

government acknowledge the damage their policies are having and cancel the charity-punishing carbon ...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. minister of economic development.

Mr. Bilous: Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll thank the member for the question. Again, what the opposition needs to recognize or acknowledge is that when you are a province that has been overreliant on one commodity with one buyer for one price for so many years, when we have a collapse in that price, we are going to be hit harder than most other jurisdictions, which, quite frankly, is the case. We understand and sympathize with Albertans that are going through a very difficult time. This is why we've introduced a number of initiatives. Quite frankly – I will tell you more shortly.

2:40

Mr. Panda: The list of NDP policies that are hurting Albertans goes on and on and on. Given that this summer they have launched a risky and expensive lawsuit against Enmax, which is owned by the city of Calgary, and given that they have begun an accelerated coal phase-out that will hurt hard-working Albertans and given that once fully implemented the average family will be paying a thousand dollars more because of the carbon tax, what will it take for the NDP government to use common sense, not ideology, and cancel those policies and drop lawsuits?

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The minister of economic development.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to clarify. First of all, our government's climate leadership plan puts Alberta at the forefront when it comes to doing our part regarding the environment. This is not only what a responsible global citizen does. There is an incredible amount of opportunity within our green jobs and transitioning workers from that phase-out of coal. We are investing in innovative solutions, working with business and industry as well as with not-for-profits. We have an advisory committee that is informing our government on how to help with this transition, but quite frankly ...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The Member for Calgary-North West.

PDD Service Delivery

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Human Services has been asked time and time again about his plan to deal with the wait-list for PDD. The community is still waiting to hear answers. The wait-list is still growing. We've heard one plan from this government, that is to put PDD clients up for bid by service providers, potentially even those from out of the province. To the minister: is it still your government's plan to openly tender supports to the lowest bidder anywhere you can find them?

The Speaker: The Minister of Human Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for the question. I will begin by saying that our government is committed to working with the sector to ensure that they are listened to and their perspective is reflected in our policies, unlike – I know the members won't appreciate it when I remind them of their record – imposing solutions like PDD safety standard 8, supports intensity scale. I have been engaged with the sector over the last year and a half to deal with ...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Ms Jansen: Yeah. I like that, "working with the sector."

Given that when asked about procurement previously, the minister said that he had consulted with the community, and when I asked him about that consultation, he said that if I wanted to know what the community thought, I could ask them myself. Well, guess what? I did, and they didn't like it. Again to the minister: are you going to exempt the PDD community from this humiliating process? And guess what? They don't feel consulted at all.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Member, for the question. One thing I want to clarify is that we are not auctioning PDD services. It's misinformation, and it's wrong. We will not auction PDD services. That's not happening. I have been working with the PDD community. Over 2,000 Albertans participated in our consultation around safety and inclusion. Whatever they will tell me, I'm ...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

I'd just remind the member about no supplementary preambles.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that a major platform of this government has been to increase the minimum wage and they've been lauding it from coast to coast and given that the government has not offered PDD providers more funding to increase their own workers' pay to meet the new minimum wage, to the minister: did you forget to budget the minimum wage increase for PDD service providers, and if not, why does the minister believe that disability workers don't deserve a living wage? That's right. A \$10 minimum wage ...

The Speaker: Hon. member, please.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. We have increased funding for PDD by \$22 million as opposed to cutting \$40 million back when you were in government. In terms of relationships going forward, we are working with the advisory committee which is looking at how we will fund the PDD services. We are in complete consultation with the PDD community, advocates, and service providers.

Thank you.

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

Economic Development

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Economic Development and Trade: given that we are all painfully aware of the way the sustained low oil price has impacted our province, can you please give an update as to how your economic development policies have led to jobs for Albertans?

The Speaker: The minister of economic development.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll thank the member for the question. I'll start off by talking about how the more than \$34 billion that our government is investing in infrastructure is the largest infrastructure spend in Alberta's history and will sustain and create about 10,000 jobs a year for the next three years. The summer temporary employment program employed about 2,700 students this summer. That had been cut by the previous government. The Alberta Enterprise Corporation investments have supported about 1,100 direct and 1,400 indirect jobs. The modernized royalty framework has led to ...