government doing to ensure the meat served on tables across our province is safe for our families to eat?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Mr. Sigurdson: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for West Yellowhead for such a great question. I mean, making sure Albertans have access to safe, high-quality food is a top priority for this government. I'm so proud that our government has tabled Bill 28, the Meat Inspection Amendment Act, 2024. This bill proposes to raise maximum fines to \$100,000 for offenders who break the law by participating in illegal slaughter. These illegal actions pose a serious risk to food safety and animal health.

2:40

The Speaker: The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for that update. Given that over the last two years Alberta has seen an increase in the illegal slaughter and sale of uninspected meat and given that trend threatens to undermine consumer safety and the reputation of producers and given the critical role Alberta livestock producers and meat processors play in our economy, to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation: how will the proposed increases in fines deter illegal activity and reassure Albertans that our food system remains trustworthy? What is our government doing to strengthen the enforcement of these regulations?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Sigurdson: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is proposing an increase in maximum fines from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for each offence. This increase is a significant deterrent. We're

sending a clear message that illegal actions that create dangerous and unhealthy conditions for Albertans will not be tolerated. Bill 28 is also extending the time from one year to two years to allow inspectors to address complex cases and bring those offenders to justice. I strongly encourage all Albertans to buy their meat from licensed operators and retailers. That list can be found on alberta.ca.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Alberta's livestock producers are vital contributors to our economy, creating jobs in every region of the province while feeding the world, and given the high value Alberta's government places on ensuring their voices and concerns are heard and given the need to maintain healthy supply chains at every step from field to fork, can the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation share the response from agriculture leaders to these proposed increased penalties?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta has the best food safety and highest quality protein in the world, and that reputation has been built on the hard-working producers, ranchers, and businesses. The changes would strengthen food safety without increasing operating costs for the industry. Leaders in the industry have expressed their support for government's Bill 28 and its intent to ensure we keep Alberta's food supply chain strong and livestock industry safe for future generations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. members, that concludes the time allotted for Oral Question Period. In 30 seconds or less we will continue with the remainder of the daily Routine.

Members' Statements

(continued)

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park has a statement to make.

Halloween Activities in Sherwood Park

Mr. Kasawski: The air is growing crisp, morning frosts are here, and hopefully all the leaves are raked up in the hamlet of Sherwood Park as we're preparing for Halloween night. Halloween in Sherwood Park and Strathcona county gets community together for all types of activities, like the Haunted Trail Tours at Strathcona Wilderness Centre, trick-or-treating along Candy Map in Sherwood Heights, the Haunted Forest in Gilmore Park, a potluck at Strathcona primary care network, Mystery at the Museum, market at Pioneer House, and pumpkin carving at Colchester Hall, along with all the family and neighbourhood traditions across Sherwood Park.

This Saturday folks will be able to take their used jack-o'-lanterns to Fire Station 6 and toss those pumpkins off a four-storey hall to raise money for #FillTheBoot, an annual fundraiser by Canada's firefighters to support Muscular Dystrophy Canada. Most events in Sherwood Park include charitable events, like collection for the Strathcona Food Bank, the Christmas Bureau, Youth Empowerment & Support Services, and so many other amazing organizations that are connected with Sherwood Park. Sherwood Park always comes together to support those in need.

Volunteers are essential to Halloween activities, and we owe a big thank you to all the volunteers that bring our community together for festivities and bring life, foster friendship and

community amongst our neighbours. As we all know, connections build community, and research shows that a strong sense of community combats misinformation, paranoia, and isolation, as important today as ever. It is because of a strong sense of community that we know that the sasquatches in Sherwood Park are just kids dressed up in costumes and there will be no spooky chemtrails sprayed on the residents of Sherwood Park tonight.

Halloween is more than just a day of fun. It enhances our sense of togetherness, creates unique opportunities for connections. The simple act of trick-or-treating fosters interactions among neighbours, much like door-knocking that MLAs love to do.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

The Speaker: The chief government whip.

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with section 19(5) of the Auditor General Act and as chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices I'm pleased to table the office of the Auditor General results for the reports ending March 31, 2024. Electronic copies will be provided to all the members.

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I do that, may I also rise and advise the Assembly that pursuant to Standing Order 7(8) the daily Routine may continue past 3 p.m.

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Mr. Schow: On to the motion. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(3) I wish to advise the Assembly that Motion for a Return 19, which the Assembly had previously been advised was to be accepted on Monday, May 27, will now be dealt with on the next available Monday.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Health.

Bill 26 Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2)

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise and request leave to introduce Bill 26, the Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2).

This bill would continue work to refocus the health care system, provide clarity on issues that matter to Albertans, and preserve choice for minors identifying as transgender or gender diverse. It includes amendments to the Provincial Health Agencies Act, the Public Health Act, the Health Information Act, and Health Professions Act. These amendments would enable us to implement policies and bring clarity to existing legislation. Further, they reflect our commitment to build a health care system that responds to the changing needs of Albertans.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I hereby move first reading of the Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2).

[The voice vote indicated that the motion for first reading lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 2:47 p.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Amery	Jean	Rowswell
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Johnson	Sawhney
Boitchenko	LaGrange	Schow
Bouchard	Loewen	Sigurdson, R.J.
Cyr	Long	Sinclair
de Jonge	Lovely	Singh
Dreeshen	Lundy	Smith
Dyck	McDougall	Stephan
Ellis	McIver	Turton
Fir	Nally	van Dijken
Getson	Neudorf	Wiebe
Glubish	Nicolaides	Wilson
Guthrie	Nixon	Wright, J.
Horner	Petrovic	Yao
Hunter	Pitt	Yaseen

Against the motion:

Arcand-Paul	Eremenko	Metz
Batten	Goehring	Notley
Boparai	Gray	Pancholi
Brar	Haji	Renaud
Calahoo Stonehouse	Hoffman	Sabir
Ceci	Hoyle	Schmidt
Chapman	Ip	Shepherd
Dach	Irwin	Sigurdson, L.
Deol	Kasawski	Sweet
Eggen	Kayande	Tejada
Ellingson	Loyola	Wright, P.
Elmeligi		

Totals: For – 45 Against – 34

[Motion carried; Bill 26 read a first time]

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Bill 27 Education Amendment Act, 2024

Mr. Nicolaides: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce a bill being Bill 27, the Education Amendment Act, 2024.

The bill will provide clarity, consistency, and transparency to education policies in schools across Alberta. Parents across the province want to be more involved and have a larger say in their child's education, and we are happy to strengthen their involvement through these proposed amendments.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to move first reading of Bill 27.

[Motion carried; Bill 27 read a first time]

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Tourism and Sport.

Bill 29 Fairness and Safety in Sport Act

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 29, the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act.

This legislation is a major step in ensuring fairness, safety, and inclusivity in sport for Albertans. Mr. Speaker, no athlete should have an unfair advantage, and no athlete should have to put themselves at risk or harm in order to participate in the sports they love. That's why our government is introducing legislation to

ensure biological female athletes are able to compete in biological-female-only divisions and are working with our partners to ensure that transgender athletes have meaningful opportunities to participate in the sports they love of their choice. If passed, Bill 29 will ensure a balanced, fair, safe, and inclusive direction for amateur competitive sport development in Alberta for years to come.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I hereby move first reading of Bill 29, the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act.

[Motion carried; Bill 29 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: Are there tablings? The hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills.

Mr. Ellingson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured and pleased today to stand in support of our trans community and their allies and table five requisite copies of a letter submitted from a constituent to the Premier begging the Premier to change the plans for legislation that will remove access to vital health care for trans and gender-diverse communities.

The Speaker: Are there other tablings? The hon. Member for Calgary-Beddington.

Ms Chapman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite copies of a resource, Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights. Just another resource for folks to review on comprehensive sexual health education and how it works to prevent gender-based violence.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat has a tabling.

Mr. Wright: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to submit the five requisite copies of three articles, one showcasing the cost of \$22 billion collected between 2019 and 2020 and 2022 and 2023 from small businesses through the carbon tax and only .17 per cent was returned to small businesses in rebates.

The second showcases the total cost of \$6,700 per year by 2030 for the carbon tax.

The third one is the article showcasing that legal firearms owners are rarely involved in gun homicides.

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

Member Hoyle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table five copies of an article of the devastating impact that this UCP government has had on the renewable energy sector, driving billions of investment and construction projects out of our province.

The Speaker: Are there others? The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Member Kayande: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the five requisite copies of a newspaper article to remember sapper Steven Henry Marshall. Yesterday was the 15th anniversary of his death in combat, and he is remembered and missed by his friends and family, including some in Calgary-Elbow. Our freedom isn't free.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, followed by Edmonton-Decore.

Member Irwin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of an e-mail from a parent, one of

literally thousands of e-mails we are receiving from folks all across Alberta urging the UCP to reconsider the egregious antitrans bills that they just introduced. Please read those e-mails.

Mr. Haji: Mr. Speaker, I rise to table five copies of a CBC article that came out this week. The article shows new data that reveals Calgarians relying on the food bank doubled since the UCP came to power.

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

Dr. Metz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table five copies of my op-ed from the *Calgary Herald* of April 2024 and the follow-up communications from a sampling of many paramedics who shared their experiences with me. All pertain to the system challenges that hurt the mental health of Alberta paramedics.

3:10

The Speaker: Are there others? The Member for Edmonton-McClung.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with two tablings. Number one, an article from today's *Calgary Herald* by Audrey Pridham, which states in its title that Housing Costs [are] No. 1 Concern for Business Owners [in a] Study, reciting that the province is failing to address housing costs and it's causing inflation to go up.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to draw attention with this second tabling to the important role that all our electoral officers, independent officers of the Legislature all combined play in our democracy in that they act as a check on unbridled government power. I have five copies of the . . .

The Speaker: Hon. members, that brings us to points of order. At 2 o'clock the hon. the Government House Leader rose on a point of order.

Mr. Schow: Withdrawn.

The Speaker: I consider that matter dealt with and concluded.

At 2:02 the Official Opposition House Leader rose on a point of order.

Point of Order Insulting Language

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rose under 23(h), (i), and (j), specifically, "uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder." At that time the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford was asking a question that included the line, "This whole thing is embarrassing," speaking about the concerns around hockey tickets and the lack of transparency from this government. At that time the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services yelled very loudly: "You're right. You are embarrassing."

Mr. Speaker, *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, page 623: "personal attacks, insults and obscenities are not in order." As well, page 610: personal attacks and heated exchanges are less likely when comments are directed to the chair rather than through another member. I'm particularly saying that "you are embarrassing" is just an outright insult. Absolutely untrue when the member was simply seeking transparency on behalf of Albertans. I would ask that that minister apologize, withdraw, and discontinue from personal attacks of my members.

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If, in fact, the member said, “You are embarrassing,” that would in fact be a point of order. I did speak to the member. My understanding was that he said: the question is embarrassing. I don’t have record of it. I didn’t hear it myself. If I am corrected and he in fact said, “You are embarrassing,” that would of course be a point of order. I leave the rest in your hands.

The Speaker: I do have the benefit of the Blues, and I am prepared to rule. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford said, “Mr. Speaker, this whole thing is embarrassing.” The hon. Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services – not only do I have the benefit of the Blues, but I could hear from here – said: “You’re right. You are embarrassing.” He proceeded to say, “Very embarrassing.” This is a point of order. It should be apologized for and withdrawn.

Mr. Schow: Mr. Speaker, you are right. That is a point of order. I withdraw and apologize.

The Speaker: I consider this matter dealt with and concluded.
Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day Government Motions

The Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader.

Chief Electoral Officer

49. Mr. Schow moved:
Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly concur in the report of the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee (Sessional Paper S.P. 534/2023-24) and recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that Gordon McClure be appointed as Chief Electoral Officer for the province of Alberta effective November 18, 2024.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Mr. Schow: Thank you. Yesterday on October 30, 2024, after nearly a year search process, the committee recommended to the Assembly that Mr. McClure be appointed to the position of the Chief Electoral Officer. As you are aware, Alberta’s Chief Electoral Officer serves as an independent officer of the Legislature and provides leadership and direction to Elections Alberta to ensure all provincial enumerations, elections, by-elections, and plebiscites are conducted in accordance with the Election Act and the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act and the senatorial selection act.

The search process for this position was thorough. It was led by a bipartisan committee with members supported by LAO staff and the public service’s nonpartisan executive search team. I want to take this opportunity to thank all members of the search committee for undertaking this important work and the dedicated staff who supported them throughout this important process over the last year.

Mr. Speaker, the committee received applications from candidates around Alberta and other jurisdictions in Canada. Executive search completed screening reports on top applicants, and after that, the committee reviewed all resumé and screening reports to determine a short list for preliminary interviews. Then executive search conducted those preliminary interviews and reported back to the committee. Finally, the committee conducted

the interviews with selected candidates and selected Mr. McClure as the successful candidate.

As you see, Madam Speaker, members of the committee undertook a thorough process to find the right candidate for the Chief Electoral Officer position. I had the opportunity to review the position profile of the Chief Electoral Officer and Mr. McClure’s bio, and I’m confident in his ability to carry out the duties of Alberta’s Chief Electoral Officer. For instance, the person appointed to this position should have a strong record of achievement at the executive level in public- or private-sector administration, overseeing significant fiscal and human resource operations, and Mr. McClure brings a wealth of experience to this role as a long-serving public servant for over 26 years. Most recently Mr. McClure served as the chair for the Public Lands Appeal Board and as appeals co-ordinator for over 10 years, and he has also served as an assistant deputy minister of revenue and financial operations in the Yukon, and was, before that, the director of business services and project management in the Department of Municipal Affairs with the government of Alberta.

This person should have understanding of financial management practices and procedures to include financial statements, budgets, and audit techniques, and not only was Gordon McClure ADM of revenue and financial operations in the Yukon, but he also holds a master of public administration from the University of Victoria.

Candidates were also required to have proven expertise in the interpretation and application of legislation, regulations, and policies, working knowledge of the parliamentary system, government functions and process, and the public sector, and experience in decision-making at a senior level related to sensitive and complex issues. Mr. McClure has extensive knowledge of legislative and policy process, working in different governments. He also has senior-level decision-making experience managing budgets and with project management, and he has completed a program in tribunal justice from the Foundation of Administrative Justice and is accredited as a qualified arbitrator.

Madam Speaker, it is the standard practice that after the select special committee reports on the search of the Chief Electoral Officer to the Legislative Assembly and recommends the appointment of the officer, the Lieutenant Governor in Council appoints the Chief Electoral Officer on the recommendation of the Assembly. I am confident that Mr. McClure will fulfill his duties as Alberta’s Chief Electoral Officer, and I am looking forward to the members of this Assembly’s support of the committee’s recommendation.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there others that wish to join in on the debate? The hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to speak to Government Motion 49, and I will share my concerns, my caucus’ concerns with the processes that have led to the selection of an Ethics Commissioner and now a Chief Electoral Officer.

I was a member of this committee from day one. In December of 2023 that committee was put together to look for a new Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer. In the first round we interviewed individuals who applied for these two positions, and after the completion of those interviews, in a very, highly unusual move, the UCP changed the membership of the committee, and those members were not even part of those interviews. They decided that they would offer the Ethics Commissioner position to a person who interviewed and not offer the Chief Electoral Officer position to anyone.

3:20

That was fundamentally unfair, and the reason it was unfair is that the members who interviewed: it was their right to make that decision. Whether they chose a person out of the first-round interviews and weren't part of those interviews: that was wrong. And if they declined candidates in the first round without hearing them, that was also wrong. So that was the flaw in this process. I would suggest that their decisions were not based on merit. Their decisions were based on political considerations, and, as a result of this, in the second round we were not able to attract as many high-quality candidates as we did in the first round of interviews.

Also, I think it's important to restate that the person they chose as Ethics Commissioner has a well-documented history of partisanship. He had worked in this government. He had put forward his name as a UCP candidate. He had a history of donations. That was all public record. And in the first round when they chose one person with those well-documented partisan ties and ignored everybody else, that created uncertainty and resulted in reduced confidence in the fairness of the process. We cannot afford that, because both of these offices are important. All independent officers of the Legislature are important, but these two particular offices, whether it's the Ethics Commissioner or the CEO's office, I would suggest that they are even more important given what has transpired in the last little while, whether they're discussions about hockey tickets, whether there are discussions about personal gifts and benefits. We needed to have somebody who Albertans can have full trust and confidence in.

Similarly, the CEO position. That office is responsible for administering our elections. Our democracy depends on that office. So it's not so much who they have chosen through this process. Our principal concern is about the process that led to the selection of these candidates, that it was politicized. Memberships were changed midway through. People who were not even part of the interviews were able to make decisions, offer some people positions, reject others, without even looking at their resumes, and that is unacceptable.

Ultimately, our caucus will work with the candidate that the Assembly chose and wish them the best. We, however, do wish that the UCP had followed an appropriate and fair process instead of undermining public trust and confidence in the government hiring process. Albertans deserve far better than that. Not only should they have full trust in the person that is chosen; they should also have trust and confidence in the process. What we have seen from this government is that they will prioritize their political interests over fairness and over fair processes. That's the reason that we provided a minority report, essentially, to share our concern with the process that led to the selection of these two positions.

With that, I will take my seat. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there others that wish to join in on the debate on Government Motion 49? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Ms Wright: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to rise in this House and in many, many ways echo the concerns of my colleague who just spoke. The primary concerns are, of course, around the issue of process, process in terms of the work of the committee, and I do think process in terms of some of the gaps that I see that were missing in terms of our work over the last year.

To begin with, I was very, very privileged and very honoured to be asked to sit on this committee because of the importance of both of the positions that we were discussing over the course of the year. It really is quite something to be able to lend one's voice to these sorts of appointments, these sorts of decisions because both these

positions of Ethics Commissioner as well as Chief Electoral Officer are independent officers of this Legislature. They underpin what it is we do in this House every day. It's not only about our collective positions as MLAs and the work that we do, but they also speak very much to what it is that we value in terms of democracy itself. That's why it's a privilege to sit on a committee like this.

Both of these appointments, both of these positions are essential, not only to the running of this province but also to the integrity with which we do this job. That extends to the trust that Albertans not only place in us but also place in our offices. As we all know, when trust begins to erode, it's incredibly hard to get that trust back, and, quite frankly, Madam Speaker, that's what I fear has happened over the course of the last year and over the course of the deliberations of the committee.

While I have indeed been privileged to sit with my colleagues on both sides of the House and deliberate on behalf of not only my constituents but all Albertans, I am faced with the fact that both of these positions are really to make sure that we hold ourselves and government itself to a high ethical standard so that all Albertans know that these positions themselves can equally be held in high esteem.

That trust has been eroded because of the way – and my colleague alluded to this – the process worked, the way it played out. The position of Chief Electoral Officer is critical because this is the position who, as an independent officer of this House, administers each and every single one of our elections, referenda. This is the person who ensures a relatively small group of people for a very long period of time suddenly become a very large group of people. They grow to number in the thousands once that election is called. That person, this position must understand that each of these folks are not only trained appropriately but also have to be empowered to make decisions on that day. That means the training needs to be absolutely impeccable and unimpeachable because they must not only respect the law and the act, but they also need to ensure that Albertans' trust in that position is not misplaced.

The position is also tasked with educating all Albertans, including those under the age of majority, not just in terms of when and where but also how to vote, what options might be available to them, and be prepared to answer all of those endless FAQs when folks happen to be confused.

Ultimately, though, this is also a position that's entrusted with the sanctity of our electoral system: to make sure that everything runs smoothly; to make sure that if there is a fine that needs to be levied, it's levied fairly; to conduct those investigations; to ensure that candidates, whether they're affiliated with a party or whether they are independent candidates, not only understand requirements but are also able to simply follow them. And certainly in this era of social media, inflamed pronouncements, mis- and disinformation and half-truths, the high level of trust that we need to place in both of these positions, but quite frankly also in the position of Chief Electoral Officer, is essential.

All of that is borne out through process; a process that involves staff, that involves planning, that involves thinking about all possible scenarios that might indeed occur, and it is indeed one that ultimately involves Albertans because they are the ones who are voting. Oftentimes – and I heard this many, many times as a teacher, Madam Speaker: trust the process. But how can we trust the process when we know that there are gaps? There were absolutely gaps in the decision-making ability of this committee.

3:30

I will take a moment now and talk about another way in which we possibly could have approached this process. It would have been

absolutely lovely – and this is sort of the teacher in me speaking – if there would have been some consensus. There is power in unanimity, and there is power in unity. Even if it's simply an agreement in principle, the power that's there is the power that happens along the way, but that does indeed, Madam Speaker, assume a level of collaboration, a level of compromise, a level of consensus that just didn't occur, and that's throughout the tenure of this committee.

Over the term, as you heard earlier, the UCP changed their membership midway through, which resulted in the absence of a decision on a position that could have been made at the time and in fact led to one of those new members participating in that decision-making process, which I believe they should not have been a part of. It wasn't a way to end proceedings for one of those positions and also wasn't a good way to begin proceedings for a second decision.

I certainly share my colleague's opinion that it was clear that it was about political considerations that were paramount rather than the nature or importance of both of these independent positions. Previous processes, best practices, and agreed-upon ways of proceeding were simply cast aside and overridden. This is what led to the erosion of trust.

It's curious to me, Madam Speaker, because we have examples of many other jurisdictions throughout our country that don't operate in the same way. In fact, over in B.C., the neighbour just to the west of us, they demand a unanimous decision. Ontario had a unanimous decision. Manitoba, Saskatchewan: these are just a few of the jurisdictions in this country that indeed expect that there's going to be some sense of unity in terms of the committee that's making these incredibly important decisions on behalf of all citizens in their provinces.

Quite frankly, there's a bit of beauty that's involved in working toward that sort of an agreement because it shows that all of the folks on the committee, both sides of the House, believe in the importance of shared decision-making, shared ownership, and the ability to guide folks who differ in opinion to a decision that's grounded in collaboration.

Not only that, there's an understanding as well that, because they're grounded in collaboration, compromise, and consensus, those decision-making processes most often end, quite frankly, in better decisions being made, particularly helpful when stakes are high like they are with both of these positions. When there are high-impact and complex decisions that need to be made, like when, as I mentioned, members are recommending who the latest independent officers of this Legislature will be, the decisions that result are powerful and a powerful example in this case to the electorate we all serve because it shows confidence in the process and in the way in which that decision was made. Everyone knows that they were a part of that decision.

Because those processes didn't allow for this, instead we're left with uncertainty. We're left with a lack of confidence and a lack of trust. Our caucus, as mentioned earlier, will of course work with the Assembly's choice in this matter, and we truly do wish them all the best as they move ahead. That being said, I am hopeful that members opposite understand that the undermining of trust in these sorts of positions that are so central to the working of our democracy and in the way in which these committees select these independent officers is serious and should be remedied because Albertans deserve better.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members to Government Motion 49? The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

Mr. Dach: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to rise to speak to this motion, which will appoint a new Chief Electoral Officer for the province. First of all, I would like to say that should this motion pass, we would welcome Mr. Gordon McClure to his new role as Chief Electoral Officer. The process by which this appointment recommendation is being made was not his fault. It was, as has been described by previous colleagues of mine, a fumbled process, and it didn't have to turn out this way.

In any case, the appointment recommendation is being made by a majority government membership from the committee and, of course, with us issuing a minority report basically decrying the flawed process that we went through to get to this point. I think the public should be aware that the process was fumbled, but also, Madam Speaker, I wanted to highlight in my remarks this afternoon the fundamental role that all the independent officers of the Legislature play in our democratic process.

Many members of the public, I think most members of the public, really are not aware of the absolutely critical importance of the role the independent officers of the Legislature play. Even though they operate largely behind the scenes and not often in the limelight, I can't imagine the province's government operating without them. In fact, well, I could imagine a government operating without them, and it would be a lot less accountable government than one would have given the role that they play.

The independent officers of the Legislature are a check against unbridled power in this government and in Legislatures across parliamentary democracies globally. There are elevated roles that are played by the independent officers of the Legislature, particularly in Britain, where the Public Accounts officer has the stature of a cabinet minister and an office to boot. The independent officer of the Legislature that we appoint today to the role of the Chief Electoral Officer is one of those fundamental pillars of the democracy that we hold true, and without them, Madam Speaker, the public would soon become aware of their need.

The Chief Electoral Officer is just one of those independent officers, Madam Speaker. The public should be aware, of course, as we spoke earlier, of the Ethics Commissioner, the Child and Youth Advocate, the Auditor General, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Ombudsman, the Public Interest Commissioner. All of these positions and roles are critically important to the function of our democracy and act as a check against, as I mentioned, unbridled government power.

If indeed we don't choose these individuals very, very carefully, we deprive ourselves of an opportunity to make sure that the government is held to account from a different vantage point apart from the Official Opposition in the Legislature. We hold, as members of the Legislature in the Official Opposition, a large role in holding the government to account, but we don't stand alone. Those independent officers of the Legislature play a role, as they are appointed by the Legislature to do, to focus on the actions of the government and make sure that they are adhering to the legislation that they are responsible for overseeing.

Of course, that is so critically important when it comes to the Chief Electoral Officer appointment, who undertakes the role in a time when democracies the world over are under threat by right-wing populist movements that seek to undermine the very underpinnings of the government and society that we hold dear because they seem to think that dictatorial power is more efficient and serves them better whereas, of course, we in this Legislature and I believe all of us in this Legislature should believe that the parliamentary democracies that we have intact currently should be preserved and defended against the current attacks that are ongoing globally from the far right.

With that, Madam Speaker, I won't say too many more things, but I will encourage the Legislature to really, really demand that future committees that may be appointed to appoint legislative officers to their various positions over time as positions become vacant would really seek to enforce a role of greater collaboration and opportunity for real, nonpartisan debate in determining who's going to fulfill these positions.

3:40

Albertans expect that this element of our democracy is going to be led by individuals who are beyond reproach, led by individuals who are not seeking to satisfy a political master but are actually looking to underpin the principles of democracy, act as a sober second thought, and guide the role of our democracy, guide the government to stay within its parliamentary guidelines and lane, and make sure that the faith that we currently still cling to in our parliamentary democracy is something that can be preserved. With appointments that are put into question or a process leading to an appointment that puts into question the trust that the public takes for granted right now in us to make sure we appoint people who are properly tuned in to do the role – if that trust is lost, Madam Speaker, we lose a fundamental underpinning of our democracy, and it will very much diminish the opportunity to hold the government to account from an administrative standpoint and from a neutral arbiter standpoint.

Madam Speaker, I once again say to Mr. McClure, should he be appointed by this Legislature and the recommendation be accepted, that we will work with him throughout his term to assure that his role is respected and we look forward to his wisdom in decision-making over his term in making sure that the Chief Electoral Officer role is able to fulfill its mandate and make sure elections in Alberta are held and conducted in a way that the public maintains its trust in our electoral process and our parliamentary institutions.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members to join the debate? The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to speak in favour of Government Motion 49, regarding the report recommending the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee regarding Alberta's next Chief Electoral Officer. The search process lasted nearly a year. The committee provided a recommendation to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that Gordon McClure be appointed as Chief Electoral Officer effective November 18, 2024.

Firstly, I'd like to thank all the members in a nonpartisan fashion that participated in the committee. It's critical to safeguard a democratic process, and although the members opposite may not like the democratic process when it takes place on those boards, when there are votes, et cetera, et cetera, and they have different opinions, I can guarantee, through you to those members and to the folks at home, Madam Speaker, that all due process was followed throughout the process of the special selections committee. There was nothing untoward, as might have been alluded to. All processes and procedures were followed as per the purview of the clerks.

I would also like to thank the Legislative Assembly staff and public service nonpartisan executive search team for the support in the process. Again, they were right there with us, guiding us through the process, helping out as much as possible.

I would also like to thank everybody who applied for this position. Not only were the resumés outstanding; there are a lot of good Albertans out there that really want to protect democracy. They want to go through it. There were highly qualified people

given this very competitive market that's out there, knowing there are a ton of other elections going on and not without some trepidation, I would imagine, for folks to put their head in that service, of putting it all on the line, as it were, for not only those interviews but, moreover, for what we're seeing here today, unfortunately, from the opposition in the House. There were several qualified candidates who put their names forward. We came up through the process and through the committee. Very happy to see that. That led to the right candidate being recommended.

Madam Speaker, before I discuss Mr. McClure's credentials, I'd like to remind you and all the members of the House of what is expected of the Chief Electoral Officer. The appointment will serve as an independent officer of the Legislature. So once they're in place, they're on their own. They are not beholden to anyone else but themselves except the Legislative Offices Committee, obviously, for budget reviews and such.

In that capacity the Chief Electoral Officer provides leadership and direction to Elections Alberta, ultimately ensuring all provincial enumerations, elections, by-elections, and plebiscites are conducted with accordance of law. This includes the Election Act, the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act, and the senatorial election act. I cannot understate the importance of this appointment and the grave responsibility of chief electoral officers.

By doing that, I wanted to emphasize all the roles and credentials and also give a little bit of an overview of Mr. McClure's biography and professional background. I'm fully confident in his abilities. Again, on paper it's interesting seeing the credentials, but when you have a chance to spend an hour with the individual in a room, doing the Q and A back and forth, as it were, this gentleman definitely punched above his weight class, from what I saw.

Candidates were expected to have proven expertise in the interpretation and application of legislation, regulation, and policies. They were expected to have a working knowledge of the parliamentary system, government functions, and process in the public sector. They were also expected to have experience in decision-making at a senior level related to sensitive and complex issues. Madam Speaker, Mr. McClure has extensive knowledge of legislative and policy process, having worked in different government levels. He has experience in senior-level decision-making, managing budgets, project management. He also completed a program of tribunal justice from the Foundation of Administrative Justice and is accredited as a qualified arbitrator.

Madam Speaker, applicants were also expected to have a strong record of achievement in the execution level of public- and private-sector administration overseeing significant fiscal and human resources. Mr. McClure brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the role, serving in the public for more than 26 years. Most recently he served as chair of the Public Lands Appeal Board and appeals co-ordinator for over 10 years. This is not an easy task. He literally is overseeing this board, and it has a lot of ramifications both in the public and private sector, and he's done exceptionally well there as well.

He also served as assistant deputy minister of revenue and financial operations in Yukon. He did share with us, you know, that the gentleman that he was hired on to support ended up going on a leave not long after he was hired, and he had to solve some very complex issues, not only managing and taking a bunch of legacy program systems thrown together but solving the diesel crisis, as it were, up in the north. If anybody has been up in that north country, diesel is the lifeblood to keep the lights on. He had to figure out how to sort all that out on the fly and did exceptionally well. He served as director of business services, project management, in the Department of Municipal Affairs with the government of Alberta as well.

Madam Speaker, applicants for the role of Chief Electoral Officer are expected to have an understanding of financial management practices and procedures, including financial statements, budget techniques. Mr. McClure was not only the assistant deputy minister of revenue and financial operation in Yukon, but he also holds a master of public administration from the University of Victoria.

Madam Speaker, as I have highlighted, I am confident – absolutely confident – and respect the decision of the committee and the recommendation we put here today that Mr. McClure will fully perform his duties with distinction as the Chief Electoral Officer. I strongly encourage the Assembly to support the decision of the committee and to get this gentleman to work. Apparently, there is a leaderless opposition next door that needs this person in place because no one there will give up their seat to actually let that guy come in here.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-City Centre.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise and speak to Motion 49, regarding the appointing of a new CEO for Elections Alberta. Now, I had the honour for a few years to serve as the chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices. During that time in that position I had the opportunity to oversee the search processes for multiple officers of the Legislature. Having been through that process, indeed, I echo the praise that's been given and the thanks for the nonpartisan staff and search team that aid in that, executive search and others. They are wonderful support. As members have said, this is incredibly important work. We're appointing people to oversee significant responsibilities on behalf of the people of Alberta, investing them with a four- or five-year term to do so, and in this case someone who will be overseeing elections in this province.

Madam Speaker, this is something that this government has indeed stated they are deeply concerned about. They are deeply concerned about communicating to Albertans the integrity of our elections, enough so that they passed legislation forcing municipalities, school boards to spend millions of extra dollars hand counting ballots. Now, this is important to note, as we talk about the appointment of this CEO, how serious that is for this government, that they say that the mere rumour, conspiracy theories that have been disproven, taken to court, and proven false in the United States around the 2020 election are enough that we should spend millions of dollars here in the province of Alberta removing tabulator machines that have never been proven to make a mistake.

3:50

This is a government that indeed says it is incredibly important that we do everything possible to ensure that Albertans can believe in the sanctity of our democracy. Indeed, they have gone so far as to potentially disenfranchise hundreds or thousands of Albertans by removing the ability to vouch for voter ID because, again, they claim that is essential to maintain trust in our elections in the province of Alberta.

So when we speak about our concerns about this process, it is not, as the Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland suggested, that we have a concern with the democratic process. Indeed, the democratic process, Madam Speaker, simply means that there is a vote and the majority carries the vote and makes the decision. That is democracy. We recognize that's how things operate. We recognize that as that process, and we don't quibble with that at all.

Our concern is with some of the other processes which took place. Having been the chair for multiple search processes, I can tell

you there were some significant abnormalities in how these members chose to exercise the democratic process, to proceed during the search process. One of the commitments that is made at the beginning of a search process, Madam Speaker, is that every member that signs up at the beginning finishes to the end, and if they need to step away, they are not replaced. Now the reason for that, that you don't change horses midstream in a search process, is because, as members have said, this is a very thorough process, where you review resumés, where you sit down and you interview candidates. I think everyone could agree that it is not possible to make a good, informed decision if you have not been part of that process at each step of the way.

But what we did see is that government members chose, through the democratic process, to replace one of their members just before the vote, after the resumés had been reviewed, after the interviews had been conducted. To replace one of the members that was there throughout that process with someone who had been present for none of it: that is a significant aberration of process.

Madam Speaker, if it is important enough that people have confidence in our elections that we need to spend millions of dollars counting ballots by hand, that we have to potentially disenfranchise hundreds or thousands of racialized or rural or senior Albertans, it is important enough that we work to have a credible process and we respect the decision that had been made, again, through the democratic process by the members of the committee at the beginning that there would be no substitutions. That is the concern we have with the process.

Now Mr. McClure. We do not have a problem with Mr. McClure. We respect that he was chosen by the committee through the democratic process. We respect his history of public service, and we look forward to working with Mr. McClure, who indeed is going to be responsible for overseeing many of the drastic changes that this government has chosen to make in regard to elections, many of the significant changes that they have made going into municipal elections next year. So I certainly do wish Mr. McClure well. I look forward to working with him, and I think our members look forward to having the opportunity to converse with him when we meet with him to talk about his budget and business plan towards the end of this year, though I do echo the concerns of my colleagues once more about that aberration of the process, chosen through the democratic process by the government members.

I certainly hope that in future search committees we will see a different decision, a different approach that will indeed ensure that Albertans have no reason to have any concerns and to be sure that we are doing the best we can as legislators to make good decisions and to be seen to be doing everything we can to make good decisions.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members wishing to speak to Government Motion 49?

Seeing none, I will call the question on Government Motion 49 as moved by the hon. Government House Leader.

[Government Motion 49 carried]

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 28 Meat Inspection Amendment Act, 2024

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Immigration.

Mr. Sigurdson: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to move second reading of Bill 28, the Meat Inspection Amendment Act, 2024.

Madam Speaker, the proposed act will increase penalties as well as extend the limitation period to investigate an offence. If passed, the act will address the illegal slaughter of animals and the sale of uninspected meat. Alberta has seen an increase in the illegal slaughter of animals and the sale of uninspected meat, and these are serious offences. This is a health and safety risk to all Albertans, particularly children, seniors, and/or vulnerable citizens, who are at the highest risk of falling sick from contaminated meat.

Madam Speaker, I'm here to propose actions that aim to deter offenders who are engaging in these illegal activities. The changes to the Meat Inspection Act propose two amendments designed to address these illegal activities. Recent investigations have shown that illegal meat sales are quite lucrative, in some cases involving large cash transactions. The current penalty of \$10,000 for an offence is not strong enough to deter offenders. We need a much higher penalty, and that is why we are proposing to increase the current maximum fine to \$100,000 for each offence under the Meat Inspection Act.

Alberta is also seeing a rise in the number, complexity, and organized nature of these cases, with some offenders using a network of sellers, suppliers, and multiple slaughter locations across the province. The number of investigations involving illegal slaughter and sale of uninspected meat has been rising. Investigations led by my ministry alone nearly tripled between 2022 and 2023 and are expected to double again by the end of this year.

Madam Speaker, these numbers are alarming. The current period to investigate is one year from the time the offence occurred, and given the complex nature of each investigation this is not enough time. The level of criminal activity requires an extended limitation period to investigate and potentially bring charges against offenders. If passed, new legislation will increase the limitation period from one year from the date an offence occurs to two years from the date an offence comes to the attention of an inspector or peace officer.

Madam Speaker, the limitation period is the time allowed to investigate and lay charges for offences under the act, and extending the limitation period allows inspectors to investigate thoroughly, thereby increasing the likelihood of a successful prosecution. The proposed increase in fines and limitation period will bring Alberta in line with other provinces and other Alberta laws. If we do nothing, we risk the health of Albertans and we risk harming the entire livestock and meat-processing industry's reputation.

To be clear, the sale of uninspected meat is illegal in Alberta. Any meat or meat product that is sold or distributed in Alberta must come from an inspected slaughter facility, abattoir, or processing facility. At these licensed facilities, inspectors are on-site during slaughter to conduct inspections before and after every slaughter to ensure that meat is safe to consume and animals are handled and slaughtered humanely. We have 65 meat inspectors and food safety specialists in the province who help with licensing, facility inspections, and surveillance.

It is important to note, Madam Speaker, that legal operations will not be impacted by these proposed changes. That includes our on-farm slaughter operations, which allow farmers to sell to consumers direct. Amendments apply only to those who commit an offence under the Meat Inspection Act.

Before I close, I would like to add that \$100,000 is a maximum fine and is imposed by an Alberta judge upon conviction. The ministry's compliance approach always begins with education, progressing through several steps designated to encourage

compliance with enforcement and potential prosecution only as the final step. Madam Speaker, it's important that Albertans remain confident in our food safety system and believe that this government will ensure a strong supply of safe, high-quality meat while helping to protect the reputation of our livestock industry.

With that, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill 28, the Meat Inspection Amendment Act, 2024. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would now like to adjourn debate on Bill 28.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

4:00

Bill 25

Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure on behalf of the hon. Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade.

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade to move second reading of Bill 25, the Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024.

These amendments, if passed, will strengthen the trust Alberta families place in our child care system. Bill 25 is focused on preserving and promoting quality child care while protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our kids.

With thousands of new child care spaces opening, our government is investing in Alberta's future to support our growing province. However, with rapid growth comes a responsibility to ensure that safety and transparency remain a top priority. The proposed amendments will make our child care system safer for children while strengthening accountability and public confidence.

By enhancing the capacities of the government's child care licensing team, the act will enable swift action to ensure children are receiving the high-quality care they deserve. This includes temporarily closing a portion of a centre, suspending a family day home licence and issuing a provisional licence, requiring a provider to amend their program plans, and requiring family day home agencies to notify the programs that they oversee of any enforcement actions against them.

New administrative penalties which are already being used in many Canadian jurisdictions would provide the government with another mechanism for enforcing requirements under the Early Learning and Child Care Act and its regulations. For example, if a compliance issue is identified in one room or in one part of a program, the entire operation doesn't need to close, preserving our high-quality and high-value child care spaces. This also means fewer disruptions for families. All of these changes would allow government to respond quickly when there are concerns about children's safety, providing flexibility in allowing child care providers to address compliance issues in a portion of their premises.

Madam Speaker, the vast majority of providers and educators are deeply committed to the safety and well-being of children in their care. However, there is always room for improvement and ways that we can better serve our kids. This legislation focuses on supporting good operators who provide quality care through their established curriculums and programming while making sure the small number of bad actors receive meaningful consequences for their noncompliance. Repeat violators of established standards who remain noncompliant or even endanger children must be dealt with promptly.

Madam Speaker, many families remember the devastating E coli outbreak last year. This outbreak raised questions about what parents can expect from their government when child care providers

are not following basic health and safety rules. That's why in this legislation we are proposing amendments to address one of those recommendations from the Food Safety and Licensed Facility-Based Child Care Review Panel. This panel was struck to find ways to prevent large-scale outbreaks from ever happening again. Specifically, this legislation will address the recommendation to clearly state which applicable health and safety legislation applies to facility-based licence holders. By updating the language in the act to directly reference related legislation, including but not limited to the Public Health Act and the Safety Codes Act and municipal bylaws, we are making it clear that child care facilities are being held to the same standards as other businesses.

If Bill 25 passes, operators will have clarity and direction from this government on the responsibilities that they hold. In addition, the proposed changes will make the certification of an early childhood educator available to the public so parents can rest assured that their children are in the care of trained and certified professionals.

The act will also ensure parents have easy access to vital information regarding any stop orders that have been issued by the government against unlicensed providers. We want parents to have information right at their fingertips about whether the provider that they're considering has a proven track record of safety and quality and whether that provider is licensed or unlicensed.

Lastly, these amendments will address and help address the growing demand for early childhood educators. The child care sector is seeing recruitment challenges across the country, and we want to do our part to alleviate stresses and promote certainty. We also know that child care means appropriate staffing levels.

Updating the act's regulations will clarify that certified 16- and 17-year-olds can work in a child care facility while under adult supervision. This will present new opportunities for providers so that they can be confident in hiring young people with an interest in early learning to support their programs. This will help providers maintain their staff-to-child ratios while creating new employment opportunities for youth.

These changes represent our ongoing commitment to work with the child care sector to make sure children are receiving the best care possible. Children deserve a safe, enriching learning and child care experience that sets them up for future success. Providers deserve support and clarity as they strive to meet high standards, and parents deserve to know that the child care system is worthy of their confidence.

With that, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill 25, the Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024.

With that, I'll adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: What a week it's been, Madam Speaker. At this time I move that we adjourn the Assembly until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2024.

The Deputy Speaker: Happy Halloween.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:07 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 31st Legislature - 1st Session (2023-2024)

Activity to Thursday, October 31, 2024

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 Sitzings.

Bill 1 — Alberta Taxpayer Protection Amendment Act, 2023 (Smith)

First Reading — 10 (*Oct. 30, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 57-58 (*Nov. 1, 2023 aft.*), 96-97 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 145-47 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 147-54 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c6]

Bill 2 — Alberta Pension Protection Act (Horner)

First Reading — 89-90 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 154-55 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 274-85 (*Nov. 21, 2023 aft.*), 336-43 (*Nov. 23, 2023 aft.*), 394-400 (*Nov. 28, 2023 aft.*), 424-30 (*Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 522-30 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft.*), 552-59 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 565 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve.*), 583-90 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 cA-29.5]

Bill 3 — Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Amendment Act, 2023 (Williams)

First Reading — 22 (*Oct. 31, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 90-93 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft.*), 180-87 (*Nov. 8, 2023 aft.*), 272-73 (*Nov. 21, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 307-09 (*Nov. 22, 2023 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 334-36 (*Nov. 23, 2023 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c10]

Bill 4 — Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (\$) (Horner)

First Reading — 55 (*Nov. 1, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 159-63 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 155-56 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 187-90 (*Nov. 8, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 309-13 (*Nov. 22, 2023 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 336 (*Nov. 23, 2023 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2023 c13]

Bill 5* — Public Sector Employers Amendment Act, 2023 (Horner)

First Reading — 55-56 (*Nov. 1, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 156-57 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 190-97 (*Nov. 8, 2023 aft.*), 265-72 (*Nov. 21, 2023 aft.*), 403-09 (*Nov. 28, 2023 aft.*), 430-35 (*Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 456 (*Nov. 30, 2023 aft., passed*), 519-22 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., recommitted*), 559-62, 563-64 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed with amendments on division*)

Third Reading — 515 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., recommitted to Committee of the Whole*), 564-55 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve.*), 575-83 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on Proclamation; SA 2023 c12]

Bill 6 — Public Health Amendment Act, 2023 (Amery)

First Reading — 90 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 157-58 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 313-20 (*Nov. 22, 2023 aft.*), 435-38 (*Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 456-62 (*Nov. 30, 2023 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 462 (*Nov. 30, 2023 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c11]

Bill 7 — Engineering and Geoscience Professions Amendment Act, 2023 (Sawhney)

First Reading — 111 (*Nov. 6, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 158-59 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 273-74 (*Nov. 21, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 400-03 (*Nov. 28, 2023 aft.*), 423-24 (*Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 514-15 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c7]

Bill 8 — Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (Amery)

First Reading — 209 (*Nov. 9, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 299-307 (*Nov. 22, 2023 aft.*), 438-41 (*Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 515-18 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft.*), 546-52 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 564 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve.*), 569-75 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2023 c8]

Bill 9 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (Schow)

First Reading — 478 (*Dec. 4, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 513-14 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 546 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 590-92 (*Dec. 7, 2023 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c9]

Bill 10 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (\$) (Horner)

First Reading — 673 (*Mar. 12, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 705-16 (*Mar. 14, 2024 aft.*), 868-73 (*Mar. 26, 2024 aft.*), 904-05 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft.*), 899-901 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft.*), 970-75 (*Apr. 9, 2024 aft.*), 1003-05 (*Apr. 10, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1005-09 (*Apr. 10, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1040-43 (*Apr. 11, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c4]

Bill 11 — Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Ellis)

First Reading — 685 (*Mar. 13, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 976-90 (*Apr. 9, 2024 aft.*), 1009-15 (*Apr. 10, 2024 aft.*), 1091-96 (*Apr. 16, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1217-20 (*Apr. 23, 2024 aft.*), 1334-1341 (*May 7, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1448-55 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force May 16, 2024, except section 1, which comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c6]

Bill 12* — Consumer Protection (Life Leases) Amendment Act, 2024 (Nally)

First Reading — 727 (*Mar. 18, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1015-22 (*Apr. 10, 2024 aft.*), 1043-46 (*Apr. 11, 2024 aft.*), 1096-102 (*Apr. 16, 2024 aft.*), 1135-40 (*Apr. 17, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1220 (*Apr. 23, 2024 aft.*), 1239-48 (*Apr. 24, 2024 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1367-74 (*May 8, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force May 16, 2024; SA 2024 c3]

Bill 13 — Real Property Governance Act (Guthrie)

First Reading — 779 (*Mar. 21, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1102-09 (*Apr. 16, 2024 aft.*), 1132-35 (*Apr. 17, 2024 aft.*), 1161-63 (*Apr. 18, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1220-28 (*Apr. 23, 2024 aft.*), 1341-43 (*May 7, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1395-1400 (*May 9, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force May 16, 2024, with some sections deemed to have come into force on March 21, 2024; SA 2024 cR-5.3]

Bill 14 — Appropriation Act, 2024 (\$) (Horner)

First Reading — 791 (*Mar. 21, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 855-63 (*Mar. 26, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 887-93 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft., adjourned*), 903 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 920-24 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on March 28, 2024; SA 2024 c1]

Bill 15 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2024 (\$) (Horner)

First Reading — 841 (*Mar. 25, 2024 eve., passed*)

Second Reading — 863-68 (*Mar. 26, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 893-99 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft., adjourned*), 901-04 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 924 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed*), 920 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft.*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on March 28, 2024; SA 2024 c2]

Bill 16 — Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Nally)

First Reading — 935-36 (*Apr. 8, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1127-32 (*Apr. 17, 2024 aft.*), 1248-53 (*Apr. 24, 2024 aft.*), 1279-82 (*Apr. 25, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1456-60 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1490-92 (*May 15, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c7]

Bill 17 — Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence Act (Williams)

First Reading — 959 (*Apr. 9, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1156-61 (*Apr. 18, 2024 aft.*), 1272-79 (*Apr. 25, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1361-67 (*May 8, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1464-66 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cC-1.5]

Bill 18* — Provincial Priorities Act (Smith)

First Reading — 993 (*Apr. 10, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1122-27 (*Apr. 17, 2024 aft.*), 1209-17 (*Apr. 23, 2024 aft.*), 1253-60 (*Apr. 24, 2024 aft.*), 1329-34 (*May 7, 2024 aft.*), 1533-40 (*May 21, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1540-42 (*May 21, 2024 aft.*), 1569-77 (*May 22, 2024 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1664-68 (*May 28, 2024 aft.*), 1692-99 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cP-35.5]

Bill 19 — Utilities Affordability Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Neudorf)

First Reading — 1177 (*Apr. 22, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1344-48 (*May 7, 2024 aft.*), 1400-03 (*May 9, 2024 aft.*), 1455-56 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1460-64 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1492-96 (*May 15, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c8]

Bill 20* — Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (McIver)

First Reading — 1271 (*Apr. 25, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1374-82 (*May 8, 2024 aft.*), 1562-69 (*May 22, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1591-94 (*May 23, 2024 aft.*), 1669-75 (*May 28, 2024 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1699-1700 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1712-13 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1729-35 (*May 29, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation, except ss 2(24) and (25), which come into force on January 1, 2025; SA 2024 c11]

Bill 21 — Emergency Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Ellis)

First Reading — 1394 (*May 9, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1508-19 (*May 16, 2024 aft.*), 1542-48 (*May 21, 2024 aft.*), 1634-41 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1649-50 (*May 27, 2024 eve.*), 1675-81 (*May 28, 2024 aft.*), 1683-84 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1700-01 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1704--11 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 30, 2024; SA 2024 c9]

Bill 22 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (LaGrange)

First Reading — 1447 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1594-1600 (*May 23, 2024 aft.*), 1641-48 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1650 (*May 27, 2024 eve.*), 1684-90 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1700-01 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1713-15 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1735-41 (*May 29, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c10]

Bill 24 — Alberta Bill of Rights Amendment Act, 2024 (Amery)

First Reading — 1754-55 (*Oct. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1788-1805 (*Oct. 29, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1819-36 (*Oct. 30, 2024 aft., adjourned; amendments introduced*)

Bill 25 — Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024 (Jones)

First Reading — 1818 (*Oct. 30, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1855-56 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 26 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2) (LaGrange)

First Reading — 1848 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Bill 27 — Education Amendment Act, 2024 (Nicolaides)

First Reading — 1848 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 28 — Meat Inspection Amendment Act, 2024 (Sigurdson, RJ)

First Reading — 1818 (*Oct. 30, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1854-55 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 29 — Fairness and Safety in Sport Act (Schow)

First Reading — 1848-49 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 201 — Alberta Health Care Insurance (Access Fees) Amendment Act, 2023 (Brar)

First Reading — 90 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 114-25 (*Nov. 6, 2023 aft.*), 234-37 (*Nov. 20, 2023 aft., reasoned amendment agreed to on division; not proceeded with*)

Bill 202 — Education (Class Size and Composition) Amendment Act, 2023 (Chapman)

First Reading — 209 (*Nov. 9, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 237-46 (*Nov. 20, 2023 aft.*), 358-64 (*Nov. 27, 2023 aft., defeated on division; not proceeded with*)

Bill 203 — Foreign Credential Advisory Committee Act (Dyck)

First Reading — 111 (*Nov. 6, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 364-70 (*Nov. 27, 2023 aft.*), 479-86 (*Dec. 4, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 730-43 (*Mar. 18, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 805-12 (*Mar. 25, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on June 28, 2024; SA 2024 cF-16.5]

Bill 204 — Municipal Government (National Urban Parks) Amendment Act, 2023 (Lunty)

First Reading — 332 (*Nov. 23, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 486-92 (*Dec. 4, 2023 aft.*), 649-58 (*Mar. 11, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 812-17 (*Mar. 25, 2024 aft.*), 938-48 (*Apr. 8, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Third Reading — 1059-66 (*Apr. 15, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force May 16, 2024; SA 2024 c5]

Bill 205 — Housing Statutes (Housing Security) Amendment Act, 2023 (Irwin)

First Reading — 510 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 658-62 (*Mar. 11, 2024 aft.*), 948-50 (*Apr. 8, 2024 aft.*), 1066-71 (*Apr. 15, 2024 aft.*), 1178-81 (*Apr. 22, 2024 aft., defeated on division; not proceeded with*)

Bill 206 — Child and Youth Advocate (Parent and Guardian Advisor) Amendment Act, 2024 (Cyr)

First Reading — 917-18 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1181-90 (*Apr. 22, 2024 aft.*), 1294-1300 (*May 6, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 207 — Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education (Valuing Skilled Workers) Amendment Act, 2024 (Hoyle)

First Reading — 1152-53 (*Apr. 18, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1300-09 (*May 6, 2024 aft.*), 1417-20 (*May 13, 2024 aft., defeated on division; not proceeded with*)

Bill 208 — Psycho-Educational Assessment Access Act (Hayter)

First Reading — 1359 (*May 8, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1420-29 (*May 13, 2024 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 211 — Arts and Creative Economy Advisory Council Act (Ceci)

First Reading — 1590 (*May 23, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 212 — Organ and Tissue Donor Information Agreement Act (Metz)

First Reading — 1663 (*May 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 214 — Eastern Slopes Protection Act (Notley)

First Reading — 1729 (*May 29, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill Pr1 — St. Joseph's College Amendment Act, 2023 (Sigurdson, L)

First Reading — 289 (*Nov. 22, 2023 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*), 421 (*Nov. 29, 2023 aft., reported to Assembly; proceeded with*)

Second Reading — 455 (*Nov. 30, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 515 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 530 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c14]

Bill Pr2* — Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta Amendment Act, 2024 (Justin Wright)

First Reading — 918 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*)

Second Reading — 1633 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1691 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1711 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 30, 2024]

Bill Pr3 — Providence Renewal Centre Amendment Act, 2024 (Calahoo Stonehouse)

First Reading — 918 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*)

Second Reading — 1633 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1691 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1711 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 30, 2024]

Bill Pr4 — Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024 (Petrovic)

First Reading — 918 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*)

Second Reading — 1633-34 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1691 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1711-12 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 30, 2024]

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