



Province of Alberta

The 31st Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 1, 2025

Day 105

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

Al-Guneid, Nagwan, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)  
Amery, Hon. Mickey K., ECA, KC, Calgary-Cross (UC),  
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)  
Ellingson, Court, Calgary-Foothills (NDP)  
Ellis, Hon. Mike, ECA, Calgary-West (UC),  
Deputy Premier  
Elmeligi, Sarah, Banff-Kananaskis (NDP)  
Eremenko, Janet, Calgary-Currie (NDP)  
Fir, Hon. Tanya, ECA, Calgary-Peigan (UC)  
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., ECA, Calgary-Mountain View (NDP),  
Official Opposition Whip  
Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UC),  
Government Whip  
Glubish, Hon. Nate, ECA, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UC)  
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)  
Gray, Hon. Christina, ECA, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP),  
Leader of the Official Opposition,  
Official Opposition House Leader  
Guthrie, Hon. Peter F., ECA, Airdrie-Cochrane (Ind)  
Haji, Sharif, Edmonton-Decore (NDP)  
Hayter, Julia K.U., Calgary-Edgemont (NDP)  
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, ECA, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)  
Horner, Hon. Nate S., ECA, Drumheller-Stettler (UC)  
Hoyle, Rhiannon, Edmonton-South (NDP)  
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., ECA, Taber-Warner (UC)  
Ip, Nathan, Edmonton-South West (NDP)  
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),  
Official Opposition Assistant Whip  
Jean, Hon. Brian Michael, ECA, KC, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche  
(UC)  
Johnson, Jennifer, Lacombe-Ponoka (UC)  
Jones, Hon. Matt, ECA, Calgary-South East (UC)  
Kasawski, Kyle, Sherwood Park (NDP)  
Kayande, Samir, Calgary-Elbow (NDP)

LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, ECA, Red Deer-North (UC)  
Loewen, Hon. Todd, ECA, Central Peace-Notley (UC)  
Long, Hon. Martin M., ECA, West Yellowhead (UC)  
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UC)  
Lunty, Brandon G., Leduc-Beaumont (UC)  
McDougall, Myles, Calgary-Fish Creek (UC)  
McIver, Hon. Ric, ECA, Calgary-Hays (UC)  
Metz, Luanne, Calgary-Varsity (NDP)  
Miyashiro, Rob, Lethbridge-West (NDP)  
Nally, Hon. Dale, ECA, Morinville-St. Albert (UC)  
Neudorf, Hon. Nathan T., ECA, Lethbridge-East (UC)  
Nicolaidis, Hon. Demetrios, ECA, Calgary-Bow (UC)  
Nixon, Hon. Jason, ECA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre  
(UC)  
Pancholi, Rakhi, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)  
Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)  
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)  
Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UC)  
Sabir, Hon. Irfan, ECA, Calgary-Bhullar-McCall (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Sawhney, Hon. Rajan, ECA, Calgary-North West (UC)  
Schmidt, Hon. Marlin, ECA, Edmonton-Gold Bar (NDP)  
Schow, Hon. Joseph R., ECA, Cardston-Siksika (UC),  
Government House Leader  
Schulz, Hon. Rebecca, ECA, Calgary-Shaw (UC)  
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, ECA, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)  
Sigurdson, Hon. R.J., ECA, Highwood (UC)  
Sinclair, Scott, Lesser Slave Lake (Ind)  
Singh, Peter, Calgary-East (UC)  
Smith, Hon. Danielle, ECA, Brooks-Medicine Hat (UC),  
Premier  
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC)  
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP)  
Tejada, Lizette, Calgary-Klein (NDP)  
Turton, Hon. Searle, ECA, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UC)  
Wiebe, Ron, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UC)  
Williams, Hon. Dan D.A., ECA, Peace River (UC),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Wilson, Hon. Rick D., ECA, Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UC)  
Wright, Justin, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UC)  
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, Edmonton-Ellerslie  
Vacant, Edmonton-Strathcona

## Party standings:

United Conservative: 47

New Democrat: 36

Independent: 2

Vacant: 2

## Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Shannon Dean, KC, Clerk  
Trafton Koenig, Law Clerk

Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and  
Executive Director of Parliamentary  
Services

Nancy Robert, Clerk of *Journals* and  
Committees  
Amanda LeBlanc, Managing Editor of  
*Alberta Hansard*

Terry Langley, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Paul Link, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms  
Gareth Scott, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms  
Lang Bawn, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

### **Executive Council**

Danielle Smith	Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
Mike Ellis	Deputy Premier, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services
Mickey Amery	Minister of Justice
Devin Dreeshen	Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors
Tanya Fir	Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women
Nate Glubish	Minister of Technology and Innovation
Nate Horner	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Brian Jean	Minister of Energy and Minerals
Matt Jones	Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade
Adriana LaGrange	Minister of Health
Todd Loewen	Minister of Forestry and Parks
Martin Long	Minister of Infrastructure
Ric McIver	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Dale Nally	Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
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
Joseph Schow	Minister of Tourism and Sport
Rebecca Schulz	Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
R.J. Sigurdson	Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Searle Turton	Minister of Children and Family Services
Dan Williams	Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
Rick Wilson	Minister of Indigenous Relations
Muhammad Yaseen	Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism

### **Parliamentary Secretaries**

Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk	Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services and Ukrainian Evacuees
Andrew Boitchenko	Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Relations
Chantelle de Jonge	Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities
Nolan Dyck	Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous and Rural Policing
Shane Getson	Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Corridor Development
Chelsae Petrovic	Parliamentary Secretary for Health Workforce Engagement
Ron Wiebe	Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health (North)
Justin Wright	Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health (South)
Tany Yao	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Northern Development

## STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

### **Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund**

Chair: Mr. Yao

Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Boitchenko  
Brar  
Kasawski  
Kayande  
Stephan  
Wiebe  
Wright, J.

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

Chair: Mr. Getson

Deputy Chair: Vacant

Boparai  
Cyr  
de Jonge  
Elmeligi  
Hoyle  
Stephan  
van Dijken  
Wright, J.

### **Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee**

Chair: Mr. Getson

Deputy Chair: Mr. Long

Arcand-Paul  
Ellingson  
Hunter  
Ip  
Lovely  
Rowswell  
Sabir  
Wright, J.

### **Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

Chair: Ms Lovely

Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

Batten  
Haji  
Johnson  
Lunty  
McDougall  
Petrovic  
Singh  
Tejada

### **Standing Committee on Legislative Offices**

Chair: Mr. Getson

Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Chapman  
Cyr  
Dyck  
Eremenko  
Lovely  
Miyashiro  
Petrovic  
Shepherd

### **Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

Chair: Mr. Cooper

Deputy Chair: Mr. Getson

Eggen  
Gray  
Hunter  
Metz  
Petrovic  
Sabir  
Singh  
Yao

### **Standing Committee on Private Bills**

Chair: Ms Pitt

Deputy Chair: Mr. Cyr

Bouchard  
Ceci  
Deol  
Dyck  
Hayter  
Johnson  
Sigurdson, L.  
Wright, J.

### **Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing**

Chair: Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk

Deputy Chair: Mr. Wiebe

Arcand-Paul  
Bouchard  
Ceci  
Cyr  
Dach  
Gray  
Sinclair  
Stephan

### **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Chair: Mr. Sabir

Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Armstrong-Homeniuk  
de Jonge  
Ellingson  
Johnson  
Lunty  
McDougall  
Renaud  
Schmidt

### **Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship**

Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Deputy Chair: Ms Sweet

Al-Guneid  
Armstrong-Homeniuk  
Boitchenko  
Calahoo Stonehouse  
Dyck  
Eggen  
Hunter  
Yao

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 1, 2025

[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 interest and prejudice, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all. Amen.

Hon. members, as is our custom, we pay tribute to former members of this Assembly who have recently passed.

### Mr. Hugh Lakin Planche October 3, 1931, to December 15, 2024

**The Speaker:** Hon. Hugh Planche served three consecutive terms as the Progressive Conservative Member for Calgary-Glenmore from 1975 to 1986. During his maiden speech Hugh expressed the honour he felt speaking to this Legislature on behalf of Calgary-Glenmore. He emphasized his constituency's philosophy of fostering a prosperous environment and described the concept of equal opportunity to share in Alberta's future as an exciting challenge.

Mr. Planche chaired the Select Committee Reviewing Intra-provincial Trucking Regulations, which completed its mandate in 1977. He was the government whip in 1979 and later that year was appointed the minister of economic development, a role he held until his retirement from provincial politics.

Born in Calgary, Hugh completed a bachelor of commerce at the University of Alberta in 1952. He was described as an articulate businessperson, holding a number of executive positions in private industry both before and after his time in office. Hugh passed away on December 15, 2024, at the age of 93.

I now ask that in a moment of silent prayer or reflection you remember Hugh Planche each as you may have known him. Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him. Amen.

Hon. members, we will now be led in the singing of our royal anthem, *God Save the King*, by Mr. Sidney Manning.

### 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:** Hon. members, please be seated.

### Introduction of Visitors

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, it's my pleasure to rise today to introduce the family members of the hon. Hugh Planche. We all know the deep debt of gratitude that all of us owe to those who pay the special sacrifice of public service and the service of our families as we have the opportunity to serve Albertans. It's my great pleasure today – and earlier this afternoon I was able to present the Alberta flag, flying on top of the Legislature Building on the day of

Hugh's passing, to his lovely wife, Sylvia; his son, Don; and his daughter-in-law, Jeannie. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** Well, members, there are few introductions that I look forward to as much as this one. This person and I share a deep, personal connection and a real sense of shared commitment to steering individuals in the right direction, to encouraging good conduct. Hon. members, the mother of the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, Mrs. Sandra Schmidt. She has logged in many more hours than I have of trying to corral him, but we share that in common.

Hon. members, I also have the great pleasure of introducing a school group from the great, outstanding constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. They are students and families of a wonderful school in the outstanding constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, students and families of Kneehill Christian School. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Last but not least from me, prior to beginning the clock of what I know will be a rambunctious round of introductions in light of the galleries today, it's my absolute pleasure to introduce to the Assembly a very important group of individuals who play a key role in the democratic process here in the province of Alberta. They are our constituency staff and are often the first point of contact for people and communities where we serve. Working in a constituency office can be rewarding but at certain times very, very challenging and extremely demanding, and that's mostly when interacting with members.

They are here today participating in the annual spring constituency employee learning and development seminar, which is used to develop their unique roles and requirements in mind. The seminar provides an opportunity for them to network and obtain an overview of the very numerous programs both available through the Legislative Assembly Office of Alberta as well as the government of Alberta. We had a lunch earlier today where we were able to recognize some long service constituency staff who have served over a number of years, including two who have served a decade of their life to members here in the Assembly and to Albertans by extension.

I would like to first ask these two individuals to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly, and then we'll follow that by the remainder of the constituency staff. It's my pleasure to ask Claire MacDonald, serving the Member for Edmonton-City Centre, and Heather Pigott, serving Brooks-Medicine Hat, to please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly. Now, hon. members, if you'll continue to thank all the rest of the constituency staff, please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly. [Standing ovation]

Order. Order. Okay. We don't have all day.

Now, hon. members, as I mentioned, there are a number of introductions, so I encourage you to keep them as brief as possible. Good news for the Assembly is that none of the time has been used by the Speaker because a special allotment for the introductions is provided for him.

We will begin with another school group today. The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to stand and introduce to you and the rest of the Assembly some students, teachers, and parent volunteers from Crescent Valley elementary school in Hinton. I had a chance to meet with them a little while ago, might have snuck them through my office and had a picture

with them, and folks in Hinton can be rest assured that their future is bright in the hands of the next generation. I ask the students, teachers, and parents to please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

1:40

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly – you’ve already mentioned the hard-working constituency assistants who support all of us, but I have to say that in my office in particular there’s often more negative than positive that comes in. My two constituency assistants do an amazing job of representing me as well as addressing those problems. You’ve already introduced the long-serving Heather Pigott. I would ask her to stand as well as Danielle Williams, who’s doing an amazing job supporting me. Please give them the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s an honour to rise and introduce to you and through you a number of great folks. One is my constituency assistant Della Burkitt, who has been an absolute amazing asset in the office. Another one is Teri-Anne Bowyer, who is unable to attend. She’s, I think, the best constituency manager in the province. Lastly is Danielle Williams, a dear family friend who I’ve known since high school. Thank you. Please rise and receive . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

**Member Irwin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to introduce Ryder Richard, a constituent of Edmonton-Meadows and an advocate for disabled athletes. He runs his own organization, Trans-Inclusive Athletes of Alberta. He’s also an advocate for those with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, and May 1 marks the start of Ehlers-Danlos Awareness Month. Please give Ryder the welcome he deserves.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you I’d like to introduce some very special guests of mine: the phenomenal Becky Best-Bertwistle, a university friend of mine who I would not be here without her support, and my wonderful constituency assistant Kate Pugh, who was here earlier this week, and my part-time Bodda Ammar, who is also my temp right now in my office. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Camrose.

**Ms Lovely:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very honoured to meet some folks from Sierra Leone earlier today. Thank you to my colleagues who were able to join us. I think they’re watching from our office. Hello, everyone, and welcome. If you would please stand, we can give you a warm welcome from the Chamber.

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

**Mrs. Petrovic:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Amie Dowell and Salima Thawer from the Alberta College of Dental Hygienists and Candice Boyce and Diana Mocha from the Dental Hygienist Association of Alberta. Thank you for all the work

that you’re doing to promote oral health in Alberta. I invite them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Ms de Jonge:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s an honour to rise and introduce to and through you an amazing mom, wife, friend, and athlete. I have the pleasure of working with her in my constituency office, Alyssa Dewit. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of this House.

**Mr. Boitchenko:** Mr. Speaker, today I’m thrilled to introduce to you and through you to all the members of this Assembly my constituency assistants for Drayton Valley-Devon: Isaiah Rye, Cleah Rye, Ceili Forchuk. I and the people of Drayton Valley-Devon are blessed to have the hardest working and the best looking team, and I welcome them to this Assembly.

**Mr. Dyck:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Legislative Assembly my constituency manager, Janet Norman. Janet makes my life so incredibly easy. She does a fantastic job. I’m very thankful she’s on the team. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Ellingson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the staffers for Calgary-Foothills Pranav and Olga. Pranav was also our campaign manager. He had previously been working in Ontario, but he loved Alberta so much, he stayed behind to run the office in Calgary-Foothills. Please rise and accept the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Singh:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m pleased to introduce to you and through you members of Alberta’s vibrant Filipino-Canadian community and from paradise, Fiji islands: Jerry-Lou, Clarence Molina, Karen Molina, Rajina Singh. I now ask them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors.

**Mr. Dreshen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly a group of home-schoolers from Spruce View joining us today in the gallery. We have the Lehmann, Nylander, Lahey, Logan, Jickling, and Andrews families. I would ask them all to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wiebe:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Legislative Assembly my constituency manager, Debbie McCarthy. Debbie is a remarkable woman who is deeply dedicated to serving the people of Grande Prairie-Wapiti. She’s also the proud mother of a son who serves in the Canadian Armed Forces. I ask that you please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to answer the question I know is on the minds of many MLAs in the House: who raised this guy? I'd like to again introduce my mother, Sandra Schmidt. She's here to help you keep a watchful eye on me. She's also celebrating her birthday today. She doesn't want you to know what birthday this is, but just know that she's celebrated many, many, many of them. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

## Members' Statements

### Government Caucus

**Member Calahoo Stonehouse:** Mr. Speaker, this Friday Danielle Smith will hold an emergency caucus meeting to . . .

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order. The reason for my interruption is that yesterday in Members' Statements I made the point that if anyone was going to be using the Premier's name in a member's statement, there would be an immediate interruption, which is what I have delivered today. The hon. member is welcome to make her statement, but she will refrain from using proper names.

The hon. member.

**Member Calahoo Stonehouse:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies.

This Friday the Premier will hold an emergency caucus meeting to confront the mountain of crises piling up at her feet. She's already lost two members of her own caucus because they could no longer defend the entitlement, the corruption, or the chaos that this Premier has created. She'll now have to face her MLAs while the government faces the largest scandal in Alberta's history.

The evidence is growing, including the former minister, that the firing of the AHS CEO and the board wasn't just unethical but possibly criminal. She'll also have to explain how her interference in the federal election helped hand Pierre Poilievre a loss, including in his own riding, by putting her brand of extreme, dangerous conservatism front and centre. And now she's trying to hold together a fractured caucus while pushing a reckless, divisive separatism campaign that will only drive Albertans further apart.

Let's be clear. There's a radical base in the UCP who would love to see Alberta rip Canada apart like a petulant child throwing a tantrum, willing to burn the country down out of dangerous ideology. However, there are also members within the UCP who still believe that a stronger Canada is with Alberta, who know that unity and not division is the way forward. Now those MLAs must face constituents who want no longer to be a part of wasteful separatism or this referendum.

First Nations leaders have made it absolutely clear: their treaties are with the Crown, not the province, and the talk of separatism must immediately stop.

On Friday the Premier will have to decide who she really leads, the separatist fringe or the Albertans who want honesty, stability, and a united future. Albertans are waiting and watching.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Sexual Violence Awareness Month

**Mrs. Petrovic:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise in this House today in recognition of Sexual Violence Awareness Month. Each May we are reminded not only of the devastating prevalence of sexual violence in our communities but also of the courage of the survivors and the tireless work of the front-line

advocates, counsellors, and support staff across Alberta. Sexual violence does not discriminate. It impacts people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. But too often survivors suffer in silence, isolated by shame, disbelief, or fear. As leaders we have a duty to break that silence, to believe survivors, and to create the conditions where healing and justice are possible.

Mr. Speaker, our government remains steadfast in its commitment to prevention, intervention, and recovery through increased development of trauma-informed services, initiatives to educate young people about consent, and improvements to the justice system to better support survivors. We are taking meaningful action. Further, our government through the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women will soon be releasing Alberta's 10-year strategy to end gender-based violence. This long-term, crossministry plan outlines a path forward for preventing violence, strengthening services, and building safer communities for all Albertans. But we know that the work is far from over. Ending sexual violence requires all of us. It requires each of us to speak up when we see harm and to listen when someone says: that happened to me.

Know that our government stands in solidarity with you, and we will continue to work towards building an Alberta where no one is made to feel unsafe, unheard, or unworthy. Let this month be a call of action as our government remains committed to ensuring Alberta is the safest place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1:50

### Oral Question Period

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

### Alberta in Canada

**Ms Gray:** Mr. Speaker, this big, beautiful country with all its challenges is worth fighting for. That's what millions of Albertans demand, and they refuse to let anyone, particularly this government, attack our country. But extremists, some of the same people who blocked Coutts, some of the same people who supported this Premier and her leadership, do not believe in Canada, and they want to tear this country down. Instead of leading Alberta, why does this government choose to advance the economically harmful separatist agenda?

**Ms Smith:** Well, first of all, Mr. Speaker, I've made it very clear that I and my caucus support Alberta's sovereignty within a united Canada. We will defend our constitutional jurisdiction, just as we did today in announcing that we are going to challenge the net-zero power regs in the court of law as a violation of our Constitution but also as a safety issue. We just saw what happened in Spain and Portugal when the power went out three days ago. That is the kind of thing that we want to avoid here. That is the kind of thing the federal government should not be interfering with, and I would invite the members opposite to actually stand with us in fighting the federal government to get our jurisdiction back.

**Ms Gray:** I invite the Premier of Alberta to say the words: I support Canada.

Not once yesterday when asked did the Premier stand up for Canada. This should be simple. She spent most of the time yesterday defending American election laws. The UCP government has introduced new laws that will make it easier to hold a separatist referendum, and that process alone will badly damage investment in our province and relationships with First Nation communities.

Does the Premier recognize that in her never-ending pursuit for far-right, American-inspired extremist ideology, she is taking down her own province?

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support Canada. I would like the Prime Minister to stand up and say that he supports Alberta and is on Team Alberta. I'd like, actually, the members opposite to do the same. Why in every opportunity they have to offer a defence do they never stand up for Canada? They are constantly standing up for what was the Liberal-NDP coalition and the damaging policies that have crushed our economy and chased away investment. I and my caucus are proudly Canadian, but we also want to make sure that the Constitution is honoured and the federal government respects our Constitution.

**Ms Gray:** Mr. Speaker, that was an excellent first start. Let's keep it going. Can the Premier say, "I denounce separatism" next?

First Nations have called out this Premier for the government's separatist agenda. They have said flat out that fanning the flames of separatism violates their treaties with the Crown, which are, quote, sacred covenants that are to last forever. End quote. Even having this discussion is hurting relationships. Engaging separatists hurts the very prosperity that Albertans need, including our First Nations and Indigenous peoples. Why is the government neglecting its treaty obligations by building a path towards a separatist referendum?

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just once I'd like to hear the members opposite say: I support Alberta. They seem incapable of saying that, which may be why they went down to 6.5 per cent in the polls on Monday and why they're voting this weekend to separate completely from the damaged brand of the NDP party at the federal level. They may as well just say, "We are the Carney Liberals" because that would be a lot more honest, and then we would know exactly where they stand. They will never stand with Alberta. They never stand up for our jurisdiction. They never stand up for . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order.

The hon. Premier is the one with the call.

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this side we do, and we will continue to. That is the reason why we also trust Albertans. We are creating the opportunity for Albertans to put forward issues that matter to them, and I would invite the members opposite to support it.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

#### Bill 54

**Ms Gray:** What's happening here is not the government trusting Albertans and wanting to give them a say; this is fanning the flames of separatism. Even the party president and the UCP VP of communications are explaining for the world on Facebook exactly what this legislation is for. The mask is off. Let us be clear. Even flirting with a referendum to separate kills investment in the economy and damages relationships with First Nations peoples. It's not going to help; it is going to make us the laughingstock of Canada. Why would the Premier introduce a law that puts us at risk?

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why will the members opposite not understand that part of the frustration that Albertans have is that neither them nor their bosses in Ottawa, including the Carney Liberals, have done anything to respect the genuine concerns that Albertans have with the net-zero power regs, the tanker ban off the west coast, Bill C-69, that prevents us from being able to build and approve pipelines, net-zero vehicles, the emissions cap? I would just once like to hear the members opposite say they stand with us in opposing those things.

**Ms Gray:** We've been here for ages. We've seen how this government loves to fight with the federal government over and over, spending zero time getting good deals for Albertans on economic and social issues that they care about, and the talk of this independence referendum is now rocking the business community and shaking investment in our province. The Premier tried to make an announcement today. Every single media question was about separatism. It's derailing her own agenda, never mind what's happening for businesses in this community. Why is the Premier so focused on separatism that she's derailing her own agenda and killing jobs in Alberta?

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

**Ms Smith:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the members opposite know that it takes a long time to develop legislation. In my very first mandate letter to the Justice minister I asked him to review all of the legislation related to elections, which he did, and this bill has come forward after a long amount of time in consultation and writing. It's probably the thickest bill that I've seen. All we are doing is addressing some of the issues around citizen-initiated referenda, recall, election financing. It's a broad menu of reforms. I invite the members to read it, and we will put it to the people. If they have an issue they want to put forward, they now have the ability to do so.

**Ms Gray:** Mr. Speaker, she wants to put it to the people. Today there was a rally in support of separatism. Three people showed up. That's who she's listening to. I support and stand for Alberta. I support and stand for Canada. I denounce separatism. Will the Premier denounce separatism right here and right now? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order.

**Ms Smith:** Couldn't be more clear, Mr. Speaker. I support Alberta's sovereignty within a united Canada. I support this country working the way it's supposed to. I hear the members opposite constantly calling names to Albertans. They've called them embarrassing cousins and sewer rats. We heard the members opposite call them petulant children. You know what? We on this side support referenda. We support citizens' initiatives. In fact, I thought the members opposite did. Wasn't there a referendum on the Olympics in Calgary? Wasn't that the NDP who put that forward? I didn't realize that they were so opposed to these mechanisms. I'm surprised to . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

#### Investigation of Health Services Procurement

**Ms Gray:** In every way this government has the wrong agenda for Alberta. When the former Minister of Infrastructure raised concerns about the corrupt care scandal at the cabinet table, his colleagues called him conspiratorial. Fifty million dollars of Alberta taxpayers



are languishing in unusable credit with Atabay halfway around the world. It's not a conspiracy. It's fiscal mismanagement and probably corruption. The government has a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers. They referenced it yesterday. The Premier said the AG has it. Will she table that report today so Albertans can really see what happened with the corrupt care that got us Turkish Tylenol?

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not read the reports. I have merely directed the members opposite to look at the statement of defence, which references both reports. We're asking the question of why it is the AHS CEO withheld those reports when she was directed to give them to us, but I think part of the reason was that it didn't support her theories. In fact, both of the reports said that there was nothing wrong with proceeding . . . [interjections]

2:00

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order.

**Ms Smith:** Both of them said that there was nothing wrong with proceeding with the ASG contracts in order to do a contract extension while we awaited the final approval of the – it said right in the statement of defence, Mr. Speaker. I know they haven't read it. I encourage them to because both of them are referenced there.

**Ms Gray:** I'm so curious if the Premier didn't read the report so she can maintain plausible deniability later on.

On January 27 the AHS Board met and agreed to send information over to the RCMP and the Auditor General. Three days later the Health minister fired them. The government pretends the people that they appointed were fired for other reasons, but Albertans aren't stupid. They know a gag order when they see one. If the Premier can't read the reports, there are some great people we could ask about it. Will she remove the gag order off the AHS Board members that they fired?

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In keeping with your admonition a couple of days ago, I will not say anything that breaches my oath of cabinet confidentiality, but what I will say is that part of what this issue is all about is contracting out to chartered surgical facilities. I would like to read, as per our statement of defence: "AHS OR's are fully booked and we wouldn't be able to do the ASG cases without bumping other scheduled cases. The procedures would need to be postponed and rescheduled into the future." That is the reason why the contracts needed to be extended. That is the reason why it's been extended again. There are 1,896 surgeries that will take place with that extension, and we're supportive of it.

**Ms Gray:** Dodging responsibility, avoiding the question: we've been seeing it for weeks. We will not let up the pressure on the corrupt care scandal. The Premier knows what a mess she's currently in. One of her very first endorsers has now left cabinet, left caucus because of this corruption, and Albertans deserve answers. When the fake inquiry says, "Nothing to see here," we will not stop asking these questions. Too much of Albertans' money has been wasted and put at risk. Why doesn't the Premier accept that? Call a full public inquiry, as has been asked repeatedly.

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The dispute with the former AHS CEO was that she wanted to cancel contracts at private

surgical centres. We have extended those contracts because both of the reports that she commissioned said that there was no reason not to, said that AHS ORs did not have the capacity to do it. In point of fact, by extending it again, there are 1,896 surgeries that would otherwise be cancelled, including over 1,000 arthroplasties, 208 spine surgeries, and 608 nonarthroplasty repairs. I'd like them to call each of these patients and tell them why they think their surgery should be cancelled.

### Alberta Separatism and First Nation Treaty Rights

**Member Arcand-Paul:** First Nations are speaking up against Alberta separatism and against these forthcoming citizens' referendums for separatism that the Premier pranced around in her press conference about Bill 54. Yesterday I rose in this House to remind this government that they have zero mandate to even entertain the idea of separation without full consultation and negotiation with the First Nations in this province. This country has seen this song and dance before, and First Nations and the late Elijah Harper said no to separation. To the Premier: are you prepared for First Nations to shoot down this government's separatist plans?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

**Mr. Wilson:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. I've been on the phone last night and this morning talking with several chiefs around this issue, and I want to just let you know that this government takes treaty rights very seriously. We work on it constantly. We work on the truth and reconciliation. We work on the UNDRIP file. We work on all these issues, and we've worked hard to make our Indigenous brothers and sisters partners in prosperity with Alberta. We've developed programs that now are being copied by other provinces: B.C., Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Even the federal government is copying our programs because Alberta is the leader when it comes to reconciliation.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Mr. Speaker, that's a no.

Yesterday I received messages, e-mails, and notes of support from chiefs and Indigenous leaders, elders, Albertans, and Canadians from other provinces thanking me for speaking out with the traditional knowledge my elders have taught me about our treaties and this land. This government fails so bad with its treaty relationship, it honestly feels intentional. With talk of separatism by a minority of Albertans being whipped up by this government, it's pretty clear what they're doing. Will the Premier do the right thing and say no to Alberta separating from Confederation? The chiefs want to know. Yes or no, Premier?

**Mr. Wilson:** Mr. Speaker, the Premier has made it very clear that we can consistently advocate for a strong and sovereign Alberta within a united Canada. I don't know how much clearer we can make it. I mean, the NDP's mother ship has crashed. They're looking for another home, a new port, the NLP maybe, the New Liberal Party. They're looking for issues, and that's all. I've talked with the chiefs, and we're having meetings with them constantly.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Well, since we're not going to hear it straight from this government and Albertans can read between the Wildrose, I mean the Republican, I mean the UCP's plans and the Sturgeon Lake and Mikisew Cree First Nations have both issued this government a cease and desist over an S-word – I don't just mean separatism – will the Premier in fact cease and desist from this treasonous behaviour, or does she need to hear from some more lawyers before standing down?

**Mr. Williams:** Point of order.

**The Speaker:** A point of order is noted at 2:06.

The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

**Mr. Wilson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can see the member is grasping at straws because there are no real issues here. We're working closely with our First Nations. We have meetings planned. We have a big meeting coming up with all of Treaty Six next week. The chief of Mikisew has reached out, and we're setting up a meeting with him. I mean, there are concerns out there, and we take them very seriously, and we listen to our brothers and sisters. They are doing an amazing job out there. We've got so many projects going. That's where they make their living, off our energy as well, and that's why we developed many projects. The AIOC: it's the first of its kind all across the world. It's done so many amazing things. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning is next.

### Political Contributions by Corporations and Unions

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our NDP government banned both corporate and union donations in 2015 because we believe elections should be decided by Albertans. Yesterday the minister claimed corporations "have an interest just like everyone else." But corporations aren't people, and unions aren't people. They don't vote. If a corporate owner or a union member wants to donate to a candidate or to a party, they already can. Can the minister explain why he believes corporations should have special influence in our democracy, more influence than Albertans?

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

**Mr. Amery:** Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member danced around the obvious issue. When the NDP banned corporate and union donations in 2015, they opened the door to dark money through the PACs. Corporations, unions were using PACs to put money in without any transparency or accountability. We're putting a stop to that. We're not going to let the NDP get away with PACs and funnelling money through their PAC system. We're allowing corporate and union donations, but we're requiring them to be accountable, transparent, and to provide full accounting to the public.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this bill does not get rid of PACs and given that the minister stood in this House yesterday and "corporations, unions, individuals have interests. They have concerns," here's the fundamental difference. Corporations don't vote; Albertans do. Corporations don't send their children to public school; Albertans do. Corporations don't wait in emergency rooms; Albertans do. Can the minister explain whose interest this bill is really serving, his friends in corporate boardrooms who are pushing their pro-profit agenda or everyday Albertans who deserve a democracy that listens to their voices and not their wallets?

**Mr. Amery:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member spent a lot of time criticizing corporations but not once said the same thing about the unions. I wonder why that is.

It's obvious that the hon. member has not read the bill yet because it reins in the contributions that are allowed to be made to PACs. We've reined it in from \$34,000 down to \$5,000 if these

amendments are passed. That'll keep the dark money out, Mr. Speaker. That'll allow for financial accountability and transparency. That's what this government believes is the right thing to do.

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

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that yesterday the minister actually claimed that they're tackling dark money yet this bill opens the floodgates to corporate cash, given that we all know what's happening, that the UCP wants their corporate friends to have more influence over our elections, and given that Alberta's interests aren't corporate interests – they're the interests of the people who call this province home – will the minister admit that this bill is really about ensuring their corporate friends can buy influence, or will he finally stand up for Albertans and keep our democracy free from dark money?

2:10

**Mr. Amery:** Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that the hon. member mentioned the dark money because that's exactly what we're amending to prevent from happening. The NDP in 2015 amended the act to bring in dark money through the PACs, through the back door with no financial accountability, no transparency, no public reporting. We're putting an end to that right now. We're banning the PACs from coming in from the back door. We're not going to allow it to happen. We're going to make sure that Albertans know exactly who is receiving money and where it's coming from.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

### Continuing and Long-term Care in Northern Alberta

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within 20 years approximately 1.2 million Albertans will be older than 65, creating significant strains on Alberta's health care system, particularly concerning continuing care in rural communities. For this reason, I was happy to learn last year that the government has provided \$654 million over three years for our continuing care capital program. To the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services: how has this funding been allocated, particularly as it relates to rural communities in northern Alberta?

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, Budget 2025 actually has a total of \$769 million in continuing care capital over the next three years in addition to the program mentioned by the hon. member. That's going to equate to 2,100 more units. That's a sharp contrast from the Official Opposition, the NDP, when they were in power, which, as we know, made no new houses for anybody, probably because they were focused on installing and spending hundreds of millions of dollars on shower heads that didn't work and solar panels that nobody wanted. You see what happens when the government actually works for the people of Alberta. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order. I encourage members to keep comments across the bow to a minimum during the answering and asking of questions.

The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and through you to the minister for the answer. Given that long-term care needs in my constituency are already strained, with residents facing long wait times just to access facilities, and further given that this is sometimes so bad that I'm regularly hearing from constituents such as seniors and their families in my area, to the same minister: what can my constituents

expect in the coming years to address this shortage in my constituency of Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul?

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we're spending \$140 million of those capital dollars directly in rural Alberta in Budget 2025, creating 350 more units. As well, we are spending a significant amount of money investing in capital maintenance and renewal to continue to fix the damage that the socialist NDP did when they were in power, where they neglected the entire housing system, particularly in rural Alberta, a place where the Official Opposition does not know it exists. We're going to continue to do that. This is why we have the largest housing sector anywhere in the country, from continuing care to affordable housing to regular market housing. We focused on Albertans. We bet on this province, unlike the NDP, who continue to want to do what their overlords in Ottawa tell them to do and force things like . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister. Given that Bonnyville, in particular, is in desperate need of a new long-term care centre, with the current outdated facilities being unable to address the area's growing needs, and staffing shortages, wait times, and limited capacity being the largest concerns from residents who wish to age in place with the support and comfort they deserve, will the same minister please share if they've had any recent discussions to invest in further long-term care options in Bonnyville?

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we just completed construction on two new seniors' lodges with the Lakeland Lodge and Housing Foundation in the member's constituency. We have several other projects happening in partnership with women's shelters also inside the constituency. We're going to continue to invest in that area; 10 of 17 of the new continuing care projects in the province are taking place in rural Alberta. A significant amount of that investment will go forward inside communities like the hon. member's. We look forward to continuing to partner with rural Alberta and urban Alberta. On this side of the House we know we need both to make it work, and if any member from the other side would like to come visit rural Alberta, we'd be happy to come and show it to them.

#### **Bill 54** (continued)

**Member Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, Bill 54 eliminates vouching at polling stations, a critical safeguard that ensures marginalized Albertans can exercise their democratic rights. When a similar measure was proposed federally, officials there warned it would disenfranchise over 100,000 people, primarily Indigenous people, seniors, and students. Elections Alberta has only recorded seven cases of voting irregularities since 2013, and nearly half of Albertans want to keep vouching. Can the minister explain why the UCP are ignoring their own findings and deliberately creating barriers that will prevent some Albertans from voting?

**Mr. Amery:** Mr. Speaker, vouching is a process whereby one elector will vouch for another, recommend that that individual be able to vote. Elections are about integrity. They're about transparency. They're about the confidence of Albertans to have the ability to know that their elections are being conducted fairly. The bill and the amendments put forward are about protecting the integrity of our elections and, with that, ensuring that those who are

eligible to vote are the only ones that do vote. We're finding an appropriate balance here with these amendments.

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

**Member Ceci:** Thank you. Given that a small group of people on the fringes of Alberta politics have the ear of the Premier and are coming up with solutions to problems that don't exist around vouching and given that these changes create serious barriers for working Albertans who commute, people who have recently moved, those experiencing homelessness, and seniors who rely on vouching to exercise their democratic rights, will the minister do the right thing and stop this attack on Albertans' democratic rights, or will he continue to allow fringe MAGA-style election conspiracies to determine who gets to participate in Alberta's democracy?

**Mr. Amery:** Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question, to the hon. member. The bill deals with that as well. We're providing a number of different ways for voters to prove their eligibility while preventing voter fraud. That is the balance that we're trying to achieve here. That's the appropriate path that we need to be taking forward to maintain confidence in our election system, to make sure that the integrity of the vote is preserved. We're expanding a number of different things as well: additional or expanded use of special ballots and giving Elections Alberta officials a wide array of ID that they can rely on for addresses.

**Member Ceci:** Given that the minister knows exactly what he's doing with this bill, limiting where voters cast ballots and creating barriers for voters, and given that he knows eliminating vouching disenfranchises those without proper ID and given that he knows banning electronic tabulators and requiring hand counting within 12 hours will just create delays and confusion, how can he stand in this House claiming these changes improve accessibility? Will the minister stop this attack on Albertans' voting rights, or will he at least have the decency to admit that suppressing voter turnout serves this . . .

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

**Mr. Amery:** Mr. Speaker, I wish the hon. member would have got up with the same vigour when the federal overlords used the same hand-counting system in the recent federal election. That's what they do there. That's what we're doing here. The reason for that is because paper ballots and hand counting is the most reliable way of counting ballots. There's a backstop of paper ballots to verify what happened in an election. If there's a judicial recount, the courts can rely on the paper ballots. Real, tangible ballots to rely on: that's the confidence in our electoral system. That's what we're going to do. If this bill passes, the integrity of elections . . .

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

**Mr. Shepherd:** Mr. Speaker, it's been one year since the UCP passed Bill 20, stripping the right to vote in municipal elections from any Albertan who doesn't have photo ID. According to experts that will impact up to 50,000 Albertans, roughly the populations of Leduc and Beaumont, primarily seniors, racialized Albertans, and people in rural areas. When I raised that concern with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, he insisted he had a plan, that he would "[make] it easier than ever to get ID, in fact instantly." To the minister: one year later what specific steps has the government taken to ensure every Albertan has photo ID so they don't lose their right to vote?

**Mr. McIver:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope the NDP will take yes for an answer. Through our minister of seniors and social services we have navigation centres where any Albertan can get ID the same day. Our plan before the municipal election is to make an effort to get that message out to all Albertans, to make sure every single Albertan, homeless or not, rich or poor, young or old, can get ID. We will make that easy, we'll make it quick, and that is how we will guarantee. There's the answer. I hope the hon. member can accept it because it's a strong yes. Yes, we will defend people's right to vote.

2:20

**Mr. Shepherd:** Given the minister just confirmed that he has done nothing since last year and given that just this week the UCP introduced Bill 54, sweeping legislation full of . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order.

**Mr. Shepherd:** . . . Team Trump tactics which strip the right to vote in a provincial election if you don't have photo ID and given that voting is not a privilege – it's a right, one no government should strip from any citizen – but given that this government has done nothing in the past year to mitigate that harm and make it easier for people in rural Alberta to get ID, will the UCP admit that it's actually their goal to imitate the American far right and strip . . .

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

**Mr. McIver:** Mr. Speaker, I understand 10,000 people have gotten their ID through the centres already. I know the folks over there are farming discontent, but the fact is that if they actually care about people that they think won't be able to vote, direct them to the navigation centre. They can get their ID in the same day. If they actually care about it, they'll do that. But you know what? They don't want to help them. They'd rather have people not vote. We're helping people vote; they're getting in the way. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Given there are two navigation centres, one in Edmonton and one in Calgary, for all Alberta and given that even as Bill 54 strips Albertans' right to vote, it cuts the number of signatures needed to force a referendum in half, given that means the UCP are simultaneously making it harder for Albertans to vote against them but easier for Albertans to force a vote on separating from Canada or becoming a 51st state and given that's about as antidemocratic as it gets, this government is putting their thumb on the scale to get the results it wants. Will the minister just admit that what the UCP wants is American-style elections à la Donald Trump, full of chaos, confusion, and voter suppression?

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

**Mr. Amery:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That's zero for three. Albertans are proud Canadians who want a strong Canada. When there's a strong Alberta, we have a strong Canada. When there's a strong Canada, we thrive here in Alberta as well. The citizen initiative process is nothing new. The fearmongering, the misinformation that's being spread by the NDP is certainly new. All Albertans who have an issue that they're passionate about are free to bring it forward and put the vote to Albertans. That's the point. That's what this government believes in. That's what this act purports to do. If they don't like democracy, they should move elsewhere.

### Premier's Office Budget

**Mr. Sinclair:** Mr. Speaker, given that industry is strong in my riding of Lesser Slave Lake, you'd think that people in northern Alberta would be benefiting from their hard work, but this Premier's bloated budget has made them feel like she takes their support, trust, and votes for granted. Given how now it's being reported that her out-of-control spending has spilled into her own office, with a carpet renovation that would make former Premier Redford blush, to the Premier: do you think spending a quarter million dollars to roll yourself out on a red carpet every day is a responsible way of spending taxpayers' money when you run Trudeau-style deficits?

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

**Mr. Horner:** Yeah. Happy to take a budget question, Mr. Speaker. Haven't had many since it was passed. I would say that Budget '25 is a tough budget in a tough time, a growing province, 4.4 per cent population growth. We're doing all that we can to build as many schools as quickly and efficiently as possible, you know, still while protecting our industries and encouraging new investments. I think it's the right budget for right now: a large contingency, a tax cut to address affordability.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that highways and health care are the responsibility of the province and given, like a tale as old as time for northern Alberta, we watch another Premier spend lavishly on wants instead of needs and given there are now reports that this Premier spent up to \$300,000 on china for the Government House in Edmonton – I don't know if that figure includes the grey stuff; I heard it's delicious; if you don't believe me, ask the dishes – to the Premier: don't you think this kind of luxurious spending sends the wrong message to everyday Albertans when we can't get highways and health care?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, I agree that we are at a moment where Alberta needs to get very serious about the spend, both sides of the House. You know, the member is not wrong. Highways, hospitals, schools: these are all our fundamental, principal concerns. We need to ensure that dollars go further now than ever, and we have to do that in a time of great inflation, of trade uncertainty, of logistical challenges. That has to be the priority of all of us, and it will continue to be mine. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Mr. Speaker, given there's an affordability crisis in northern Alberta, and I quote: duplicitous, entitled, secretive, wasteful, and completely out of touch with the priorities of everyday Albertans. End quote. Given this quote perfectly sums up the bougie lifestyle of private jets, royal carpets, \$300,000 on china, and who knows what else and further given that quote was made by none other than the Premier herself when she was the leader of the Wildrose and criticized the lavish spending of then Premier Redford, to the Premier: do you stand by your comments, and will you ever balance a budget again? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, me and the members in the front bench and the members of the government caucus stand with this Premier. I can tell you right now that we understand that there isn't just an

affordability crisis in northern Alberta; there's one across the entire province. But it would seem that the Member for Lesser Slave Lake is only concerned about his own personal interests, and that is why he's bringing bully tactics into this Chamber. I believe it's unbecoming of a member of this Chamber. It's unfortunate. I tell you what, we are concerned about all Alberta. We're concerned about a strong province, a strong country, and that's why we fight every day for it.

### Investigation of Health Services Procurement (continued)

**Ms Gray:** Mr. Speaker, "Alberta's Justice Minister is a long-time friend and related through marriage to a man whose company's business dealings with the province's health authority are now part of multiple investigations." That's exclusive reporting from the *Globe and Mail* published today. The Minister of Justice is a long-time friend of Sam Mraiche, the person at the heart of the corrupt care scandal. Did the Minister of Justice recuse himself from all decisions related to the corrupt care scandal when they came before cabinet, and how is he managing this very serious potential conflict of interest?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Justice is a member of good standing in this Chamber, and I would caution the members opposite to cast aspersions about a member and a minister of the Crown. What I would say is that the Minister of Justice is not involved in any way, shape, or form in this investigation. He is the Minister of Justice and fulfilling his role with the utmost integrity that is becoming of his position as the Solicitor General. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Ms Gray:** Given this personal relationship goes back "a very long time" – and I am quoting the minister himself there – given the Minister of Justice often answers all the questions asked of ministers in this Assembly about the corrupt care scandal, given this scandal involves kickbacks, political interference, and bloated contracts specifically to someone who is his close personal friend and relative and given the government has weakened the Conflicts of Interest Act, what this minister is in charge of enforcing, how is this government separating themselves from this potential conflict?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the members opposite are cheering about. There's nothing there. There are three independent investigations happening, and I will repeat them, as the Minister of Justice has on multiple occasions. One, the Auditor General is investigating. Two, Judge Wyant is investigating, a former Chief Justice from Manitoba, a man of great integrity and respect among his colleagues. Three, the RCMP is also investigating. I'm not sure what the members opposite are talking about, but I would caution them with the strongest language to be careful about casting aspersions and calling into question the integrity of the Minister of Justice. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Ms Gray:** Given it is a minister's responsibility to operate in an ethical and fair way and it is the opposition's responsibility to ask these questions, given that this minister is responsible for Crown prosecutors, given this minister is responsible for directing staff to forward all questions through a lawyer before they answer the Auditor General, given this minister has a close personal relationship with Sam Mraiche at the heart of the corrupt care

scandal and given that the Premier's office would not respond to questions about how they are managing this concerning relationship, will the Premier require her Minister of Justice to recuse himself immediately? [interjections]

2:30

**The Speaker:** Order.

The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Schow:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time I checked, putting your name on a ballot and getting elected to this wonderful Chamber does not preclude you from having friends and relatives. There are also clear lines between the Minister of Justice and his office and the investigations that are happening. The Minister of Justice does not direct. The Minister of Justice is separate. [interjections]

**Mr. Williams:** Point of order.

**Mr. Schow:** I think it's despicable the way that members are acting right now when calling into question the integrity of the Minister of Justice. The RCMP, the Auditor General, and Judge Wyant are all investigating this independently, Mr. Speaker. We await those results. I hope the members would, too. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order.

A point of order is noted at 2:31.

The hon. Member for Grande Prairie has a question to ask.

### Alberta Media Fund

**Mr. Dyck:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2022 StatsCan reported that cultural industries contributed \$2.5 billion to Alberta's economy and sustained over 19,000 jobs in the province. Our government's continued support through the Alberta media fund has aided nearly 270 productions since 2020, and over 60 per cent of Alberta-made projects are produced in small cities, towns, and rural communities. To the minister of culture: how is Budget 2025 continuing to build on our government's successful investments to support Alberta's local film and television industries?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the minister of arts and culture.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government continues making smart investments to support local Alberta crews, support Alberta filmmakers, and promote Alberta internationally as a go-to destination. Budget 2025 maintains our investment in the Alberta media fund, allocating \$8 million to continue this growing momentum in this sector. The Alberta-made screen industries program supports three streams that continue the overall growth of the local film and television industry in Alberta: the Alberta-made production grant, the postproduction visual effects and digital animation grant, and the project script development grant. Our government remains focused on ensuring Alberta's success in this industry.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

**Mr. Dyck:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government's investment in Alberta's cultural industries diversifies our economy, creates jobs, and shares our unique stories both home and abroad. Given that Alberta's government has played a key role in supporting the music sector with nearly \$15 million in annual funding since 2021 and given that according to StatsCan Alberta's cultural industries, including film, TV, magazines, books, and music, contribute \$2.7 billion dollars to our economy and supported

over 19,000 jobs in 2021, again to the minister of culture: how is the Alberta media fund also helping to sustain and grow Alberta's music, book, and magazine publishing sectors?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister of arts and culture.

**Ms Fir:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. Our government recognizes that the music and publishing sectors also have significant potential to drive economic growth and showcase Alberta's stories on a broader stage. We proudly support the growth of our music and publishing industries with targeted investments through the Alberta media fund. Our work supports Alberta's music sector including musicians, nonprofits, sound recording agencies, and festivals. We also support, for example, musicians at events like the 2024 and upcoming 2025 Banff World Media Festival to get more local music on screen. We continue working with industry partners to ensure our music and publishing sectors grow.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

**Mr. Dyck:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta's film and television industry has seen record growth in recent years, with high-profile productions choosing Alberta as their filming destination. This is not only raising our international profile but creating real economic opportunities here in Alberta. Given that the film and television tax credit has generated more than \$1.5 billion in investment and over 14,000 jobs, can the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade explain how Alberta's film and television sector is contributing to our economic growth and diversification?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade.

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Film and television production in Alberta is more than entertainment. It's a major driver of jobs, investment, and economic momentum. Since launching the film and television tax credit we've supported over 200 productions, generating over 14,000 jobs and \$1.5 billion in Alberta-based spending. We've budgeted \$235 million to support the film and television tax credit over the next three years. We're investing in the entire value chain of the sector, from attracting international productions to developing homegrown talent to building local capacity in postproduction, visual effects, and more. Through strategic investments Alberta's government is making our province one of the best places in North America to film television and movies.

### Affordability Measures

**Mr. Haji:** Mr. Speaker, Alberta families are being crushed at the checkout line. Grocery prices are up over 20 per cent since the UCP government came to power. Food bank use is breaking records even among working Albertans. Yet this government has no plan, this government has no relief, and this government has no answers. But we will keep asking. When will the minister deliver real, immediate solutions that will make life more affordable for Alberta families?

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question. The good news is that we're doing it this year, thanks to the Minister of Finance. We're bringing in a tax cut to help every single Alberta family – every single family – making life more affordable. You know what we believe in on this side of the House? Leaving money in Albertans' wallets because they know what to do with it best, not taking it from them and redistributing it elsewhere.

We're working hard in every sector, in every ministry to leave money in the wallets of Albertans. We're here to put them first.

**Mr. Haji:** Given that just two weeks ago when I asked about the government's plan on affordability the minister's response was, and I quote, "We can't pay their bills," and given that Albertans are not asking for handouts or for paying their bills but for real leadership, given this government's affordability plan – let's talk about the tax cut that saves the average Albertan less than \$1; actually, 78 cents – will the minister admit that this plan is not working for Albertans?

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's ironic that the NDP keep bringing this up. While we do tax cuts, they did tax raises. They brought in the carbon tax in Alberta, raising the average monthly bill for Albertans by hundreds of dollars for four years. We can go down the list. They spent money. They take it from Albertans, and they spent it on projects; we never got it back. They lost \$2 billion transitioning from coal.

We're here to serve Albertans, we're here to bring a care-first model of insurance, we're here to start more housing, we're here to bring more schools for Albertans, and we brought forward a tax cut. That's what we're doing for Albertans.

**Mr. Haji:** Given this affordability crisis did not happen overnight – it is the result of ongoing government policy choices – given that wages have fallen, costs have exploded, and this government has done nothing to address the real problem, will the minister admit that their 'no plan' is costing Albertans at the checkout and table a real affordability plan?

**Mr. Neudorf:** Mr. Speaker, we do have a plan, and thankfully, Albertans helped institute it: get rid of the NDP. They cost Albertans money.

We're here to bring back affordability. We're working through our entire electricity system. We've lowered the cost of electricity down 53 per cent year over year. We've worked on retail costs. We've worked on local access fees. We've worked on transmission, which is in the bill before the House right now. You know what? In the last 12 years there was \$12 billion in transmission. Half of that was spent under the NDP while they were in power, nearly \$6 billion in transmission. We're working on lowering those costs, making . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

**Member Irwin:** It's May Day, International Workers' Day, and workers all over Alberta are struggling with rising costs. I was so proud to support Bill 210, protecting workers' tips, a common-sense bill that would require employers to pass on all tips to workers without deduction. Seven – yes, seven – other provinces have similar legislation, including Conservative-run Saskatchewan. But the UCP killed this bill immediately, ignoring the pleas of workers. Shameful. Instead of standing up for Albertans who can't make ends meet, the UCP is focused on dividing us and pandering to separatists. When will this Premier start focusing on workers and support everyday Albertans?

**Mr. Jones:** Mr. Speaker, we certainly understand the intent behind Bill 210. The problem is that the work was not done to draft a strong piece of legislation. It's not clear in the legislation how tips would be accounted for or distributed to employees, including with respect to electronic payments, and there's no guidance in Bill 210 for how

tips should be handled when a pooling agreement is not in place. The bill also tasks employees with driving the establishing of the pool system, excluding owners, even minority owners who may own a fraction of the business but perform the same roles as a server or a busser. Let's get it right, and we'll continue to watch what's happening in other jurisdictions.

2:40

**Member Irwin:** Given that every day we hear from more and more Albertans who are struggling with the cost of food, rent, utilities, the list goes on and given that the University of Alberta campus food bank has reported an alarming 600 per cent increase in usage, pointing to high cost of living as the key reason for skyrocketing student food bank usage, including out of control rents – we on our side of the House have offered solutions to help these struggling Albertans, like increasing affordable housing, like Bill 210 and capping surging rents, but instead of doing anything to help, the UCP are focused on separation and division. Why?

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, finally, a question about housing. I noticed that the NDP have been avoiding it. That's probably because Alberta has built more houses than any other province, almost 50,000 in the last year, an increase of almost 33 per cent. Rent is down in Calgary by about 7.8 per cent. Rent is stabilizing in the city of Edmonton. What happened when the NDP were in power, that great socialist party? Zero houses during their time. That's why the NDP don't want to talk about it, because they don't like Albertans. That's why they bet against them. We bet on them every time, and that's why we keep . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

**Member Irwin:** Given that this is a UCP government that continues to put profits before people at every opportunity and given that many Albertans are struggling every single day to make ends meet, but instead of prioritizing any type of affordability measures the UCP are bringing dark money into politics, allowing corporations to donate and line Conservative pockets and given that my constituents are asking for real, tangible support from this government, not Trump-style election law changes that help no one but the UCP's friends, will anyone on that side of the House stand up for their constituents and put aside the far-right rhetoric and instead prioritize the people they're supposedly here to represent?

**The Speaker:** I must admit I have some difficulty making the connection from the first question to the third question.

**Mr. Jones:** Mr. Speaker, Alberta continues to have the highest wages in the country, the lowest taxes, the best jobs. Best place to live. That's why, unlike under the NDP when people decided to leave Alberta to find work, to leave Alberta to support their families, we're seeing record numbers of young people relocating from all across Canada to Alberta. Young people see opportunity here. Albertans know that that opportunity will disappear if that party is ever in government again, but, thankfully, they won't be.

**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)

### Calgary-North East Constituency Concerns

**Member Brar:** Mr. Speaker, while the Premier is busy talking about separating Alberta from Canada, pushing an Alberta pension plan, creating a provincial police force, rewriting election laws to make separatist referendums easier and big money in politics louder, people in Calgary-North East are asking for the basics. We don't have enough schools, our hospitals are overwhelmed, inflation is crushing families, and crime is making people feel unsafe in their own neighbourhoods. Yet, instead of addressing these urgent issues, the Premier is playing with democracy like it's a board game, changing the rules to divide, distract, and destabilize.

But let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. The people of Calgary-North East are proud Albertans and proud Canadians. Yes, we live just minutes from the airport, but we don't want to take a plane from Calgary to Canada. We want Calgary to stay in Canada. We are a community of immigrants who came here to build, not to break. We work hard, raise families, and live with values of fairness, democracy, and unity.

I invite the Premier to come to Calgary-North East not for a photo op but to listen. Come meet the parents, the seniors, the workers and see how out of touch your priorities really are. We don't need separation; we need solutions.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat has a statement to make.

### Alberta in Canada

**Mr. Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's be real. Ottawa doesn't care about Alberta. Their antienergy policies and equalization payments serve to bleed our province dry. The gap between western Canada and the federal government feels wider than the Rockies, so let's talk about it. Why is Alberta being hung out to dry by its own federal government? Well, maybe it's because when Alberta tries to have a seat at the table, Ottawa only wants to hear, "Yes, milord" right away and have its servant do its bidding, but Alberta is no servant.

We say pipeline; they hear problems. We say prosperity; they say pollution. We say freedom; they say autocratic dystopia. But don't take my word for it, Mr. Speaker; take the federal government's own Policy Horizons report. I for one do not want my children's future to be one of foraging off the lands to survive, as this report states.

Mr. Speaker, Albertans refuse to sit around and wait for the rest of the country to treat us like equals while those hell bent on creating a dystopian future only want no one to prosper. We have put in the work. We've built the industries, and we financially support the rest of the country's welfare state while paying far more into the system than what we take. And what do we get in return? Policies meant to sabotage our economy, morally bankrupt federal leaders determined on scuttling our industries, and headlines that alienate the western half of this country. Albertans are proud of their land, proud of their work, and proud of their communities, but pride only goes so far.

It's starting to feel more like the feds are systematically harvesting us for our organs while we're alive on the table. We've put our backs into building and supporting a country that acts like it doesn't know Alberta when it's time to listen but sure remembers us with open hands when it's time to pay the bills of overspending federal and provincial governments across the country. Maybe the

feds should take a page from our book and build prosperity and hope. If they don't, well, history is littered with examples of people and groups being pushed too far. It's time to get real about this 2040 report and ensure it doesn't come to pass.

### Women's Shelters

**Ms Hayter:** Mr. Speaker, I have received many letters from all over Alberta telling me that women's shelters are in crisis. I would like to share one in the House.

Rates of domestic violence are rising, and severity is increasing. In 57 per cent of cases frequency and severity of violence has increased according to the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters.

The need for women's shelter services has risen by 50 per cent since 2021. There are not enough spaces. One shelter alone had to turn away 78.3 per cent of people seeking a safe space because of a shortage of spaces.

At the same time, funding for women's shelters is flat. Wages have not kept pace with inflation, and the number of staff has decreased. Inflation is up by 30 per cent since the government last increased funding. Domestic violence shelter wages are on average 21 per cent lower . . . [compared to] jobs in other sectors.

The status quo is not sustainable. Women's shelter staff are doing more with less. Having to turn away those experiencing violence because there is no [safe] space available is a major contributor to staff burnout. Low wages and burnout have created a crisis in recruitment and retention.

This is not a big-city problem. Almost half the calls for help are in rural areas and small towns. Those experiencing violence are waiting for months for shelter space. In 2022-23 shelters were unable to accommodate 11,000 children. On the front lines we're now seeing children in encampments. This is a direct result of your budget decisions.

Now is the time to change those decisions. Provide women's shelters the same 14 per cent ongoing funding to address infrastructure needs you and your colleagues have through . . . increased living allowances. Provide the same annual increases to front-line wages that MLAs and ministers receive. Double the number of staff like you've done with Legislative Assembly Office staffing.

Albertans watched the budget drop and hoped the UCP government would do the right thing, but the only thing we have seen so far is chaos, cuts, corruption, and cruelty.

2:50

### Alberta Separatism

**Mr. Dach:** Monsieur le Président, «Si j'ai bien compris, vous êtes en train de me dire: à la prochaine fois.» Parti Québécois Premier René Lévesque spoke those words on October 20, 1980, after 60 per cent of the Quebec electorate rejected his government's sovereignty referendum motion. It was a resounding defeat for the separatist movement in Quebec, but it was not the end of their determination to secede from the Canadian federation.

I was in Quebec in May of 1980 in a monthlong French immersion program in Jonquière, a separatist stronghold. Later that fall I attended McGill University in Montreal. It was a fascinating but very serious time to be a poli-sci student in Quebec. When I returned to Alberta, I learned that my battles against separatism were not over. Western separatism was raising its head. Separatist parties of various stripes were forming to give voice to the minority of discontented voters they hoped to represent. They eventually fizzled out.

Now Alberta's UCP government is leading the separatist bandwagon. The Alberta Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act, the plan to get rid of the CPP, steps to impose an Alberta provincial

police force, recent proposed legislation to grease the wheels towards a sovereignty referendum vote all demonstrate this government's wish to pave the way for Alberta to leave Confederation. If it walks like a separatist and quacks like a separatist, it's a separatist.

Alberta's New Democrats and the vast majority of Albertans will give separatists the same clear answer Quebecers gave to Lévesque in 1980: jamais, jamais, jamais; never, never, never.

### Introduction of Bills

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

#### Bill 55

#### Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to rise and request leave to introduce Bill 55, the Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025.

This bill includes amendments regarding health foundation governance, hospital oversight, public health's role in the refocused system, and further protection for seniors and vulnerable adults. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of the Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025.

[Motion carried; Bill 55 read a first time]

### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** Are there tablings? The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

**Mr. Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table three separate documents and the five requisite copies. One is the actual Canadian government's Policy Horizons 2024 report titled Future Lives: Social Mobility in Question, showcasing that education and hard work will no longer help with upward mobility and people will be needing to forage, hunt, and fish out of necessity.

The second is a Rick Bell article, The Horror Show Mark Carney and the Liberals Want Deep-sixed Now, which also references the Policy Horizons report.

The third one is a Michael Higgins report titled We Are Heading for a Nightmare – Even the Government Thinks So, highlighting that there are “more snakes than ladders” in the Canadian game of life with this report.

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a tabling, a letter from constituents of mine who have a pipefitter son who's been diagnosed with carpal tunnel. Unable to prove that it's directly related to his work, he's been unemployed and waiting for surgery and now is being advised to pay privately.

**The Speaker:** The chief government whip.

**Mr. Getson:** Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few tablings here. One is on the *National Post* talking about Dr. David Suzuki a while back when he had to retract comments supporting that eco terrorist group called Extinction Rebellion.

Also, there's another one here talking about the peaceful protests in the Coastal GasLink. One of the members in here needs a little revisionist history of what really happened, which was that a ton of people showed up with axes and burned vehicles with people in them, that managed to get out, and smashed a ton of equipment, again, under peaceful protests.



Then a contrast was another article from Tom Blackwell showing what happened down in Ottawa with the convoy, where the convoy folks actually had bouncy castles.

There's also a member's statement, Mr. Speaker, that was done in this House on the 24th of November, 2021, that ties it all together.

**The Speaker:** There's never a need to retable *Hansard*.

Are there others? The hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two letters here. One is a cover letter from Sturgeon Lake and Mikisew Cree First Nation to the Prime Minister asking to get Alberta in line with respect to separatism and an enclosed second letter from that cover letter which is a cease-and-desist letter which outlines, inter alia, that the province shut down the national unity crisis and enabling referendums on separatism.

**The Speaker:** Are there others? The hon. Member for Airdrie-Cochrane has a tabling.

**Mr. Guthrie:** I just thought I'd let you know, Mr. Speaker, that I don't have a tabling today.

**The Speaker:** Oh, why, thank you.

Are there others?

Hon. members, that brings us to points of order, of which there were two. The first point of order was called at 2:07 while the hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday was speaking.

#### **Point of Order Allegations against a Member**

**Mr. Schow:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In advance, I will say that we will be withdrawing the second point of order.

I rise on 23(h), (i), and (j). At the time noted of 2:06, the Member for Edmonton-West Henday was speaking, asking questions to the government. At the time the member said: will the Premier in fact cease and desist from this treasonous behaviour, or will she just need to hear from some more lawyers? Mr. Speaker, there's also another point of order here. I quote as much as one can quote unofficial records: "I mean the UCP's plans and the Sturgeon Lake and Mikisew Cree First Nations have both issued this government a cease and desist over an S-word – I don't . . . mean separatism." I would love to know what the Member for Edmonton-West Henday meant when he said: the S-word.

Mr. Speaker, both of these I think are points of order, particularly the one suggesting that the Premier has a treasonous agenda. I will go back: "will the Premier in fact cease and desist from this treasonous behaviour?" That is implying that the Premier herself has a treasonous agenda, is engaging in treasonous behaviour. This is incredibly egregious. It is a lofty claim to suggest that someone, particularly a head of the government, has a treasonous agenda. Treason would be, an example is defined as to use force or violence for the purpose of overthrowing the government of Canada or a province.

This government is committed to defending a sovereign Alberta within a united Canada. We believe in the strength of our country, but we also believe that our country is not strong without a strong Alberta. We want both, Mr. Speaker, and to suggest the Premier is a treasonous individual is out of line.

**The Speaker:** The Opposition House Leader.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I disagree with the Government House Leader. This is not a point of order. This is

absolutely a matter of debate because we have not made a personal accusation or insult to an individual. Instead, we are talking about the Premier in her role as Premier. I have made this reference before. November 5, 2024, you said: "I think the Premier's record is a matter of debate on which members will have a variety of opinions." In this case we are talking about the actions of someone who is acting on behalf of the province of Alberta. It includes things like introducing legislation which has caused a great deal of concern.

The member opposite used a definition of treason. I will also say that it can include actively working against it or its government. This provincial government has made an entire career out of opposing the federal government. They fund raise off it. They love it.

In this case we are talking about behaviour. We are not intending to insult the Premier as an individual. We are talking about what is happening in this place. I believe it is a matter of debate. We will listen to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and adjust accordingly.

**The Speaker:** I do have the benefit of the Blues. While I accept that perhaps I didn't have enough for lunch today and am mildly hangry and I am unaware of the context in which I said that the Premier's record is a matter of debate, I stand by that statement. What I can almost assuredly guarantee is that on that particular day no one was accusing the Premier of treason. The Premier's record is one thing; accusing another member of committing a crime is entirely different. In this House there are long-standing traditions that we don't get to accuse other members of breaking the law, particularly in light of treason.

3:00

There are all sorts of references that I can point to with respect to a debate around treasonous activities. There's a long list of accusations listed in *Beauchesne's*. I'm happy to pull it out for you, show you all the places that it's unparliamentary. But the fact of the matter is that we don't enjoy the benefit of accusing another member of committing treason. It's unparliamentary. It's not a matter of debate, and the member can apologize and withdraw.

**Ms Gray:** On behalf of the member I apologize and withdraw.

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

### **Orders of the Day**

#### **Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole**

[Mr. van Dijken in the chair]

**The Deputy Chair:** Hon. members, I'd like to call the committee to order.

#### **Bill 46**

#### **Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025**

**The Deputy Chair:** Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to this bill? I will recognize the Member for Edmonton-South West.

**Mr. Ip:** Mr. Chair, I would like to introduce an amendment to Bill 46. Would you like to see the amendment, after which I would like to, with your permission, read it into the record?

**The Deputy Chair:** You may proceed.  
This will be amendment A1.

**Mr. Ip:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. To read it into the record, I would like to move that Bill 46, Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, be amended by striking out section 2(9).

Mr. Chair, I would like a few moments, if I may, to provide my rationale. Thank you for the opportunity to address a truly significant issue. I want to raise for the attention of all members of this House that there is a profoundly dangerous and undemocratic element hidden in Bill 46, the Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025. I am referring specifically to what will ultimately be section 97.1 of the Access to Information Act and section 62.1 of the Protection of Privacy Act respectively, or section 2(9) and section 1(3) of Bill 46.

These particular sections essentially and effectively function as what are known as Henry VIII clauses, provisions that allow the Executive Council, the Premier, and cabinet to unilaterally amend or appeal legislation without ever having to return to this Chamber for approval or for scrutiny. Let's be clear. These clauses amount to an executive power grab. They fundamentally undermine the role of this Legislature and the responsibilities of all members of this Assembly, and they are an affront to the democratic values that Albertans hold dear. These provisions are not just a legal technicality. They are a deliberate and calculated effort by this UCP government to consolidate power and eliminate legislative oversight. They threaten the transparency and accountability and due process that are supposed to underpin Alberta's democracy.

Let me take a moment to walk through what's actually in these provisions. What would be section 97.1 of the Access to Information Act and section 62.1 of the Protection of Privacy Act, or, respectively, section 2(9) and section 1(3) of Bill 46, would grant the Lieutenant Governor in Council, effectively the cabinet, the authority to make any regulations that the cabinet considers necessary as a result of this act. That includes the ability to override, modify, or repeal other pieces of legislation through regulation, bypassing this Assembly entirely.

These clauses allow the government to unilaterally amend virtually any act or regulation or any provision within this act, and they would be able to do so by using language so vague, "any necessary changes as a result of this Act," that it creates virtually limitless discretion. Mr. Chair, the government would be able to do it all without debate, without transparency, without a single vote, and without a shred of input from the public or elected members of this Assembly.

Mr. Chair, I think we would all agree in this House that this is not how democracy is supposed to work. Albertans expect and deserve laws that are created and amended through proper legislative procedure, not through opaque and unaccountable executive decisions made behind closed doors. We are all in this Chamber elected to scrutinize legislation, to debate its merits, to amend it where necessary, and to ensure that it serves the public interest. But what the UCP is doing here is to attempt to remove us from that process altogether. That is nothing short of a betrayal of their democratic responsibilities.

Let me remind this House that this is not the first time the UCP government has attempted to give itself the power to rewrite laws without legislative debate. We saw it with the Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act, which initially gave the Premier and cabinet the power to unilaterally amend legislation. That clause was only changed after intense public backlash and widespread legal criticism, but the intention was clear: bypass the Legislature.

We saw it again with Bill 18, the Provincial Priorities Act, which allows cabinet to veto agreements between postsecondary institutions and the federal government without debate or consultation. Again this government demonstrated a disturbing willingness to centralize authority and block transparency.

And we must not forget the Public Health (Emergency Powers) Amendment Act, 2020, introduced under Premier Jason Kenney. That bill also attempted to give cabinet the authority to unilaterally rewrite laws during a public health emergency. Ironically, many of the MLAs on the government side today opposed that very proposal at the time, citing the importance of legislative oversight. So my question to them is: what has changed? The public push-back at the time: legal experts sounded alarms, and the Premier himself eventually backed down.

Yet here we are again, this time with privacy laws, laws that are fundamental to the protection of Albertans' personal information and rights. Instead of creating strong, modern privacy protections, Bill 46 creates a regulatory black hole. The UCP claims this bill is about modernization, but these clauses reveal the true agenda, to create a back door for cabinet to make sweeping legal changes without ever facing public scrutiny. This bill has implications not only for today but for decades to come. Once such extraordinary powers are granted to cabinet, they rarely get taken away, Mr. Chair. Future governments of any stripe could use these clauses to bypass this Assembly on critical decisions.

**3:10**

This is not about trusting the current Premier or cabinet. This is about defending the long-standing democratic institutions that Albertans rely on. That's why today I'm proud to stand to introduce amendments to strike section 2(9) from Bill 46 completely. And let me be crystal clear. These amendments are not just merely technical adjustments. They are essential to protecting the democratic fabric of our province. The amendment that I introduce would ensure that any changes to privacy laws must come back to this Legislature, where they can be debated, amended, and voted on by the elected representatives of the people of Alberta. Mr. Chair, I think we would all agree that democracy cannot function without scrutiny, it cannot function without accountability, and it cannot function when governments have the ability to rewrite laws in secret.

Mr. Chair, these Henry VIII clauses are part of a pattern: a pattern of eroding checks and balances; a pattern of the Premier and her cabinet concentrating more and more power in their own hands; a pattern of treating the Legislature and, by extension, the people of Alberta as an inconvenience. Of course, it would just be easier if they could amend the legislation, but that's not how democracy works. The Premier has said that she values democratic input, but actions speak louder than words. Whether it's Bill 46, the sovereignty act, or Bill 18, the actions of this government tell a different story, a story of a government that wants power without oversight, authority without accountability, and this must stop.

We have already seen public concern around data privacy intensify in this digital age, with the rise of artificial intelligence, biometric data collection, surveillance technologies, and large-scale data breaches. Albertans are rightly asking for more protection, not less, and allowing cabinet to unilaterally amend privacy legislation behind closed doors creates a dangerous environment where the rights of citizens can be altered without notice, without consultation, and without debate. I think this government parades this piece of legislation as something routine, something that is just quite rudimentary or quite routine and quite simple, but it in fact has broad and wide, sweeping implications for decades to come.

Consider how other jurisdictions are responding to the data revolution. In Europe the General Data Protection Regulation has set a global standard for how governments must handle personal data, with strict accountability, transparency requirements, and enforcement. It's not perfect, but it demonstrates what leadership looks like. Instead of moving in that direction, Alberta is being

dragged backward into a time when power is concentrated in the hands of a few.

Bill 46, with its Henry VIII clauses, is not only regressive, Mr. Chair; it is reckless, and we must also consider how these clauses interact with other ongoing concerns in Alberta's legislative environment. Since the Premier took office, Albertans have repeatedly raised concerns about the erosion of democratic norms. Whether it's through the lack of consultation with Indigenous communities, rapid reshuffling of oversight roles, or hostile centralization of authority, this government has shown an alarming pattern, and these concerns are not abstract. They affect everyday Albertans, parents who want their children's data protected in schools, patients worried about how their medical records are stored, workers whose employment history and financial data can potentially be compromised. Privacy is not just a bureaucratic function. It is a pillar of our freedom, and once it is eroded, it is extremely difficult to rebuild.

But let me take us back to this specific amendment again. As I said, Mr. Chair, this amendment is not simply about this specific piece of legislation; it has wide, long-lasting implications. If this Legislature does not act now to defend its role, it may soon find itself powerless to prevent even greater abuses of authority. The time to draw the line is here and now. At the heart of this specific piece of legislation is essentially taking away powers from the Legislature. It's taking away legislative oversight. If we allow this bill to pass with the clauses as proposed, we are setting a precedent, one that says that it's acceptable for cabinet to write and rewrite laws on a whim, that it's acceptable to cut elected representatives out of the process, that democracy can be optional, that it is inconvenient.

Let me say to every member of this Chamber, whether you sit on the government side or the opposition benches: this affects all of us. Today it may be a UCP government using these powers, but tomorrow it could be any government, and once this precedent is set, it will be difficult to undo. So I encourage all members of this House to do the right thing, to vote in favour of this amendment. Albertans deserve to have a say in the laws that govern their lives, and we as their elected representatives have a responsibility to protect their voice.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Deputy Chair:** Thank you.

Are there any others wishing to comment? Amendment A1 is on the table. The Member for Edmonton-McClung has risen.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I'm kind of disappointed that we don't have members opposite willing to engage in debate. I thought for sure that that would be an amendment that would bring somebody to their feet across the aisle. However, it seems as though they're disinterested in making sure that our democratic rights are protected in this province. Somebody on the other side should have caught what the Member for Edmonton-South West was trying to highlight in his remarks and something I want to focus on as well during my remarks, the fact that the quiet piece of this legislation and what the government perhaps wants to keep quiet is pretty concerning. The Member for Edmonton-South West spoke about section 2(9), as it is the subject of his amendment, and how indeed it should be removed from the bill itself.

We expect this type of legislation, this brand of democratic suppression to take place in other states. We expect to see it coming from the United States because it typically is what's happened during the two Trump administrations, and this one is even worse. I mean, if indeed there's a template that the government is following, it seems to be something from the United States under

the Trump administration that they've glommed on to. This is, in fact, the type of measure that any autocratic-style government would want to implement if indeed they were looking to sustain themselves without having to be bothered going back to the Legislature.

As was mentioned, Bill 18 was an earlier rendition of this similar brand of legislation that the government brought forward and ended up having to back down on during the COVID-19 period. Yet again what we see is this government making another run at suppressing our democratic rights as Albertans to have legislation and major changes run through this Legislature. This is what we have a Legislature for. But to circumvent that process, to give cabinet the right to make changes to laws that they don't have to run through the Legislature and they can bypass the Legislature is a serious breach of our democratic rights as Albertans and as legislators here in the province, Mr. Chair.

3:20

It seems as though the government thinks that Albertans are asleep at the switch, but anybody who is reading the political tea leaves in this province right now, Mr. Chair, will know that Albertans are very much alive to politics, to democratic rights, and to any threat to the democracy that is out there. Now, on top of the threat to our democracy that we have felt over the past number of months due to the Trump administration's threat to our very existence as a country, as a nation, hoping to take us over as a 51st state, Albertans are very much alive along with the rest of Canadians to any threat to our democracy and the institutions that are fundamental to it. That major one, of course, being our Legislature.

Embedded in this bill is a measure, which the amendment brought forward by the Member for Edmonton-South West purports to correct, a section which permits the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the cabinet, to make laws unto itself free of the encumbrance of the inconvenience of having to go to the Legislature. Mr. Chair, that's what this government seems to feel the Legislature is; it's an inconvenient place. It's an autocratic attitude towards legislative scrutiny.

I am pretty sad and disappointed that we're at this place in Alberta politics now. It will be interesting to see what the response from the government is given their hard-nosed approach to allowing cabinet to make decisions while bypassing legislative authority, the legislative branch of our democratic institutions. It's pretty strong evidence that they are not going to consider this amendment or support it, and that will be a travesty if indeed that is what they do.

I would recommend that all members of the government question themselves as to why indeed their governing council, the cabinet, the government that they are part of, their caucus, the UCP caucus that they purportedly support, why indeed they in their heart of hearts can go back to their constituents and say: "Look, we've supported a measure as backbenchers and not members of cabinet. We've supported a measure that takes away the Legislature's right to scrutinize legislation. We've given power to the cabinet to make decisions that would otherwise have to go back to the Legislature for scrutiny and debate." I mean, it in one demonstration of fact shows that this Legislature matters, but it only matters, Mr. Chair, in terms of being an encumbrance to this government.

I'm really sorry to report that this is a pattern that one can continue to expect this government to demonstrate, one of trying to silence opposition and avoid scrutiny, do things on the quiet, not having the light of day or the sunlight shine on decisions of government, and disrespect our legislative institutions, the Legislature itself, and, therefore, democratic rights of every Albertan in this province. I, for one, am very certain that we'll see

that the Legislature receives the attention it deserves from Albertans at a moment right now when it's under threat of being diluted and undermined by pieces of legislation like Bill 46 and the components in it, which have been described as the Henry VIII clauses, ones which give absolute authority to a body to completely disregard the legislative branch.

In my estimation, Mr. Chair, it would be something that would be enlightening to hear from the members opposite about. If indeed they feel this is a piece of legislation that champions democracy, I'd like to hear that argument and hear that rationale because it certainly escapes me as to how, when you take away the right of the Legislature to have the ability to scrutinize a proposal to change the laws in this province and the cabinet is granting unto itself the right to make changes to laws without having to go through the Legislature, how that indeed is something that the members opposite can describe to me and to Albertans as a positive supporting measure for our legislative and democratic process.

I have yet to hear any rationale that convinces me or that I think would convince Albertans that this is a necessary move on the part of the government to protect our democracy. It does the opposite. It diminishes our democracy. It diminishes us as participants in a free society when, indeed, cabinet takes unto itself the rights to making laws without scrutiny of the Legislature. Our parliamentary system depends upon this Legislature being supreme – not the cabinet; this Legislature – and increasingly, whether it was Bill 18 or now Bill 46, this Legislature is being seen as an inconvenient truth to the government of the day, to the UCP government.

At a time when our institutions are under threat from afar and parliamentary democracies around the world are being challenged by autocratic dictatorships, everybody who's a member of a society that has been enjoying the freedom to choose their own governments and to be governed under a parliamentary system where the institutions are recognized: we're feeling threatened, feeling concerned, feeling frightened globally right now, Mr. Chair, and this piece of legislation contributes to that fear. This is exactly the opposite thing that the government should be doing, that this Alberta government should be doing in terms of reassuring Albertans about the strength of their democracy and the value that they see in the institutions that uphold that democracy.

Once we start chiselling away at our democratic rights, as we see happening in Bill 46, once the Legislature is disregarded as the supreme authority to pass laws, once cabinet is regularly seen to have the ability to make changes to laws without the inconvenience of having to go through the Legislature, every chiselled point becomes a weakening of the structure of our democracy. I really wanted to highlight that this afternoon, Mr. Chair. I know it's focusing on one component of the bill, but the amendment before us, that we're talking about, to Bill 46 is a very, very important amendment to get rid of a very dangerous piece of this legislation.

There are a number of other elements that I'm not particularly fond of, but I wanted to bring to the attention of all members the lack of forethought or perhaps the intent of the government to actually weaken our democracy for their own benefit. I mean, one can speak to motivation and wonder why, but the only plausible explanation is that this government wants to garner power unto itself and avoid any scrutiny and has no regard whatsoever for the value of our democracy.

With that, I'll look forward to moving on and at some point in the future engaging in further debate on this legislation. I urge all members to support the amendment made by the Member for Edmonton-South West.

**The Deputy Chair:** Any others wishing to make comments on amendment A1?

Seeing none, I will call the question on amendment A1 as proposed by the Member for Edmonton-South West.

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

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:30 p.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Mr. van Dijken in the chair]

For the motion:

Arcand-Paul	Ip	Schmidt
Calahoo Stonehouse	Irwin	Shepherd
Dach	Kasawski	Sigurdson, L.
Hoffman	Renaud	Wright, P.

Against the motion:

Amery	Jones	Sawhney
Armstrong-Homeniuk	LaGrange	Schow
Boitchenko	Loewen	Schulz
Bouchard	Long	Sigurdson, R.J.
Cyr	Lovely	Singh
de Jonge	Lunty	Stephan
Dreesen	McDougall	Turton
Dyck	McIver	Wiebe
Ellis	Nally	Williams
Fir	Neudorf	Wilson
Getson	Nicolaides	Wright, J.
Horner	Nixon	Yao
Hunter	Petrovic	Yaseen
Jean	Rowswell	

Totals:	For – 12	Against – 41
---------	----------	--------------

[Motion on amendment A1 lost]

**The Deputy Chair:** Back on to the main bill, Bill 46, Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025. Any other members wishing to make comments, questions? The Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview has risen.

**Ms Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm happy to rise today to now speak, of course, against Bill 46, the Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025. I will confess to feeling a wee bit disappointed that my colleague's amendment was not passed. It's unfortunate because it was an important one.

All of that is because this bill itself isn't an isolated measure. In my view, it's part of a much longer pattern that's been going on at least for this session of the House and certainly earlier as well. Indeed, it's part of a sustained effort on the part of this government to centralize control and shut Albertans out of their own democracy.

We have indeed, as I just mentioned, seen it before in bills 33 and 34, the precursors to this one. The government made some sweeping changes as to how we handle freedom of information and privacy. As we knew at the time, there was, in fact, some lack of depth in terms of the consultation. In fact, the Information and Privacy Commissioner issued two rather scathing letters at the time that we were debating those bills. They warned that the bills made it harder for Albertans to access information and that, in fact, they were in the process of creating new loopholes that allow the government to hide communications, for instance, between political staff and the executive. Instead of heeding all of that very good advice, we find Bill 46 in front of us.

The minister stood in this House a few weeks ago and told us that the bill makes minor but necessary amendments to ensure clarity

and that this is a key part of modernizing and strengthening Alberta's privacy and access laws, except it does that by inserting not so innocuous and not so minor amendments into the legislation, which is, of course, the reason for my colleague's amendment earlier. We talked earlier in the debate about the additions after section 97. We talked about the additions in section 2(9) and, quite frankly, the fact that they are dangerous not only in terms of our democracy but because it does collect all of that power in the hands of a few. It takes this Legislature out of the equation.

The minister also stated in his remarks that this delegation of authority is simply about the significant number of laws that reference the FOIP Act. You know, it's only just about updates, minor quibbles, except it isn't. As I said before, these are not minor changes. This now becomes a bill that somewhat quietly hands this UCP government the power to rewrite the law without ever having to bring it back to this floor, and this is the floor, of course, where the work on behalf of all Albertans gets done. This isn't transparent, this certainly isn't about accountability, and it is not, as well, about how democracy is supposed to work.

3:50

As many of my colleagues have noted, what we're dealing with here is what's known as Henry VIII clauses. These are provisions that let the government change laws unilaterally without debate, without vote, without engagement from the public, without any sort of inkling as to how the people those folks elected could perhaps represent them in those sorts of instances. As my colleague from Edmonton-Gold Bar talked about, we know their use isn't exactly new because they go back about 500-ish years to the reign of King Henry VIII, which is where it all started, when one man really was interested in giving himself the power to rule by decree. Of course, he ran into a wee bit of trouble with all of that as well.

That's exactly the kind of authoritarian power this bill is attempting to bring back. Despite the government's assurances of, you know, "don't worry; it'll be okay; we'll just fix the typos; it'll be good; it's just about grammar," I will say a little statement that we've heard often from a few members opposite: nothing could be further from the truth. If that were true, if that's really all they wanted, and I believe other folks have mentioned it, they could have used the miscellaneous statutes amendment act to do a little bit of that cleanup. That's the process that's generally used for some of those smaller technical corrections. Again, if it's quick, if it's truly meant for minor changes – but even that comes before this Legislature.

Again, Mr. Chair, this isn't just about administrative efficiency; it's about control. It's about bypassing this Legislature, this House. It's about bypassing the will of Albertans and writing laws behind closed doors. I know that other colleagues have alluded to it. You know, we've seen it before, and I myself was going down a wee bit of a trip along memory lane. In the past I've talked about concerns when we were debating earlier bills like Bill 5 or Bill 13, Bill 18, Bill 20. It's a long, long list of bills where the power seems to be gathered in an increasingly smaller group of people, usually cabinet but sometimes just the ministers themselves. It's a pattern that now, I think, will firmly be entrenched in the record of this government. It's an unfortunate pattern because, as my colleagues have also talked about, it really does speak to the erosion of democracy, and that is not at all what this Legislature is supposed to be about.

Albertans, obviously, deserve better than these sorts of clauses put into these sorts of bills. They deserve much more from this government. They deserve to be part of the process. They deserve to know what changes are being made and why those changes are being made. Certainly, when laws can be changed without debate, democracy itself is weakened.

Beyond that, Mr. Chair, in a time when it seems that many Albertans are having some questions of trust about this government, the government is asking us to trust them with all these new powers, but, you know, I would imagine the question on many Albertans' minds would be: why on earth should we? This government hasn't exactly engendered trust. Time and time again the government has made promises to Albertans, and then it's broken them. We already know about the Alberta pension plan: no, it's okay; we're not going to have any discussions about it. But then all of a sudden there it is. They introduced legislation to create an Alberta pension plan despite the fact that it was very clear and remains clear that Albertans do not want an Alberta pension plan to ever happen.

We still don't have access to the survey results. In fact, an article that was published just a couple of months ago had this headline: OIPC Launches Third Review of Alberta's Response to FOI Queries Seeking Pension Survey Data. That's the third review because the last time they got information, it was almost so thoroughly redacted, they couldn't get any information at all. There's a subheadline there and it reads, "[this] review is the third prompted by Postmedia following complaints that the province was stonewalling efforts to release the results of its survey on a potential provincial pension plan." There's certainly no openness and no transparency there, Mr. Chair.

Exactly the same issue happened with the provincial police. It was promised to be scrapped. Now, it was quietly brought back, and of course, as we know, it's now not so quietly being brought back.

If I was that sort of everyday Albertan out there, I would wonder: you know, can we trust this government not to use those Henry VIII clauses without restraint? I'm not entirely certain that we can. This is the same government that's currently facing what's being called one of the worst corruption scandals in Alberta's history. We have allegations of cabinet ministers intervening in decisions made by public servants, allegations of firing board members to cover up bloated surgical contracts potentially handed to political allies. Certainly, in this sort of context, a climate of secrecy, a climate of distrust, I would think that this government wouldn't want to do anything to really upset or worry Albertans any further. I would think it's probably time to do a little restoration of trust rather than continue to erode it. I really don't understand. I really, really don't understand.

We know it's harder now to appeal FOIP decisions. We know that entire categories of communication are hidden from public view. We know that mandatory breach reporting is an issue. If you're taking all of that power, the power of this Legislature, into that tiny, small group of people, it completely not just erodes the trust, but honestly it kind of puts our entire system upon its ear. Decisions are supposed to be made here. Bills are supposed to be presented here. The will of the people is supposed to be debated here. It is not and should not be something for an entirely small group of people who, as we know, have lost the trust of Albertans.

That is why I would urge members of this Legislature to vote against Bill 46.

**The Deputy Chair:** Any other members wishing to speak to Bill 46? The Member for Sherwood Park has risen.

**Mr. Kasawski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise and speak to Bill 46. I really appreciate the amendment that was brought in by the Member for Edmonton-South West, and I really appreciate the comments from the Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview. Also, you know, pivoting off of some of the comments made from other members, especially when we go back to those history lessons on Henry VIII, don't be surprised if it comes up again.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak to you today. I want to talk about something that might sound like a bit of a dusty relic from history but, in fact, poses a very real and immediate threat to the health of our democracy, something called the Henry VIII legislation which has been brought forward. We have some sort of moderate piece of legislation being brought in by the UCP, but it's of course got a poison pill in it, something that's going to stop us from passing this legislation in the House because we need to stand up for our democracy.

Let me explain a little bit about what I'm talking about with this Henry VIII clause. I don't think it becomes tiring to hear about it. Henry VIII clauses are part of these modern pieces of legislation that give government and ministers the power to change or repeal primary legislation without having to go back to the Legislature, coming back here. In simple terms, it means the cabinet can rewrite laws behind closed doors, without debate, without transparency, and without a vote from your elected representatives. That tracks for the UCP. These clauses are creeping into our legislation in Alberta. They're coming in with Bill 46. Under the UCP government, if passed, this kind of legislation would allow cabinet to override laws passed in the full Legislature, a body made up of my fellow members here by the voters.

Let's consider now why this is such a problem, starting with the name. Why are they called Henry VIII clauses? Because Henry VIII of England, who ruled from 1509 to 1547, was notorious for centralizing power in the monarchy, bypassing the Parliament, and making decisions unilaterally. He didn't want to answer to anyone, much like we've heard the Premier referred to as the Queen of Alberta, someone that doesn't want to answer to this Legislature, doesn't want to answer to the people of Alberta.

Henry VIII changed laws by proclamation, overriding the Parliament, and when people stood in his way, they were often imprisoned, exiled, or executed. In no way do we think this is going to be a problem here in Alberta, but the role model for our Premier is Trump. People are worried about people being exiled from the United States or being imprisoned. We even had that case of a Canadian that was trying to cross the border from Mexico into the United States and was held, I think, for 21 days by border security with no cause. When we see this rise of authoritarianism or monarchy coming into our elected houses or in elected offices, we have to stand up against it here in our Legislature.

You might remember the King of England who had six wives. That's the legacy that he's left. It's led to some great musicals. *SIX*: worth seeing, playing in Calgary at the Citadel May 18 to 21, 2025. I recommend everybody go and watch *SIX*. Top-notch musical; brings some humour and light to a terrible, terrible person, because his wives were ultimately, probably, wonderful people.

4:00

But some of his infamous decisions – one of the most infamous ones was to break away from the Catholic Church so he could annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon because she hadn't produced her male heir. What a terrible situation that a king could just do that. When the pope refused and the king didn't get his divorce, he triggered a national religious upheaval. I've heard of other leaders trying to trigger national upheavals.

King Henry VIII declared himself head of the Church of England, dissolved the monasteries, confiscated church lands, and executed dissenters, including his former Lord Chancellor Thomas More. The Minister of Finance might want to pay attention to some of the history here. All of this without democratic input; all of this because he wanted unchecked power. This is the kind of precedent that has created the term "Henry VIII clause" and which has found its way

into Bill 46: rulers deciding that they are above the rule, which again tracks for the UCP.

Think also about how power can be used arbitrarily. We won't get too much more into the execution of his wives, but it is a dark, dark history. Again, a reminder that if you want to see a lighter side of that, Mr. Chair: May 18 to 21, Citadel in Calgary, *SIX*, a wonderful musical.

Now, when modern legislation is compared to the powers wielded by that monarch, it's not a compliment. It is a warning. So let's fast-forward to today. What are we seeing in Alberta's proposed legislation? What we're seeing is a shift toward this kind of executive power under the guise of efficiency or responsiveness. This UCP government is seeking powers that would allow ministers to bypass the legislative process. That means no public debate, no questions in question period – I'm sure that would be something the ministers would really love – no committee hearings, no input from the people. That also tracks. The UCP are allergic to accountability, and that's not how democracy is supposed to work.

I mean, the corrupt care scandal has revealed to all Albertans how members of the Premier's inner circle think they are above the rules, and they continue to change our democratic rules and traditions in order to consolidate power and avoid accountability. They cannot seem to help themselves when we ask them to be accountable for their actions in this Legislature. For example, they did not like limits on gifts that ministers receive and the Premier gets, so they changed the law. Let's take the limit off gifts. We tried to warn them that this is a bad idea, and now we see they've received so many gifts that it has led to this corrupt care scandal. If you would listen once in a while, we are trying to help the government for this term and terms beyond.

They wouldn't have known, I guess, at the time when they passed Bill 8, that having those limits would have helped them avoid a situation where going to hockey games with people was a bad idea when they're paying for it and expecting bloated contracts back from the government. It's a terrible idea.

We've seen the challenges that come with unchecked power. We've seen the challenges that come with lack of accountability. We've seen the challenges when you don't bring debate into this Legislature and you put everything into your cabinet minister's power just to make those decisions without shining the light on it.

And it's not just a local concern. They could have looked at other jurisdictions. We've seen this dangerous kind of power in the United Kingdom during Brexit. Again, somehow these Henry VIII clauses are related to separation. In Brexit Parliament tried to grant themselves the power to amend laws quickly so they could deal with this exit out of the European Union, but it triggered outrage, government. The very foundation of British democracy was challenged, and the House of Lords called it: just a constitutional sleight of hand.

In Australia we've seen similar clauses that created problems during COVID-19. It was the justification used there that the powers were just short term to deal with the pandemic, but there are long-term implications, which is why you have emergency debate from time to time. It's how you deal with short-term problems.

In Ontario we've seen with Doug Ford and Bill 195 and the scandal that led to with the lands that they were trying to take over and get rid of the green land barriers in Ontario. [interjections]

I hear members wanting to join debate, and I think it's because maybe they're now understanding that maybe we have made some mistakes. Maybe we shouldn't just take tickets to go to hockey games because it's fun. Good idea. Maybe we should take responsibility as ministers of the Crown. No. It could be that there is a problem. I don't want to believe that there is a problem at the core of the UCP. I want to know that it's just a few cabinet ministers

that were misled, but somehow the other UCP backbenchers are supporting them in their choices.

Once a government claims the ability to bypass democratic debate, it becomes easier for that power to grow, and future governance of any party will be tempted to use that power for reasons that are untoward and not a part of the original justification. So it's a slippery slope, and democracy doesn't erode all at once. It crumbles piece by piece each time we allow oversight to be ignored or public participation to be sidelined. We are a province of engaged, informed citizens. We want reasonable people making reasonable decisions in debate. We deserve better than backroom law-making. We deserve open debate. We deserve legislation that stands up to scrutiny, and we deserve representatives who are empowered, not sidelined by the laws that they are elected to uphold.

Let me leave you with one thought. When King Henry VIII centralized power, he did so to serve himself, not the people. He rewrote laws, dissolved institutions, and removed dissenters so he could rule without interruption. It sounds familiar. It tracks today. No one is asking for beheadings or royal decrees, I assume, but the spirit of unchecked authority is alive and well in Henry VIII clauses. We provided an amendment that would have removed the Henry VIII clause from this legislation. Just like the 1500s, once power is taken from the people and handed to a small group behind closed doors, it's incredibly hard to get it back. Let's not let history repeat itself in Alberta.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Deputy Chair:** The Member for Edmonton-Riverview to speak.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chair. It's my pleasure to join debate on Bill 46, Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025. I'd just like to start by talking about some principles of democracy, and the reference for the others in the House, if they're interested, is that I'm looking at Student Vote Canada. They have five basic principles of any democracy. One is citizenship participation; accountability and transparency; everyone has the right to human rights and equality; a democracy must follow the rule of law; and free and fair elections.

In one fell swoop this bill seems to disregard, I would say, well, perhaps the others, too, but at least two very specific principles of democracy. I know that the UCP likes to describe themselves as champions for democracy, that they're doing so many things to make it a more democratic Alberta, but it's all smoke and mirrors. It's not true at all, and this legislation proves it.

4:10

If we look at section 1(3), it says, "For the purposes of making any necessary changes as a result of this Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, amend any Act or any regulation filed under the *Regulations Act*." Oh, and let's not stop there. Let's go on and look at another one here: 2(9). "For the purposes of making any necessary changes as a result of this Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, amend any Act or any regulation filed under the *Regulations Act*."

You know, in a sort of lawyer speak, that means: hey, we can do whatever we would like to do, and we don't have to actually present bills in the Legislature. We can do it by regulation, so that means that – guess what? – the principles of democracy are not being followed. Citizens' participation: like, how can citizens be aware of this if they're doing it all behind closed doors? And it's sweeping. It's heinous. Any legislation can be changed. I mean, give your heads a shake. It doesn't make any sense, and, you know, it

certainly flies in the face of democratic principles and has no accountability or transparency.

You know, of course, that's the fundamental aspect of democratic government, that there are checks and balances. One of them is that legislation is presented in the Assembly transparently so that everyone can look at it. The media: you know, that's one of the pillars of our society, that the media has access, we in the opposition have access, citizens have access as they're informed. It's just all very much part of a democratic process, but it seems like the members here don't seem to understand that.

With that, Mr. Chair, I will take my seat.

**The Deputy Chair:** Thank you.

I will recognize the government whip.

**Mr. Getson:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With that, I'd like to move that the committee rise and report progress on Bill 46.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. van Dijken in the chair]

**The Acting Speaker:** The Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has had under consideration a certain bill. The committee reports progress on the following bill: Bill 46. I wish to table copies of all amendments considered by the Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

**The Acting Speaker:** Does the Assembly concur in the report? All those in favour, please say aye.

**Hon. Members:** Aye.

**The Acting Speaker:** Any opposed, please say no. That is so ordered.

## Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

### Bill 53 Compassionate Intervention Act

[Adjourned debate April 29: Mr. Getson]

**The Acting Speaker:** The Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland has 15 minutes left to speak if you so wish.

Are there any others wishing to speak on Bill 53? The Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak against Bill 53, not because I do not believe in recovery or treatment for addictions. We see it almost every single day, or it affects our families deeply, some more than others. I'm one of those that it affects very intimately. I have close family members that are in active addiction. I so desperately want to help them out of their spiral of addiction, and so do many, many members of my family. I've lost relative after relative to overdose, accidental and suicidal, in the last five years. To say that I truly want an end to this comes from a deeply personal space. I don't speak against this bill because I don't think we need solutions; I speak against it because it does not take into account Indigenous lived realities. It will most certainly create more traumatic turmoil on Indigenous peoples in this province.

Indigenous peoples already have the strike of intergenerational trauma that is passed down from residential schools and perpetuated

by ongoing genocidal practices by this government through the ongoing removal of Indigenous children from their homes or this epidemic of drug poisoning, deaths, or the treatment of those children and youth in care as red tape. Add on to that trauma with the apprehension of – let's call it what it really is – incarceration of folks with addictions into recovery communities, including with the help of police, then you have a truly berated and broken people who are harmed further despite any compassion that this government tries to intimate it is extending to folks with addictions. Mr. Speaker, I cannot in good conscience sit here and endorse this bill that will force my people into carceral institutions called recovery communities. Let's face it. It is my people who are largely overrepresented in addictions and mental health crises because of these ongoing historical injustices.

But even if we were serious about getting folks the help they need to address their addictions, wait times for recovery communities are, on average, three months long. According to the minister as of March 2025 Recovery Alberta was at a 93 per cent bed occupancy rate while addictions treatment was at 90 per cent utilization, with 140 detox beds in Recovery Alberta. And while I've heard this minister talk about the promised recovery community treatment centres on Indigenous nations – I'm talking about the Kainai Nation, Enoch Cree Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation, Siksika Nation, and the MNA's Smoky Lake facility – the last I've checked, these facilities are no closer to treating Indigenous peoples with addictions that are so needed now, and the picture is getting bleaker and bleaker as the days go by.

My people are dying because of opioids 8.4 times higher than non-Indigenous peoples. This is reflected in the decrease in our life expectancy, which has fallen 20 years below provincial average for non-Indigenous people. I mentioned that I've lost family members. I've lost four in the last two years directly related to addictions, and I'm worried about losing more as this epidemic grips my people. The minister himself referenced that Indigenous peoples, First Nations peoples go to funeral after funeral after funeral because of this incredibly preventable crisis that is not being addressed with genuine compassion. Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker. Incarcerating folks against their will is not compassionate. It just isn't, especially when Indigenous peoples are already overincarcerated in Alberta. This is a call to action that this government has shown they are not interested in addressing whatsoever. We're adding more people to that list.

I would be remiss if I did not talk about the causation of these addictions. My people are broken because of government actions. My people continue to grapple with mental health concerns. Sadly, this bill does not address the historical realities of Indigenous peoples in this province that were caused upon us by government actions, including the residential schools. I think this quote from former Prime Minister John A. Macdonald bears increasing significance today.

When the school is on the reserve the child lives with its parents, who are savages . . . and though he may learn to read and write his habits, and training mode of thought are Indian. He is simply a savage who can read and write. It has been strong pressed on myself, as head of the Department, that the Indian children . . .

And I want to stress this part.

. . . should be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence, and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of thought of white men.

4:20

I put the stress on the point of withdrawing the Indigenous person from the influence, in the case above the parental influence, in this case the influence of their addiction. I'm very careful about not just predicated this on any specific substance. I've heard the minister refer to mental health conditions that could easily be read into this piece of legislation for its broad application. Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. I know the members opposite think that this bill will help, but I just don't see how. If we're not addressing the historical background in which Indigenous peoples find themselves, we are not solving the problem. I quoted Sir John A. Macdonald and that quote specifically because I do see the parallels between forced removal of children from their families to this.

We need to remember that a person affected under this legislation is someone's child. My cousins are my siblings and the children of my aunts and my uncles. In our language our aunts and our uncles are our mothers and our fathers. There's no difference. Removing them from our community and the circle of support that is proven to help with overcoming addictions – the ability to walk the red road with ceremony or cultural activities like harvesting, hunting, or just being in community goes a long way in recovery. I've seen that work. I know it works. I've seen some of my closest friends and relatives overcome addictions when their recovery is connected directly to culturally relevant supports.

While I do hear the minister that there will be a mandatory Indigenous person on the commission, I'm immediately aware of the fact that the majority of the people that will be affected by the compassionate interventions will be Indigenous peoples. Why else would we have a dedicated person on the commission? This is not lost on anyone on this side of the House, but Mr. Speaker, that should cause immediate alarm for all of us. Why do we need a specific Indigenous member? Well, I just laid it out, because my people will be disproportionately affected by this act when it comes into force.

That leads me to the fact that this also means that the apprehension process and the compassionate intervention committee occupies a quasi-judicial body. While the minister has mused that there is no criminal justice system connection to this, in my professional opinion it does. It will not escape legal scrutiny. I know this because in Canada and indeed in Alberta there are sentencing principles that must be considered when an Indigenous person appears before a judge or a decision-maker during sentencing. Mr. Speaker, those are the Gladue principles and later clarified by Ipeelee. Those decisions come from the Supreme Court of Canada, and they are law here in Alberta.

Under the apprehension sections of the Compassionate Intervention Act under section 17(1)(c), yes, Mr. Speaker, despite the presentation from the minister the use of a quasi-judicial body will attract administrative reviews, which this government is not free from scrutiny of. I know this government is allergic to accountability, as my good friend from Sherwood Park just said a few moments ago in this House, but the decisions of the compassionate intervention commission will attract administrative review. I know – I know – the decisions of this commission will be reviewed and the principles of sentencing will be strongly considered in these administrative decisions because of the connection to incarceration, which has been named apprehension.

No matter the word, Mr. Speaker – apprehension, arrest, holding, sentencing – whatever you want to call it, the fact that police are entitled to do this under the Compassionate Intervention Act is a *prima facie*, to use a legal word the minister I know understands



because he referred to it himself in second reading; maybe he got it from the government's lawyer . . .

**Mr. Schow:** Point of order.

**The Acting Speaker:** A point of order has been called.

#### Point of Order

##### Allegations against a Member

**Mr. Schow:** This is the second time today that member has accused a member of this side of committing a crime. Mr. Speaker, that is out of order. You cannot say the member perjured himself.

**Ms Hoffman:** No. He didn't say that. Prima facie.

**Mr. Schow:** No. Mr. Speaker, this is ridiculous. If the member says that the minister perjured himself in second reading, it's ridiculous. Standing Order 23(h), (i) and (j). Earlier today the member said that the Premier committed treason, which is a crime. Now perjury? Give me a break.\*

**Mr. Shepherd:** Mr. Speaker, the member was engaging in very respectful debate, I think, speaking to a very serious issue that has a deep impact on him and Indigenous peoples in this province. Now, I did not hear the member say the word "perjure," as the House leader is claiming. What the member has said is that he was using the term "prima facie." Now, of course, Mr. Speaker, it is up to you to determine what was stated, what was heard, but I did not hear that member use that particular word.

I will leave it to you, Mr. Speaker, to determine your ruling.

**The Acting Speaker:** From my recollection, the member said "prima facie," and I did not hear the word "perjury," as has been alluded to. With that, I do not believe that this is a point of order.

I will ask the member to continue.

#### Debate Continued

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a prima

facie, an arrest. And the sentencing of Indigenous peoples will not be escaped by legal scrutiny along the same sentencing principles, along with criminal justice principles. Having an Indigenous member on the commission does not make this scrutiny go away, and I urge this government to seriously consider the effects this legislation will have. Long legal challenges, protracted litigation will cast uncertainty on this real relief that Albertans are looking for on this very serious issue.

It is an issue that I so desperately want to address with my own loved ones, but I know that the way this regime is currently arranged will not do that. It will not, Mr. Speaker. It will hurt my people, it will tear families apart, and it will fracture communities that are already struggling with the effects of divisiveness.

Mr. Speaker, while Albertans are asking for real relief on this, we know that the removal of folks such as those who experience houselessness with the presupposition of addiction issues is also quite concerning. We're asking police to be social workers, and they're not equipped to do so. When it comes to the police also arresting these people who – let's not kid ourselves. They're also largely Indigenous peoples because of a myriad of causations, including mental health issues, housing issues that this government is not seriously addressing, or, at bare minimum, getting those beds open on more First Nations and Métis settlements. We need a multimodal approach to this, and this bill, unfortunately, does not.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there any others wishing to speak to Bill 53?

Seeing none, I am prepared to call the question.

[Motion carried; Bill 53 read a second time]

**The Acting Speaker:** The Government House Leader.

**Mr. Schow:** I move that the Assembly be adjourned until 1:30 Monday.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:29 p.m.]

\*See page 3210, left column, paragraph 4



## **Bill Status Report for the 31st Legislature - 1st Session (2023-2025)**

**Activity to Thursday, May 1, 2025**

The Bill sponsor's name is in brackets following the Bill title. If it is a money Bill, (\$) will appear between the title and the sponsor's name. Numbers following each Reading refer to Hansard pages where the text of debates is found; dates for each Reading are in brackets following the page numbers. Bills numbered 1 to 200 are Government Bills. Bills numbered 201 or higher are Private Members' Public Bills. Bills numbered with a "Pr" prefix are Private Bills.

\* An asterisk beside a Bill number indicates an amendment was passed to that Bill; the Committee line shows the precise date of the amendment.

The date a Bill comes into force is indicated in square brackets after the date of Royal Assent. If a Bill comes into force "on proclamation," "with exceptions," or "on various dates," please contact Legislative Counsel, Alberta Justice, for details at 780.427.2217. The chapter number assigned to the Bill is entered immediately following the date the Bill comes into force. SA indicates Statutes of Alberta; this is followed by the year in which it is included in the statutes, and its chapter number. Please note, Private Bills are not assigned chapter number until the conclusion of the Fall Sittings.

### **Bill 1 — 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.*), 1334-41 (*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.*), 2051-58 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft.*), 2082 (*Nov. 21, 2024 aft.*), 2144-45 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2171-72 (*Nov. 27, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 5, 2024; SA 2024 c12 ]

**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.*), 1907-12 (*Nov. 5, 2024 aft.*), 2027-29 (*Nov. 19, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2189 (*Nov. 27, 2024 aft.*), 2191-94 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2222-27 (*Nov. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c13 ]

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

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

Second Reading — 1900-07 (*Nov. 5, 2024 aft.*), 1969-77 (*Nov. 7, 2024 aft.*), 2137-40 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2145-50 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft.*), 2172-77 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2299-305 (*Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation with exceptions; SA 2024 c16 ]

**Bill 27\* — Education Amendment Act, 2024 (Nicolaides)**

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

Second Reading — 1912-20 (*Nov. 5, 2024 aft.*), 2020-27 (*Nov. 19, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2177-89 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2305-11 (*Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c14 ]

**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.*), 1966-69 (*Nov. 7, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2058-60 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2066-68 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 5, 2024; SA 2024 c18 ]

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

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

Second Reading — 1934-40 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft.*), 2088-92 (*Nov. 21, 2024 aft.*), 2140-44 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2150-52 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2311-14 (*Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cF-2.5 ]

**Bill 30\* — Service Alberta Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Nally)**

First Reading — 1868 (*Nov. 4, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1946-53 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft.*), 2068-70 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2082-88 (*Nov. 21, 2024 aft.*), 2194-97 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2227-31 (*Nov. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c20 ]

**Bill 31 — Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Amery)**

First Reading — 1898 (*Nov. 5, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2029-35 (*Nov. 19, 2024 aft.*), 2270-78 (*Dec. 2, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2319-23 (*Dec. 3, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2376-79 (*Dec. 4, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 5, 2024, except s. 1(4), which comes into force on proclamation, SA 2024 c17 ]

**Bill 32 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2) (\$) (Horner)**

First Reading — 1868 (*Nov. 4, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1940-46 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft.*), 2198-201 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2314-17 (*Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2336-37 (*Dec. 3, 2024 eve.*), 2366-69 (*Dec. 4, 2024 aft.*), 2379-89 (*Dec. 4, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c15 ]

**Bill 33\* — Protection of Privacy Act (Glubish)**

First Reading — 1931 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2060-66 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft.*), 2201-05 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve.*), 2231-33 (*Nov. 28, 2024 aft.*), 2278-80 (*Dec. 2, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2351-57 (*Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2360-63 (*Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on the proclamation of SA 2024, cA-1.4; SA 2024 cP-28.5 ]

**Bill 34\* — Access to Information Act (Nally)**

First Reading — 1931 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2035-38 (*Nov. 19, 2024 aft.*), 2153-57 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft.*), 2259-66 (*Dec. 2, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2281-84 (*Dec. 2, 2024 eve.*), 2323-32 (*Dec. 3, 2024 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2363-66 (*Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cA-1.4 ]

**Bill 35 — All-season Resorts Act (Schow)**

First Reading — 1965-66 (*Nov. 7, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2205-10 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve.*), 2266 (*Dec. 2, 2024 aft.*), 2267-70 (*Dec. 2, 2024 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2332-35 (*Dec. 3, 2024 eve.*), 2357-59 (*Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2371-76 (*Dec. 4, 2024 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cA-38.5 ]

**Bill 36 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Schow)**

First Reading — 2050 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2280-81 (*Dec. 2, 2024 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2335-36 (*Dec. 3, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2389-90 (*Dec. 4, 2024 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c19 ]

**Bill 37 — Mental Health Services Protection Amendment Act, 2025 (Williams)**

First Reading — 2402 (*Feb. 25, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2441-50 (*Feb. 26, 2025 aft.*), 2976 (*Apr. 17, 2025 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 3061-70 (*Apr. 29, 2025 eve., adjourned*)

**Bill 38 — Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Nally)**

First Reading — 2437 (*Feb. 26, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2534-44 (*Mar. 13, 2025 aft.*), 2642-47 (*Mar. 24, 2025 aft.*), 2796-804 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft.*), 2867-68 (*Apr. 10, 2025 aft., passed on division*)

**Bill 39 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (\$) (Horner)**

First Reading — 2478 (*Mar. 10, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2692-98 (*Mar. 25, 2025 aft.*), 3046-49 (*Apr. 29, 2025 aft., passed*)

**Bill 40 — Professional Governance Act (Sawhney)**

First Reading — 2499 (*Mar. 11, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2724-29 (*Mar. 26, 2025 aft.*), 3022 (*Apr. 28, 2025 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 3112-17 (*Apr. 30, 2025 eve., adjourned*)

**Bill 41 — Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025 (Loewen)**

First Reading — 2511 (*Mar. 12, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2841-48 (*Apr. 9, 2025 aft.*), 2924 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 3105-12 (*Apr. 30, 2025 eve., adjourned; amendments introduced*)

**Bill 42 — Appropriation Act, 2025 (\$) (Horner)**

First Reading — 2618 (*Mar. 20, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2679-85 (*Mar. 25, 2025 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2712-21 (*Mar. 26, 2025 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2743 (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft.*), 2745-49 (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 27, 2025 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on March 27, 2025; SA 2025 c1 ]

**Bill 43 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2025 (\$) (Horner)**

First Reading — 2667 (*Mar. 24, 2025 eve., passed*)

Second Reading — 2686-92 (*Mar. 25, 2025 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2721-24 (*Mar. 26, 2025 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2743-44 (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft.*), 2749-50 (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 27, 2025 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on March 27, 2025; SA 2025 c2 ]

**Bill 44\* — Agricultural Operation Practices Amendment Act, 2025 (Sigurdson, RJ)**

First Reading — 2577 (*Mar. 18, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2913-18 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft.*), 2976 (*Apr. 17, 2025 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 3071-73 (*Apr. 29, 2025 eve., adjourned, amendments agreed to*)

**Bill 45 — Critical Infrastructure Defence Amendment Act, 2025 (Amery)**

First Reading — 2597 (*Mar. 19, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2804-11 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft.*), 3022-25 (*Apr. 28, 2025 eve., passed*)

**Bill 46 — Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Glubish)**

First Reading — 2613 (*Mar. 20, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2830-34 (*Apr. 9, 2025 aft.*), 3049-54 (*Apr. 29, 2025 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 3135-41 (*May 1, 2025 aft., adjourned*)

**Bill 47 — Automobile Insurance Act (Horner)**

First Reading — 2629 (*Mar. 24, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2811-16 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft.*), 2924-28 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft.*), 2952-59 (*Apr. 16, 2025 aft.*), 3087-93 (*Apr. 30, 2025 aft., passed on division*)

**Bill 48 — iGaming Alberta Act (Nally)**

First Reading — 2711 (*Mar. 26, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2834-41 (*Apr. 9, 2025 aft.*), 2952 (*Apr. 16, 2025 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 3038-46 (*Apr. 29, 2025 aft., adjourned*)

**Bill 49 — Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Ellis)**

First Reading — 2762 (*Apr. 7, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2862-67 (*Apr. 10, 2025 aft.*), 2919-24 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft.*), 2972-76 (*Apr. 17, 2025 aft.*), 3117-21 (*Apr. 30, 2025 eve., passed on division*)



**Bill 50 — Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (McIver)**

First Reading — 2787 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2939-52 (*Apr. 16, 2025 aft.*), 2976-81 (*Apr. 17, 2025 aft.*), 3093-100 (*Apr. 30, 2025 aft., passed on division*)

**Bill 51 — Education Amendment Act, 2025 (Nicolaidis)**

First Reading — 2787 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 3011-16 (*Apr. 28, 2025 eve.*), (*Apr. 30, 2025 eve., passed*)

**Bill 52 — Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Neudorf)**

First Reading — 2859 (*Apr. 10, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 3016-22 (*Apr. 28, 2025 eve.*), 3100-03 (*Apr. 30, 2025 aft., passed*)

**Bill 53 — Compassionate Intervention Act (Williams)**

First Reading — 2910 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 3055-61 (*Apr. 29, 2025 eve.*), 3141-43 (*May 1, 2025 aft., passed*)

**Bill 54 — Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Amery)**

First Reading — 3037 (*Apr. 29, 2025 aft., passed*)

**Bill 55 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (LaGrange)**

First Reading — 3134 (*May 1, 2025 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 Liaison) 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*)

Committee of the Whole — 2491-92 (*Mar. 10, 2025 aft.*), 2557-70 (*Mar. 17, 2025 aft., passed with amendments on division*)

Third Reading — 2632-39 (*Mar. 24, 2025 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 27, 2025 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2025 c3 ]

**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.*), 2764-70 (*Apr. 7, 2025 aft., defeated on division*)

**Bill 209 — Reconciliation Implementation Act (Arcand-Paul)**

First Reading — 1868-69 (*Nov. 4, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2770-76 (*Apr. 7, 2025 aft.*), 2883-90 (*Apr. 14, 2025 aft., defeated on division*)

**Bill 210 — Employment Standards (Protecting Workers' Tips) Amendment Act, 2024 (Gray)**

First Reading — 2350 (*Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2890-93 (*Apr. 14, 2025 aft., adjourned*), 2995-3006 (*Apr. 28, 2025 aft., defeated on division*)

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

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

Second Reading — 3006-07 (*Apr. 28, 2025 aft., adjourned*)

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

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

**Bill 213 — Cancer Care Delivery Standards Act (Goehring)**

First Reading — 2298 (*Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed*)

**Bill 214 — Eastern Slopes Protection Act (Miyashiro)**

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

**Bill 215 — Prohibiting Ownership of Agricultural Lands (Pension Plans and Trust Corporations) Act (van Dijken)**

First Reading — 2221 (*Nov. 28, 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 on May 30, 2024; SA 2024 c21 ]

**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 on May 30, 2024; SA 2024 c22 ]

**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 on May 30, 2024; SA 2024 c23 ]

**Bill Pr5 — Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Act (Miyashiro)**

First Reading — 2741 *(Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills)*

**Bill Pr6 — Burman University Amendment Act, 2025 (Johnson)**

First Reading — 2741 *(Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills)*







## Table of Contents

Prayers .....	3123
In Memoriam	
Mr. Hugh Lakin Planche October 3, 1931, to December 15, 2024.....	3123
Introduction of Visitors .....	3123
Introduction of Guests .....	3123
Members' Statements	
Government Caucus .....	3125
Sexual Violence Awareness Month.....	3125
Calgary-North East Constituency Concerns .....	3133
Alberta in Canada .....	3133
Women's Shelters.....	3134
Alberta Separatism .....	3134
Oral Question Period	
Alberta in Canada.....	3125
Bill 54 .....	3126, 3129
Investigation of Health Services Procurement.....	3126, 3131
Alberta Separatism and First Nation Treaty Rights .....	3127
Political Contributions by Corporations and Unions .....	3128
Continuing and Long-term Care in Northern Alberta.....	3128
Premier's Office Budget.....	3130
Alberta Media Fund.....	3131
Affordability Measures.....	3132
Introduction of Bills	
Bill 55   Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 .....	3134
Tabling Returns and Reports .....	3134
Orders of the Day .....	3135
Government Bills and Orders	
Committee of the Whole	
Bill 46   Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 .....	3135
Division .....	3138
Second Reading	
Bill 53   Compassionate Intervention Act .....	3141

*Alberta Hansard* is available online at [www.assembly.ab.ca](http://www.assembly.ab.ca)

For inquiries contact:

Editor

*Alberta Hansard*

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875

E-mail: [AlbertaHansard@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:AlbertaHansard@assembly.ab.ca)