

just in the health care system, but collectively to become more resilient to the challenges of climate change.

Mr. Speaker: The member for West Vancouver—Capilano on a supplemental.

K. Kirkpatrick: We know that this one-time-in-1,000-years event was anticipated. This was not a surprise. Government had been warned about this for a year prior to that, and 569 people died. We need a full and independent review of the Premier's failure to act. This minister says there are more and more resources being deployed. We need more resources — that's wonderful — but are these the right resources? They don't have the right outcome.

As Human Rights Watch has said, the Premier has failed to act on his own 2019 climate risk assessment. He failed to do anything about call wait times, which were steadily increasing for the 12 months prior to this heatwave, and he failed to listen to 911 dispatch — which had concluded, a month before this heatwave, that the delays compromised public safety. The Premier callously told grieving families that they had a level of personal responsibility. Will he accept his responsibility today and order a full and independent review?

Hon. A. Dix: The full and independent review that's taking place.... Everyone acknowledges that it's comprehensive. Every case....

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Members.

Hon. A. Dix: Every case, and the circumstances of those cases, will be reviewed — every case. That's a full review. The coroner is, of course, independent, in one of the most important independent reviews that can take place. In addition, it seems to me that in this time of climate change, it calls on us to take the action that we're taking — in this government and, I hope, around this world — to address the issues of climate change. This event was unlike any event we had ever seen in the history of British Columbia. There was a predecessor event....

Interjections.

Hon. A. Dix: The opposition can heckle all they want. They can heckle all they want.

Mr. Speaker: Members, let's listen to the answer, please.

Hon. A. Dix: Well, hon. Speaker, 140 deaths are important, and the more than 500 deaths are important as well. Every one of them is. What we are doing, I think, is doing what needs to be done: taking every case as important. Every person who passed away is important. Having that review taking place, while taking important actions to ensure that we're more resilient in the future — to what we're going to deal with in the days, in the weeks, in the months, in the years, in the decades ahead: the need, as a society, to become more resilient to the fact of climate change.

COVERAGE OF PRESCRIPTION CONTRACEPTION

A. Olsen: One of the B.C. NDP platform planks from the election from last year was making contraception free. In their platform, the B.C. NDP stated: "Cost should not prevent individuals, particularly young people, from their right to make choices about their reproductive health. While condoms can be easily found for little or no cost, and vasectomies are covered by MSP, prescription contraception is not covered. It's time to make contraception free for all."

[10:40 a.m.]

My question is to the Premier. It has been one year, and still no free contraception has been provided to British Columbians. When will this government fulfil its election promise?

Hon. A. Dix: The commitment of the Premier was personal. It was also in our election platform. It's under review, of course, in terms of implementation.

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no free contraception has been provided to British Columbians. When will this government fulfil its election promise?

Hon. A. Dix: The commitment of the Premier was personal. It was also in our election platform. It's under, of course, review in terms of implementation. But it's something that of course we support and intend to implement during this government.

Mr. Speaker: Saanich North and the Islands, supplemental.

A. Olsen: During this government, I'm assuming that the government is giving itself a three-year longer runway to review this. Certainly this has been an issue that AccessBC has been advocating with me as an MLA for the last three or four years. It's an issue that AccessBC has been advocating for this government for three or four years. It was far more than just a personal promise made by the Premier. It was, as the Minister of Health noted, a commitment in their election platform.

My question, again, is to the Premier. When is his government going to do — as AccessBC put it: people in B.C. have been waiting for this for too long. When will British Columbians have free contraception? Will it be by 2022?

Hon. A. Dix: We are continuing to work, and it's our absolute intention to implement the commitments made by the Premier, the government and the New Democratic Party. In this respect, as we have said and as we've shown since the beginning of our mandate we have taken, I think, extraordinary efforts to make all prescription drugs available, especially to those who are the most vulnerable in our society — 105,000 British Columbians benefitted from our changes to PharmaCare deductible.

We continue to take steps to both save money on PharmaCare and then apply that money to support people and give them more access to the prescription drugs they need. We'll continue to do so. As noted to the hon. member, we fully intend to follow through on that commitment.

**COVID-19 CIRCUIT BREAKER
RESTRICTIONS AND SUPPORT FOR
BUSINESSES IN NORTHERN B.C.**

D. Davies: Businesses across the North have been brought to their knees recently again. A week ago, the Premier said businesses in Northern Health impacted by the new circuit breaker could "...still have opportunities to access programs that have been put in place by the provincial government."

Can the Premier tell us exactly what provincial programs are open and available today to desperate northern businesses?

Hon. R. Kahlon: I appreciate the question from the member. Certainly, it's a hard time for many businesses across British Columbia. The pandemic is not over. We are seeing strong job recovery rates, but we know that still pressure is being faced.

I've had a chance to talk to many of the chambers that represent businesses in the North. We've discussed what the pandemic and the impact it's having now has meant to their businesses. All are grateful for the vaccine card, because we know the vaccine card allows businesses to be able to continue to operate in a safe way to ensure that when the patrons come into their business....

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Okay. Take it easy. The minister will continue.