



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

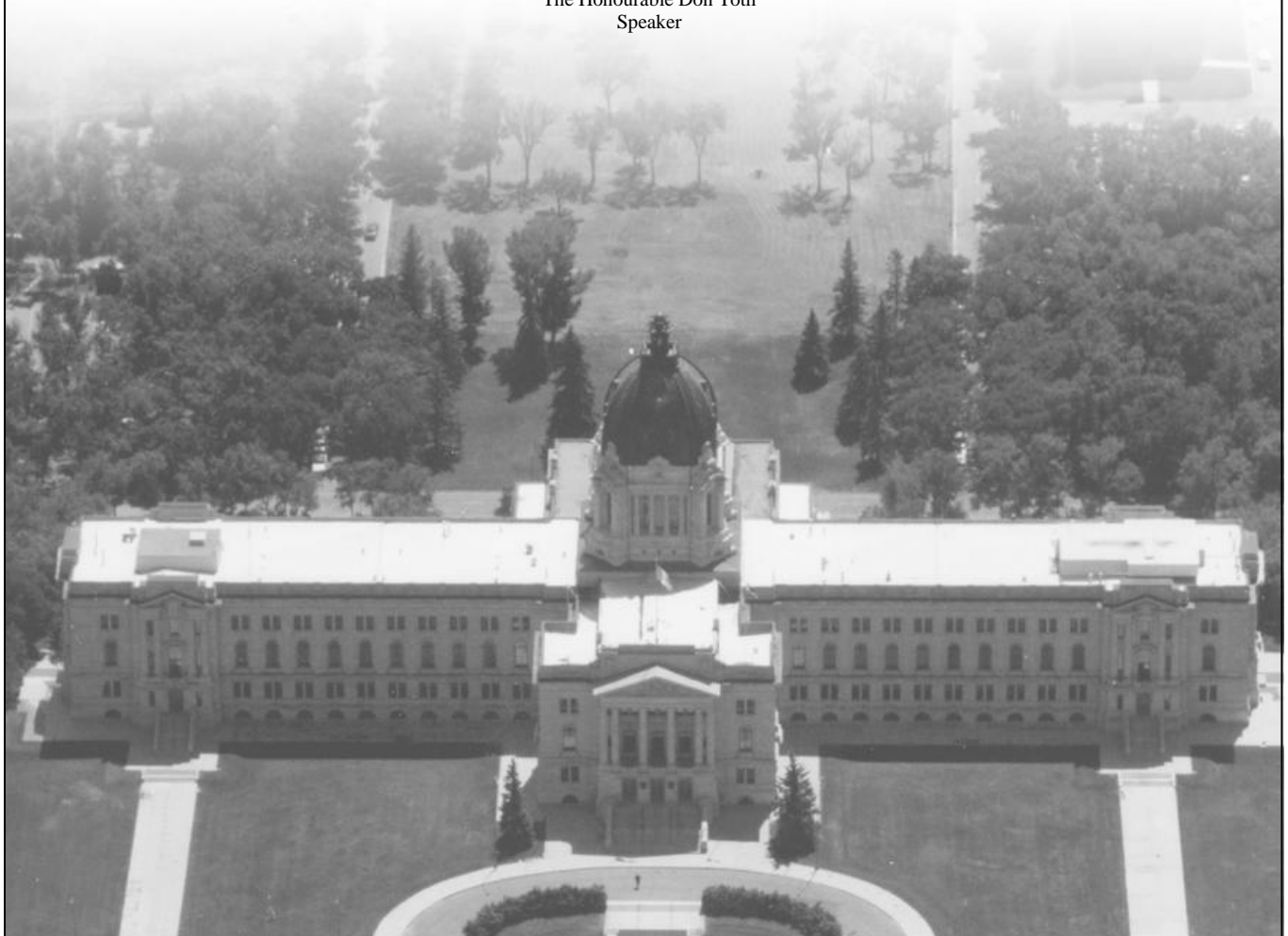
---

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

---

(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — Dwain Lingenfelter

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
LeClerc, Serge	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well it's a great honour for us to be able to welcome a number of very special guests representing the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and actually the Métis Nation of British Columbia as well, as we gathered together in the rotunda moments ago to officially proclaim 2010 the Year of the Métis. And we're obviously joined by many of our fellow citizens within the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce those that are here. I apologize for those that I miss. And what I'll do perhaps is ask members of the Métis Nation, after they're introduced, if they wouldn't mind standing and just stay standing until the group's been introduced, if they are here with us today, so that we can properly welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

I'll begin with the president of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Robert Doucette; Allan Morin, the vice-president; Gabe Lafond, treasurer; Max Morin, secretary; Senator Nora Cummings who said prayers earlier today; Michael Maurice, senator; Pauline Anderson, senator; Norm McQuill, elder; Brian Kembel, CEO [chief executive officer]; Gaylene Poulin in communications.

And there are many entertainers that had joined us as well earlier in the rotunda, Mr. Speaker, as you may know. They were accompanied by Donny Parenteau on the fiddle, as well as Dallas Boyer on the fiddle and Phil Boyer on guitar. Modeste Mckenzie was one of the jiggers. Allison Kimberly was a jigger, as well as Riel Reelers. And there were other dancers who aren't on this list.

There were a couple of other dancers — the member for Regina Elphinstone and myself — that were definitely bringing down the average. We don't expect to get a call from *Dancing with the Stars* any time soon, but we're grateful for the patience and the quick lesson that we got from one of the dancers today.

Mr. Speaker, also joining us is a special guest from British Columbia, I believe the president of the Métis Nation of BC [British Columbia], and someone who traces in his ancestry back to Gabriel Dumont, Bruce Dumont from the province of BC, president of their Métis Nation. To them and all of the members of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan who have joined us on this historic day may I just say, on behalf of the government, welcome to their Legislative Assembly. And to you and through you, Mr. Speaker, welcome to each and every one of them as they've joined us here this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier and welcome the folks that were here to mark the proclamation for 2010 as the Year of the Métis. Of course it's the 125th anniversary of the North-West Resistance, a very significant historic milestone in the life of this province.

I want to thank the Premier for the proclamation and the members opposite for a good celebration, a good commemoration of this important milestone. It was indeed a good celebration, a good time to come together, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly Senator Nora Cummings started us off right with a good prayer and so many wise words. She talked about the importance of the Métis sash and the fact that we are drawn together, those many threads in a sash. That is what the Métis people have done; they have drawn together those many threads of humanity. And that in a province where our motto is "from many peoples, strength" the Métis sash also brings to mind that strength through diversity, and certainly the importance of the Métis people in that diversity and the ability to celebrate this important milestone.

And I have to say as well, we're not going to be up for *Dancing with the Stars* any time soon certainly. Only Karen LaRocque, I think, could pull that off, Mr. Speaker, in terms of getting us out on the dance floor.

On behalf of the official opposition, and I know my two very proud Métis colleagues from Athabasca and Cumberland, we join as the official opposition in marking this very important day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I'd like to take a moment as Speaker of the Assembly to invite some very important guests who have joined us in the province of Saskatchewan. A number of representatives from a number of states as well as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from the Western provinces who are here for the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region fall legislative conference. It's my pleasure to introduce them and I would ask them to all stand. We welcome you to the province of Saskatchewan, to our Legislative Assembly. So if the guests with the Pacific NorthWest Region would stand, we'd like to extend our warm welcome to you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with you in welcoming all of our guests who are here with the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region. We are very pleased to have them here in Saskatchewan. And I know that all of the members of the House, and especially those of us on this side, on the official opposition side, will be looking forward to chances to visit with you and to explain how our government works. But more importantly, explain how our community works, and why we very much like living in the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

**Mr. Chisholm:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you and

to you to the Assembly, it's also my distinct privilege to welcome our visitors to Saskatchewan. Actually this is the third time today that I've welcomed them — breakfast, lunch, and now question period — but we certainly do welcome them. I'd particularly like to welcome our President, Senator Lesil McGuire from Alaska and the entire group.

Today we are participating in a legislative academy which is designed to familiarize Canadian politicians with the American system, and American politicians with our system. One of the distinct differences is what we call question period. And they are very much looking forward to that this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join the Premier and my colleagues in welcoming the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan here today, and particularly the president, Mr. Doucette. I want to point out that it is a very historic day, and we join the celebration as 2010 being the Year of the Métis.

And I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that my card number for Métis Nation is 04868. And I have a 2007 voter card. I look at that card, and today certainly was a proud moment for me. The only problem I had is I wish I was better looking because now you need photo ID [identification] to vote in the Métis Nation.

And I want to point out that it's always nice to be able to participate in Métis celebration, and I commend the Métis Nation for their work. And I wish them good luck in the future plans and meetings with the current government, and to point out that once you're a Métis, you're a Métis forever — not just at the spur of the moment, but forever. And I congratulate the Métis Nation and welcome them here today.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members, I also would like to recognize the very many special guests in the House today. I'd like to welcome my friends from the Métis Nation, President Robert Doucette. It was great to be part of a historic moment.

But also it's a privilege for me to stand in the House today and introduce a group of public servants seated in the west gallery who are participating in the parliamentary program for public service employees. Welcome to your legislature. We have 23 public servants in the gallery today from the following ministries: Advanced Education, Employment and Labour; from Agriculture; from Education; Health; Legislative Assembly; Social Services; Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport. And one from the ministry I have a privilege of being responsible for, and that's the Public Service Commission.

As everyone in this Assembly recognizes, the decisions that are made in this Assembly could not be completed without the dedication and the hard work and the commitment of the public servants. And we thank you.

This program has been very popular in previous sessions and

very well attended. The program includes in-depth history and tour of our Legislative Building, briefings by the Legislative Library, the Legislative Assembly Clerk's Office, Executive Council. And they'll be observing the House proceedings through question period. And I'll have the pleasure of meeting them personally along with other members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I'd like all of our colleagues to welcome these participants in the parliamentary program here today.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it's my honour to introduce someone that needs little introduction to many of the members of the Legislative Assembly. Seated behind the bar on our side is none other than Ms. Vi Stanger. Vi represented the Lloydminster area very capably and spoke out very clearly on behalf of her constituents and people right across the province. Those of us who know Vi know she cannot be stifled or muzzled in any way, but we very much appreciate Vi's straightforwardness and welcome her here today to the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery are two guests. One is my constituency assistant, Rita Flaman Jarrett, and the other one is her daughter, Rachel Jarrett. Rita has been my constituency assistant since 2003 and has served me very well in that capacity.

The one blemish on her career, Mr. Speaker, is that during the 1980s she worked in this building, and one of her roles was to hire summer students. And she hired a young summer student from Swift Current who actually went on to become the MLA for that area, who is currently in the House today. I think that's something we'll sort of leave in the distant past.

Rita has brought her daughter Rachel to the House for a bring your child to work day. Rita has chosen to interpret that as bring your child to see whether your boss really works day. And today is one of the days that I plan to work. In any event, Rachel is a 14-year-old grade 9 student at Holy Cross High School, very active in sporting activities and the Holy Cross junior band. And I would ask that all members welcome both Rita and Rachel to the House, to their legislature today.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I would like to acknowledge, as my colleagues have, the Métis Nation, the people. Being a Métis person, very proud, the roots that I have, I guess, had an honour to be a part of from my grandparents who were both Métis, very proud. Taught us to make sure that we were proud of our culture, what we had to offer as a society, and that we have a lot to add.

We are willing to work with people. Our hearts are in the right place. We have our challenges like everyone else, but we are very proud. And I am proud to be part of the nation, the Métis Nation, as a Métis person. And it is an honour to have our leadership and our community members here. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Humboldt, the Minister of Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure for me to introduce two constituents of mine who are sitting in the west gallery. Today we have with us Lloyd and Janice Howden. They are a couple that live in Humboldt and I have to say I'm very proud to be able to say that they are my friends.

On behalf of myself and the Agriculture minister, who pointed out to thank Lloyd in particular for the work that he does with SPCA [Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals] and the great relationship that our provincial government has with that organization. It is very much appreciated. So I would like to everyone to join me in welcoming Janice and Lloyd to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many guests here in our Assembly or their Assembly here today. It's very special. But through you and to you, seated in your gallery, I am very proud to welcome leadership from the Regina Outside City Workers' Local 21. Now these city workers are celebrating their 75th anniversary as a local. It's our honour to have them in their Assembly. They've provided highest quality service to residents and business for many, many years in this city.

And specifically I'd like to recognize a few of these members: President Tim Anderson; Vice-president Greg Moyer; Wade Zalopski. Now to be honest, I see Wade at the gym probably a few times a week. This is the first time I've seen him with sleeves on. So welcome, Wade — less intimidating like this. John Gangl, Alexandra Dobbs, Cal Pfeifer, Mauro Milessa, Clint Driedger, Cindy Jessop. And these are but some of our leadership for Local 21. I ask all members of this Assembly to welcome these civic leaders to their Assembly and congratulate them on their 75 years and send on our regards. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While still on my feet, seated in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I am very pleased to introduce two constituents and friends, Will Leach and Nicole Leach. Welcome to your Assembly. Thank you.

[13:45]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery are two constituents of mine that I'd like to introduce to the Assembly. They are Greg Lawrence and his son Ryan Lawrence. They are here to mark the proclamation of the Year of the Métis. They came from Moose Jaw this morning.

Greg is one of our employees with SaskTel in Moose Jaw. He's also very involved with the community with air cadets and is also the president of the Métis local in Moose Jaw. And with

him, his son Ryan. Ryan is a Grade 11 student at Vanier and he's quite a tough football player. You can tell by the cast on his hand. So I'd ask all members to welcome Greg and Ryan to the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's definitely a popular place here today.

I want to introduce to you and through you a number of individuals seated in the eastern gallery. I'm talking about some students and some teachers from the Rainbow Youth Centre's Road to Employment program. They're accompanied by teachers Andi Schenk and Brika Steinberg.

They were actually here, Mr. Speaker, able to participate in the proclamation activities around the Year of the Métis. I didn't see them get up and jig. We'll check them out on that later, Mr. Speaker. But we'll give it a whirl. Anyway it's really good to see them here in their legislature, so if all members could please join me in welcoming them here to their legislature. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs, the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to join colleagues in recognizing guests. I see a constituent of mine in the government gallery, Mr. Mike Couros.

Mike's been a resident of Saskatoon for quite some time and very involved in the community, certainly through the Progress Club and his work with Care & Share and other organizations that benefit our community.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Mr. Couros to his legislature and thanking him for the work that he does do.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you in your gallery are two constituents from the great constituency of Saskatoon Fairview. And they are Sharlene Rayner; she's a CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] representative. And she's brought her daughter here today, Alison Haarstad, because it is take your kids to work day today, Mr. Speaker. And they've decided to come here and spend part of that day with us.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Alison is a grade 9 student in the Tommy Douglas Collegiate, our new collegiate in Saskatoon Fairview. She enjoys story writing, and I understand she's a great debater, Mr. Speaker. And I look forward to perhaps seeing her on the floor here in one of these chairs in the future.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I'd also like to introduce in your gallery, Bert Royer, business manager with the Ironworkers Local 771; Wayne Worrall, business agent for the

Ironworkers Local 771; and Jason Dielschneider. And, Mr. Speaker, I too want to extend my congratulations to all the CUPE workers, the outside workers for Local 21. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the minister and welcome all the members of the public service that are here with us today. It's nice to see them come to their Assembly. We appreciate you coming, and we hope you enjoy your day here today.

**The Speaker:** — Just before we move on to presenting petitions, I just want to remind our guests who have joined us today that you're more than welcome to be here, but we ask that you don't participate in any of the further proceedings as we move on from here.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. We know that workers in the community-based organizations, called CBOs in Saskatchewan, have traditionally been underpaid, and that these workers work and care for, provide valuable services to some of the most vulnerable members of our society such as persons living with mental and intellectual disabilities, women and children in crisis, low-income, at risk individuals, young children, youth, Aboriginal, immigrant, and visible minority persons. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the development and implementation of a multi-year funding plan to ensure that CBO workers achieve wage equity with employees who perform work of equal value in government departments.

And, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners come from Yarbo, Saskatchewan, Yorkton, Norquay, Veregin, Saskatoon, and Birch Hills. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of a new long-term care facility in La Ronge. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners will humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately invest in the planning and construction of new long-term care beds in La Ronge.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good people of La Ronge and area. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of fairness for students here in Saskatchewan through the necessary expansion of the graduate retention program. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately expand the graduate retention program to include master's and Ph.D. graduates.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals that signed this petition are from the city of Regina. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present yet another petition on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan who question why the Sask Party government is leaving them behind with respect to providing safe and affordable water. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfills its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Duck Lake. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, I stand and present a petition today in support of maintaining quality health care services. Mr. Speaker, we're hopeful that the government of Saskatchewan realize that the utilization and value of a full range of professional skills offered by health care providers is promoted through the address of retention and recruitment issues and thereby ensuring safe staffing levels, Mr. Speaker. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining quality health care services and job security for all public health care providers.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The petitions are signed by people from Maple Creek, Golden Prairie, Saskatoon, Morse, Hodgeville, and Vanguard. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to present a petition in support of affordable rents and housing for The Battlefords from residents who have been given notice of rent increases of about 40 per cent, and who note that the vacancy rate for rental accommodation in The Battlefords is very low. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Legislative Assembly may be pleased to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to develop an affordable housing program that will result in a greater number of quality and affordable rental units to be made available to a greater number of people throughout The Battlefords, and that will implement a process of rent review or rent control to better protect tenants in a non-competitive housing environment.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of the city of North Battleford.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents of Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of their finances. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to start managing our provincial finances responsibly and prudently to ensure that it does not continue its trend of massive budgetary shortfalls, runaway and unsustainable spending, equity stripping from our Crowns, and irresponsible revenue setting.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, are signed by concerned citizens and good residents of White City, Eyebrow, and Humboldt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Batoche.

#### Year of the Métis

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan has requested that 2010 be designated as the Year of the Métis in Saskatchewan. Our Saskatchewan Party government recognizes the unique history and culture of Métis people. And we appreciate the contributions that they have made to help mould Saskatchewan into the province it is today.

Our government will honour the Métis Nation, recognizing 2010 as the year of the Métis in Saskatchewan. The year 2010 also marks the milestone anniversary for the Métis citizens of Canada as it marks the 125th anniversary of the North-West Resistance. Each year, thousands return to Saskatchewan to pay

respect to the Métis that were part of the struggle 124 years ago.

Throughout the next year, Métis along with all residents of Saskatchewan will take the opportunity to celebrate the rich culture that has made our province the heart of the Métis Nation and home to all. 2010 will be a year of celebration and hopefully a year of learning and reconciliation for all residents of our great province.

Our Saskatchewan Party government looks forward to continuing to build a strong working relationship with the Métis Nation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, it is a pleasure to restate our support for the proclamation of 2010 as the Year of the Métis. With the 125th anniversary of the North-West Resistance, 2010, as the Year of the Métis, will be a time of celebration and reflection for all Saskatchewan people but especially for the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. It was great to see the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan present today in the rotunda for the proclamation and the sounds of prayers and proud words and fiddling, guitar, and shock-a-ways filled the air.

On this side of the House, we are proud of the contribution that the Métis make every year to Saskatchewan. We are proud to serve alongside the Métis members from Athabasca and Cumberland. We are proud of the trail that was blazed by the first Métis minister of the Saskatchewan Crown, Keith Goulet. And we are proud of the things that we have been able to accomplish by working in partnership and respect with the Métis like *The Métis Act*, the naming of the Louis Riel Trail, the Clarence Campeau Fund, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, and the Gabriel Dumont Technical Institute, and adequate core funding for the Métis Nation.

And while we are glad to celebrate, we are concerned that inadequate core funding, confusion on duty to consult and accommodate, and constraint and insecurity on core Métis institutions seem to be the hallmarks of the Sask Party government's approach to Métis issues.

But to close, today is a day to celebrate. We are glad that 2010 will be the Year of the Métis, and we in the official opposition will continue to work for those measures that will make every year a good year to be Métis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

#### Outside City Workers' Local Celebrates Anniversary

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to recognize a special anniversary for a union that thousands of proud and contributing Regina citizens have belonged to. This year, 2009, marks the 75th anniversary of the Regina Outside City Workers' Local 21 and I hear the member from Regina Elphinstone was also once a Local 21 member.

These members have provided quality public services to

citizens and business of Regina for the past 75 years. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate its members and executive, past and present, for their leadership in our community.

I'm pleased to have some of its current leadership joining us here in their Assembly here today. These employees of the city of Regina have maintained and enhanced the city's sewer and water systems, roadways, parks, rinks, pools, sport fields, stadiums, and public spaces, as but a few examples.

The Regina Outside City Workers' Local 21's motto is "commitment to community." These members certainly exemplify this motto. These members, past and present, are no small part of what makes Regina such a fantastic place to live, work, and raise a family, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in thanking and recognizing Local 21, city of Regina outside city workers past and present, for their meaningful contributions to our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

### 2010 World Junior Hockey Championships

**Mr. LeClerc:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to speak about Saskatchewan hosting the 2010 World Junior Hockey Championships in both Regina and Saskatoon. The competition will bring together the world's top junior hockey players from 10 countries. The 2010 World Junior Hockey Championship organizing committee and Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport jointly launched a promotional campaign designed to encourage Saskatchewan residents to invite out-of-province friends and families home for the championship. For 10 action-packed days, junior hockey's most skilled players will be in our community and playing on our rinks.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, it is an incredible privilege to have the championship back in Saskatchewan. The last time the world junior hockey championship was held in Saskatchewan was 1991, and it's great to have it back. This tournament will not only be played in Regina and Saskatoon, but several pre-tournament games will be held in Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Weyburn, Unity, Prince Albert, and Humboldt.

And with all due respect to our American guests, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage every member of the Assembly and everyone in this province to invite their friends and family to come home for the holidays and watch Canada's world junior hockey team bring home the gold.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

### Winston Knoll Students Participate in Science Events

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, Winston Knoll High School, located on Rochdale Boulevard in Regina, has earned a reputation for science knowledge. Winston Knoll students were awarded the top prizes at the Regina Regional Science Fair,

earned four spots at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, and even participated in the international movement for leisure activities in science and technology or MILSET [Mouvement International pour le Loisir Scientifique et Technique] at Expo-Sciences International.

Near the close of last year, Winston Knoll students Jordan Brears and David Skibinski with their project, Thinking Outside the Gas Pump; and Lauren Gamble with her project, H2O and Your Home; and Benjamin Korol with his project, Genomic DNA Quantities went on from the Regina regional science fair to represent Saskatchewan in the Canada-wide science fair held in Winnipeg this summer. This past July, Jordan Brears and David Skibinski, now graduates from Winston Knoll, participated in the 2009 team Canada delegation to the Expo-Sciences International held in Tunisia, Africa. Jordan and David represented Saskatchewan in the 46-student delegation from Canada to this distinguished, non-competitive biannual international youth science event.

At the close of the MILSET Expo-Sciences International, team Canada for the first time was recognized as the best delegation, based on the quality of their projects, team organization, and overall contribution to the international expo, which hosted approximately 1,000 young scientists from over 40 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all my colleagues to join with me in offering our congratulations to the above-mentioned students, to the dedicated teachers of Winston Knoll High School, and by extension to all Saskatchewan students who are inspired to learn. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

### Members' Responsibilities

**Mr. McMillan:** — Mr. Speaker, the people we represent deserve respect from their elected representatives. Their individual privacy should be rigorously protected. Unfortunately, one member opposite has failed utterly to meet the important obligation. Yesterday the Minister of Corrections received an email from Mr. Scott Taylor, a corrections worker in Regina. Mr. Taylor . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

**Mr. McMillan:** — Mr. Taylor says he's personally offended the opposition . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Members will come to order. The member from Lloydminster has the floor.

**Mr. McMillan:** — Mr. Taylor says he is personally offended the Opposition House Leader has publicly released documents that should never have been released. Further, Mr. Taylor believes his good name and reputation have been damaged because of the member's failure to black out the names that he released to the public. Mr. Taylor has requested a written



apology for what he calls the member's lack of professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, members of this Assembly are afforded special rights and privileges. They are allowed to say things in the House that they could not say outside of this Assembly. However with these special rights comes responsibilities. These special rights of members must be used in the public interest, not in a way that will harm reputations of innocent people.

I call on the members opposite to return the documents that were obtained illegally and provided to them by a person who broke an oath. I call on the member opposite to correct a wrong, to apologize, Mr. Speaker, to Mr. Taylor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

### Montgomery School Makes Top School List

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, *Today's Parent* magazine recently published its sixth annual list of top schools in Canada. I'm proud to report that Montgomery School of Saskatoon was one of only 20 schools from across the country to receive this honour.

Readers nominated schools in a range of categories developed by a panel of teachers, parents, and education experts. Submissions from hundreds of schools across the country were poured over, and Montgomery School stood out of the pack in the punched-up programming category for its ScienceTrek program.

This stimulating program blends hands-on science activities with outdoor excursions in labs at the University of Saskatchewan. Activities include camping, canoeing, biking, and skiing. Grads who earn more than 70 per cent can then fast-track into Grade 10 science the following year. Ninety-one students from all across Saskatoon applied to this ScienceTrek program last year, a clear testament to the popularity of this program. Mr. Speaker, the staff at Montgomery School has gone above and beyond expectations to create innovative and enjoyable learning opportunities for grade 8 students.

As a mom of two young children myself, I recognize the importance of providing a quality education to our province's children. I certainly appreciate the work schools like this are doing to enhance students' educational experiences. Mr. Speaker, I ask all MLAs to join with me in recognizing Montgomery School of Saskatoon for its exceptional achievements in creating a quality education for our children.

### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

#### Relevance of Responses and Decorum

**The Speaker:** — Before I call oral questions, I'd like to raise a couple of issues that have been of concern to me lately regarding procedure. First, the question of order relates to the scope of responses during question period. I ruled on this issue on a previous occasion, but I am concerned that certain ministers might have lost sight of rule 19(3) that responses shall be relevant to the question, but a minister may decline to

answer or take notice of a question.

During the exchange yesterday between the member from Saskatoon Fairview and the Minister of Advanced Education, Labour and Employment, there were questions posed regarding occupational health and safety rules and safety standards relating to a specific crane. I find that although the minister related his responses to occupational health and safety, they did not relate to the specific crane in question. This response was not completely irrelevant, but it does raise some concerns of a trend.

In the same question period, the question brought forward by the member from Regina Dewdney focused on objections by police forces in issuing a media advisory. The response provided by the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing related to a disclosure of confidential inmate files. I find that the minister's responses were not relevant and therefore not in order. If unable to provide a relevant response, ministers may decline to answer or take notice of the question.

Secondly, I want to remind members to conduct themselves in a manner befitting this Assembly. In the last few days, there have been several instances where members have hurled insults across the floor. The latest example was yesterday during the period leading up to the recorded division on the address in reply. The Minister of Health hurled a comment across the floor that caused considerable disorder.

I want to remind members that the language used in the Assembly should be temperate and worthy of the place it is spoken. Members are responsible for the words they choose.

### QUESTION PERIOD

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

#### Public Safety Procedures

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to ask a question I've asked in the past. The policy to deal with the escape or release in error of a level 1 dangerous offender is clear. The public is made aware of the incident immediately unless the relevant police service objects to the issuance of the media advisory. To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: which police force objected to making the public aware that a dangerous sex offender was unlawfully at large?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to quote from paragraph 1 on page 1 of CPSP's [Corrections, Public Safety and Policing] incident reporting policy, and I quote:

Determination of whether or not an exception will be made regarding the issuance of a media advisory is at the discretion of the Deputy Minister, informed by advice from police and senior corrections officials.

In this particular case, Mr. Speaker, after my deputy received

advice from senior corrections officials who had several conversations with police, his recommendation to me was that a news release would do nothing to enhance public safety because the individual was not aware he was unlawfully at large, was in full compliance with his probation conditions, was employed, and had a known address. In short, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] knew where he lived and worked, and were in the process of picking him up.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing is simple: which police force?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections.

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Mr. Speaker, the corrections officials talk to many police forces or other police forces. I do not know which ones they talked to. If the member wants a name of somebody they talked to, I do not have that. If he really wishes to have one, I can look into it and I'll take notice of it.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

#### Severance of Public Servants

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In May of this year we found out that the estimated cost of severance packages for 70 fired civil servants would be \$10.7 million, and that there were still some outstanding severances at that time. Mr. Speaker, the government provided an answer to a written question that the NDP [New Democratic Party] asked in the spring. We received that answer just recently. In this document, the government discloses 24 more cases of dismissed civil servants from government at a cost of \$1.3 million more than previously disclosed.

To the Deputy Premier: can he confirm that the cost of dismissed civil servants is now more than \$12 million, and the number of cases has increased from 70 to more than 100?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, over the years when the opposition was in government, they terminated a number of people each and every year. Those costs continued to go on during the time they were in government and those costs continue to go on as employees come and employees go. And those are a routine part of forming government.

We've provided answers to questions, Mr. Speaker, earlier, with regard to the specific costs relating to when this government came to office. And, Mr. Speaker, I would pleased to provide the member with an update. And I will take notice of that part of the question and will provide that to the member.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In answer also to written questions, the government discloses an

additional nine people dismissed from Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, Mr. Speaker, at a cost of \$1.2 million more. That is on top, Mr. Speaker, of the civil servants dismissed from government, possibly putting the price tag now as high as \$13 million.

A recent column, Mr. Speaker, in the *Leader-Post* had this to say, and I quote, "But those additional 2008-09 firings of long-serving civil servants were not only unconscionable but perhaps the biggest government spending waste in years."

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: when is the government going to stop wasting money firing career public servants?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the House and the members opposite that we have a great deal of confidence and respect for the civil service in this province. The members of the public that work in the province's civil service are polished professional people. They are mostly career individuals, and this government has the greatest amount of respect for those people.

Mr. Speaker, on occasion there are situations where people have been terminated. In those cases, it is the policy and practice of this administration to ensure that those people and those files are treated with respect, and that those people get good severance packages offered immediately upon termination, and that we endeavour to settle those as promptly as possible.

I am not, Mr. Speaker, familiar with the specific files related to SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] and make the same undertaking to the members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the same package of information we received, we found out there are still 16 dismissed civil servants who have not yet settled with government. Based on the numbers to date — the average settlement being approximately \$120,000, Mr. Speaker — this means that after all of these cases are settled, there could be another \$1.8 million price tag attached to this process.

So, Mr. Speaker, to the minister — a simple question, perhaps a simple answer — will the minister simply confirm the total cost of dismissed civil servants. One number, Mr. Speaker, all in.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

[14:15]

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, it is the intention . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, when that government came into office in the early 1990s, they fired and terminated in a ruthless fashion over 200 employees. Mr. Speaker, this government has treated employees with dignity and with

respect, and we have terminated far fewer employees. And in each of those cases, we have endeavoured to make a prompt and complete settlement with those individuals.

Mr. Speaker, if there are any that are outstanding, it would be fewer than five that are outstanding from the time of this government forming of the transition terminations, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. The government also claims, in answer to written questions, that rather than using Department of Justice and human resources departments in government to settle these claims, they've used outside law firms, Mr. Speaker, to settle the claims.

Outside law firms, Mr. Speaker, were contracted, were contracted, Mr. Speaker, in 40 cases. And legal fees of more than \$340,000, Mr. Speaker, were paid to these law firms. All four law firms, Mr. Speaker, that were contracted by this government to do this work, were top donors to the Saskatchewan Party.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why did this government pay \$340,000 to Sask Party contributing law firms to do the work that government lawyers normally do?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I think it's normal practice when governments change that outside counsel is used for that type of matter. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, it's my recollection that when the NDP came into power in the early 1990s, the firm of Olive Waller, etc., did a large number of that work.

And in fact, Mr. Speaker, another firm did a large amount of work. The member for Saskatoon Meewasin was himself employed and went on leave from his firm so that he could do exactly that kind of work on a full-time basis for a period of time, Mr. Speaker. Nothing unusual there at all, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Order. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

### Workplace Safety Issues

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, my question has to do with the government's admission yesterday that it has allowed an unsafe, uncertified crane to be operated at a Regina area construction site since late July, in violation of its own occupational health and safety laws. Mr. Speaker, the law is clear. A crane cannot be allowed to work on a construction site until it has a completed logbook, has passed a full safety inspection, and has been certified by a professional engineer.

My question to the minister is: why has the government broken its own occupational health and safety laws?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to provide a bit of an update on this specific crane, Mr. Speaker. And I guess the question that began yesterday, Mr. Speaker, it began with the notion that there was no logbook, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to have a photocopy of the logbook that they didn't know existed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this government takes occupational health and safety very, very seriously, Mr. Speaker. As it pertains to the crane, what I can say is five inspections have taken place. Two highly experienced occupational health and safety officers have inspected the crane in the last 24 hours. And we confirm that the crane is safely operating, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister to table that document.

Mr. Speaker, the occupational health and safety department went out to the site, looked at the crane, ordered a single hook to be replaced, and then they got the crane working again. Mr. Speaker, that's really standing up for the safety of Saskatchewan workers.

Mr. Speaker, outside the Assembly the minister said the department was just giving the Ontario contractor who owns the crane a reasonable amount of time to comply with the law. And his official said the uncertified, unsafe crane presented no unusual danger to workers. Mr. Speaker, the law doesn't say after a reasonable period of time. These requirements must be met before the crane is allowed on to the construction site. Mr. Speaker, this is a life-and-death decision because this equipment routinely lifts 10 tonnes or more of steel over the heads of iron workers on this site.

Mr. Speaker, why did the government make this unlawful exception for an out-of-province contractor at this construction site?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of this province, on behalf of people that often tune in, there's an email I've received, Mr. Speaker. And I thought what I'd do is just provide an opportunity to quote from that.

Mr. Mike Morrison from Morrison Inspection Services wrote to me this morning, and I quote:

It has come to my attention that yesterday afternoon my name was mentioned in the legislature in regards to an unsafe crane and that my inspection is not recognized here in Saskatchewan. Not only do I feel ridiculed, but hurt over the accusations that the NDP has made, i.e., that I was related to Mr. Steve Mullins — that's untrue; that my inspection was in conflict of interest — that's untrue. I signed an oath stating that I would conduct my inspections in a professional manner and never compromise the safety of others.

I would like the member of the NDP to get his facts straight before he speaks about me or anyone else for that matter. Words that are spoken, whether they are true or not, can never be taken back.

Mr. Speaker, we are in compliance with the regulations. Mr. Speaker, occupational health and safety is a key priority. And I'm ashamed, Mr. Speaker, for the members opposite to have mentioned the question as they did yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, talk about being ashamed. Talk about being ashamed. This minister talks about Mission: Zero, and I'll tell you what. What the people of Saskatchewan have come to realize is that that stands for zero enforcement of occupational health and safety in this province. That's what that stands for.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I have here an inspection report from a Saskatchewan engineering firm, Kova Engineering, which shows that the Ontario contractor hired them in August to try and get this crane certified. The report lists nine different safety problems with the crane and, Mr. Speaker, refuses to certify it, refuses to certify it — problems like cracks on the main frame, bulged areas, cracks on the boom, and broken safety latches.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister: did his staff know that the Saskatchewan engineer had already rejected this crane for certification in August when they signed a report a few weeks later saying that they would await certification from an Ontario engineer? Did they know that?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, section 216(3) of *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996* states and requires that:

... a mobile crane is subjected to a thorough inspection, including non-destructive testing, under the supervision of a professional engineer [and it also prescribes that these inspections occur] every two years or 1,800 hours of operation, whichever comes first.

The crane was inspected in the United States on November 12th, 2008 and again, Mr. Speaker, was inspected here by Morrison Inspection Services, an Ontario company that specializes in these inspections throughout North America. Since at least 1998, officers under the former government and ours have consistently interpreted the regulation to allow cranes certified in other jurisdictions to operate in Saskatchewan, providing that they meet the requirements of this section. Mr. Speaker, this regulation has been in place. It's been interpreted for years, Mr. Speaker.

Our occupational health and safety officers have been on site five times, Mr. Speaker, well in advance of the last 24 hours. We've visited twice in the last 24 hours, Mr. Speaker. We have every faith in our officers and we have every confidence that the occupational health and safety of the people of this province

is taken seriously within our ministry.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

### Support for Seniors' Centres

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, even volunteer seniors' centres in rural Saskatchewan can't escape the rising cost of living under this Sask Party government. I want to quote from a letter by Saskatchewan Seniors Association president, Len Fallows, published in *Rural Roots* on October 11th, and the quote goes like this:

Numerous centers . . . have an income of about \$500 [and] are faced with expenditures of \$5,000 to \$6,000. Most of that expenditure sits squarely on the shoulders of the cost of energy, power, water, telephone and taxes.

Centers that used to be open five days a week are now struggling to have their doors open two days a week.

Most of those added costs like utility rates are rising. To the minister, when is the Sask Party government going to support these Saskatchewan seniors' citizens centres?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure to stand in the House and to answer the member's question. It has been a goal of this government to ensure that Saskatchewan residents pay the lowest utility rates possible, whether they're residences, whether they're businesses, whether they're senior citizens' homes. Mr. Speaker, it's important to keep those costs as . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. The minister.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, it's important to keep the costs for residences, for businesses, for seniors' centres at the lowest possible cost. And that's indeed what our Crown corporations have been doing.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, today cabinet approved a decrease in the rates of SaskEnergy, taking it from \$5.96 a gigajoule to \$5.21 a gigajoule — Mr. Speaker, a 12.6 per cent reduction in the commodity rate, making it amongst the lowest in the country.

Mr. Speaker, next door in Manitoba, they now pay a rate of \$5.54. We're below that. In British Columbia, they pay \$5.97. We're below that. And we're right in the range of what they're paying in Alberta. It continues to be a priority for our Crown corporations and that's the way we'll operate.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, this is a widespread problem. We visited the Birch Hills Senior Centre this last summer on a relatively cold day when they couldn't afford to turn on the heat. It was absolutely freezing in that building. Their annual income is \$126 but they have more than \$4,000 a year in

expenses.

Duck Lake seniors' centre annual income, \$670; expenses, 5,400. Big River, 450 in annual income; expenses, 3,000. And in Swift Current, \$2,000 in income and \$7,800 in expenses. This is a lot of money for organizations that are volunteer driven, Mr. Speaker, and it's made worse by escalating costs.

To the minister: when is the government, the Sask Party government going to assist seniors' centres in keeping their doors open?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that our government is very aware of some of the pressures and struggles that seniors' centres face around Saskatchewan, as most of the seniors' centres would be represented by members on this side of the House. We've had conversations with seniors' centre organizations that would be in our communities, Mr. Speaker, and I've had the opportunity to meet with the provincial organizations that absolutely talked about the struggle that they see, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we take seniors' issues as a priority, Mr. Speaker. That's why we have a Legislative Secretary that the Premier named that is going around the province talking to seniors throughout the province, looking at the issues that they're facing, Mr. Speaker. This may be one that comes to the forefront.

And it is a struggle for them out there, Mr. Speaker. But I would ask the government that, over the last 16 years, how much did they put into seniors' centres over the last 16 years, Mr. Speaker? Not very much.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, several months ago seniors asked this government for funding to help seniors' centres across the province keep their doors open. But in a pattern that's becoming all too familiar with this government, they've waited months to hear anything. Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that the Sask Party has money — \$340,000 to pay Sask Party lawyers to deal with long-term public servants that have been fired. We know that they have \$14 million to pay severance to long-time career public servants that have been fired. How much longer do seniors that run these volunteers seniors' centres have to wait?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud in the past two years of the different initiatives that we've taken that have helped with seniors across the province. For example, the senior income plan that the Minister for Social Services increased — first increase in 16 years, Mr. Speaker. Under the NDP government they did absolutely nothing in that area, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I was very proud to be able to announce \$152 million that have gone to long-term care facilities. After touring

many of these long-term care facilities . . . These aren't just rooms that they stay in, Mr. Speaker. These are their homes, the homes that were just unacceptable in many, many communities, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad we've put \$153 million into that.

[14:30]

The seniors' centres across the province absolutely are struggling. Some are doing better than others, Mr. Speaker, because they have a larger membership. Some are struggling, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, we're looking forward to the report from the Legislative Secretary that may identify some of those problems.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

### Forestry Sector Issues

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, in June, Eacom Timber acquired an option on the Big River saw mill. Now the members opposite waved their pompoms and tried to start a two-car parade, but that failed. The MLA from Saskatchewan Rivers promised that no decision on the allocation of the P.A. FMA [Prince Albert Forest Management Agreement] had yet been made. But an October 26th email from Eacom says that the Saskatchewan Party continues to ignore the forestry industry in Saskatchewan by saying, "To date we have not received a lot of support from government."

The CBC's [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] now reporting that Eacom may move the mill out of the province if they can't get a deal on timber. To the minister: will he work with Eacom to reopen the Big River pulp saw mill or will he let this opportunity slide by, as he did earlier this week with the Wapawekka saw mill?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister for Energy and Resources stated yesterday, our government is taking a new approach on the FMA [forest management agreement] in Saskatchewan. We are working on a co-operative approach.

The preliminary allocations — it is not finalized yet — the preliminary allocations were based on meeting the needs of existing mills, Mr. Speaker. We will continue with this process. We are engaging larger industry, smaller industry, the independents, and First Nations, Mr. Speaker. We think their inclusion in this is important, and we look forward to the resolution of the FMA . . . [inaudible].

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

**Mr. Furber:** — I can tell you this, Mr. Speaker. The people of Big River believe that they've got an existing saw mill that needs some attention from this government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these aren't my quotes. These are quotes directly from Eacom. They're an indictment of this

government's ability to deal with the P.A. FMA. And the quote reads:

Most governments around the world welcome new investment . . . Saskatchewan has been a challenge and we are monitoring things, as government has to decide if they want jobs and investment . . . It is always easier to do business where one is welcome and treated properly.

Implying that they're not being treated properly by this Saskatchewan Party government. It takes more than cheerleading and pompoms to do business in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. You need to deliver the goods.

To the minister: will he put down his pompoms and deliver the goods for the people of Big River?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, I understand the NDP are, as my colleagues have stated earlier, a little bit grumpy about a great many things, and they would like to look at the doom and gloom on so many things that happened in our province, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen recently the investment or the proposed investment by Fortune Minerals in Saskatchewan. People are looking here for investment, Mr. Speaker. And we know that the forest industry has been hurting in our province for a very long time, as it has been hurting in a lot of areas, Mr. Speaker. North America's been hit hard. Building starts are down in the United States primarily, which is hurting our industry.

And, Mr. Speaker, under the NDP, for all of their accusations about what our government is or is not doing, five mills closed under the NDP's government, Mr. Speaker. And their answer to that was throwing \$100 million at the problem right before an election, Mr. Speaker. We will not take that approach. We are working co-operatively with all of industry to come up with an equitable answer to the FMA assignment.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I ask members to come to order so we can hear the call of introduction of Bills.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### **Bill No. 105 — *The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2009***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 105, *The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2009* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — Order, members. The Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation has moved first reading of Bill No. 105, *The Saskatchewan Energy Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be considered a second time? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

#### **Bill No. 106 — *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 106, *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation has moved first reading of Bill No. 106, *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be considered a second time? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

#### **Bill No. 607 — *The Public Safety, Security and Protection Act***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move Bill No. 607, *The Public Safety, Security and Protection Act* now be introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Dewdney has moved first reading of Bill No. 607, *The Public Safety, Security and Protection Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be considered a second time?

**Mr. Yates:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

##### **Bill No. 97 — *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks today I will move the second reading of Bill No. 97, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009*.

The amendments to the Act include authorizing a development commission to collect a national, non-refundable levy pursuant to any agreement entered into under the Act and repealing *The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act, 1998*.

The powers to collect both the refundable provincial and non-refundable nationally administered levies on cattle in Saskatchewan currently rests with *The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act, 1998*. The repeal of *The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act, 1998* and subsequent amendments to the cattle development plan regulations will allow the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association to collect both levies.

The Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association will forward the national, non-refundable levy to the national agency and will use the proceeds from the refundable provincial levy to carry out its mandate. Under the current agri-food Act, development commissions have the authority to collect refundable levies but cannot collect non-refundable levies, including nationally administered levies. Amendments to *The Agri-Food Act, 2004* will allow this to take place. Levies collected by a development commission for its own purposes will still be refundable.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association has been consulted and supports these amendments. We also have the support of other development commissions. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009* be read a second time. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has moved that Bill No. 97, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to be able to rise and make a couple comments on the Bill that was presented by the minister, the amendments to *The Agri-Food Act, 2004*.

In the Bill, Mr. Speaker, I went through this again this morning just before the House started and went through the explanatory notes again also, and while I will not claim to be an expert in this area for sure, it seems to me that what the minister is doing is putting in place the opportunity for the Cattlemen's Association to be self-governing and that the levies that

formerly went into the revolving fund in the Department of Agriculture will now go to the Cattlemen's Association. I'm kind of looking at the minister to see if I'm on the right track here. I think I am.

In the discussions we have had amongst my colleagues and myself, we had a look at the Bill and had a number of comments about the Bill. I guess there was a couple of areas that really jumped out at me, and it isn't the fact that the Cattlemen's Association will be self-regulating or that this levy or check-off would go towards the Cattlemen's Association for them to develop marketing and various product development. That's not so unusual.

But there was a couple of questions that popped to mind when I first had a look at the Bill, kind of comparing what the money was used for previously and what the Cattlemen's Association is looking to do with it in the future and how that will be accounted for, or whether it totally turns over to the Cattlemen's Association. And if there is some advantage to going to a self-regulating body for the Cattlemen's Association or does it just shift some of the responsibility out of the department and make some, ease off some of the pressures there.

There has to be some consideration given, I think when I look at the Bill, to the impact of the change and the optics of this proposed change. Because when we look at other services that come out of the Department of Agriculture, I mean, there are many, many. But these fees previously, any fees or levies charged for licensing or registration or inspection would have gone into the revolving fund. And there's also a number of other organizations and legislation that requires any of these monies are deposited into this same fund and in return used for a number of projects and processes that are carried out by the Department of Agriculture.

So here we are. We're separating one organization out of a fair number that are listed here. The Ag regulations are in this same pool, also Saskatchewan Hatchery regulations, also the Saskatchewan Poultry regulations, *The Animal Identification Act*, and *The Animal Products Act*. So all fees charged for licensing, registration, and inspecting in these areas goes into the same revolving fund.

So what we're seeing is *The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act* that is being repealed, and also *The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act, 1998* . . . sorry I'm repeating the same one. They're being repealed. It's being repealed. And we're seeing the cattlemen's association rolling into a self-regulating organization. So does this cause . . . I guess I'm wondering why the change. And that's maybe an opportunity. I'll have to speak to the minister and ask some questions, what his intent is with the Bill, and what's maybe some of the lobbies that he has received.

But I also wonder if egg producers or poultry producers would also like this same opportunity to be self-regulating, and if there's some opportunity there that might arise out of this initial step being taken with the cattlemen's association.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are still a number of people I am trying to contact to get comments. And I know that there are many of my colleagues that would also like to make comment on this

piece of legislation, or proposed legislation. And with that being said, I would adjourn debate for the day.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

**Bill No. 98 — *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefer:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 98, An Act to amend *The Municipal Financing Corporation Act*.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2008-2009 budget our government introduced the Saskatchewan infrastructure growth initiative as part of our commitment to infrastructure renewal in this province. Mr. Speaker, this initiative provides Saskatchewan municipalities with interest rates subsidies for up to five years on borrowing from private sector financial institutions or from the Municipal Financing Corporation. The interest rate subsidy is available on \$300 million of municipal borrowing, notionally spread over four years.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to tell this House that a Saskatchewan infrastructure growth initiative has been a tremendous success during its first two years. Since program inception, \$139.1 million in borrowing has approved which will support 64 projects in 53 municipalities. With this financing, Mr. Speaker, municipalities are building new subdivisions and upgrading the necessary off-site infrastructure to service these new subdivisions.

Projects approved have contributed to the development of 2,022 residential lots, as well as 5 commercial lot projects, 3 industrial lot projects, and 17 off-site projects to support the new growth. Some examples of projects include residential and commercial lot development in Weyburn, wastewater infrastructure upgrade in Dalmeny, and the intermodal facility in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this initiative is the reason for the introduction of this Bill. To the end of September of 2009, municipalities have borrowed \$68.6 million of these interest-free funds from Municipal Financing Corporation. In conjunction with other financing provided by municipal finance corporation for municipal capital project, MFC [Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan] has increased its debt to 95 million in order to provide this important source of financing.

Mr. Speaker, with approximately \$160 million in financing still eligible to be accessed under the Saskatchewan infrastructure growth initiative, MFC requires an increase in its borrowing limit to enable it to provide financing for future approved growth-related projects.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, this Bill introduces an amendment to

increase the borrowing limit of the Municipal Financing Corporation from 250 million to 350 million, Mr. Speaker. I move second reading of *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009*.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 98, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much. I have the privilege of rising to make some comments on this Bill. And I have to say it's pretty short and pretty easy to have a quick go through, but it does raise a number of areas of concern.

When we look at *The Municipal Financing Corporation Act* . . . and basically what this Bill does, Mr. Speaker, is just raise the maximum that's allowable under the legislation from \$250 million to \$350 million. And the minister, while on his feet, talked about the needs of communities and the borrowing that had been done to build many, many infrastructure projects across the province. And, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't question the need for any of those projects for sure, but what it gets down to is, how much more can the communities borrow?

There are many needs across the province, and I know there has been a number of years of negotiations with the municipalities to look at revenue sharing and how that would be done. And I know last year in the provincial government's budget, it was very well received when we saw that point nine per cent, point nine of 1 per cent, was directed to revenue sharing with the municipalities on an ongoing basis. It was very well received to have that consistent funding and for municipalities, towns, and villages to know that that money was coming in and that their revenue sharing would rise and fall with the fortunes of the province.

Mr. Speaker, this year that was committed that this year that would go to a full point and there would be an increase again in revenue sharing with the municipalities. And my understanding is, is that's where it will remain. Again it was something that was highlighted in the Speech from the Throne — pretty general terms though.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, by my count, that was number 46 of former initiatives that were highlighted in this year's Speech from the Throne. And it talked about how the commitment was to increase municipal revenue sharing by tying those grants to the revenue received through the provincial sales tax. It doesn't give an indication as to whether the percentage, the point nine will actually raise to a full percentage point. So that will be something that the municipalities are looking at this year, especially when we're going into budget time and budget deliberations for the government.

So this really ties to it, because the higher the demands on the municipalities, the more demands there are on infrastructure and them providing the services in their communities. Hence the less revenue sharing, the more borrowing that will need to be done. But, Mr. Speaker, it truly is a vicious circle in that you can borrow the money and you can build the infrastructure. But when push comes to shove, it has to be paid back. And that's



where my concerns rise on this issue, is what's acceptable and how much debt can municipalities handle.

So I hope the minister is looking at that issue. And I know that I do hope that we see the revenue sharing move to the full percentage point when the budget is brought down next spring, because I know the municipalities need that extra revenue and they are looking forward to having that consistent revenue coming in so they are better able to do their budgeting.

But I was concerned to see this Bill, when it put forward the increased borrowing limits under *The Municipal Financing Corporation Act*. And it just gave me cause to kind of stop and think about maybe that money isn't coming. Maybe the province's finances are worse than what we anticipated.

The Minister of Finance will have some indication of what will be coming out in the mid-term financial report which is expected within the next couple of weeks. So if this in some way is preparing for a little bit of belt tightening, we saw when the first quarter financial report was released that there was some serious revenue . . . well inaccurate projections on the revenue side which has caused the government to do some looking at expenditures and doing some belt tightening. I understand that there is restrictions on travel. There is also restrictions on hiring and filling positions. How long that will happen or if it will get worse is something that we will see over the next couple of weeks when that mid-term financial report is released and we see the actual budget numbers.

And it leads me back to this Bill. The more money that the province can support the municipalities with, the less need we will see for them to be able to do some of these large borrowing that's required for some of these bigger projects and projects that are fundamental to the good operation of these municipalities.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think on the whole I understand the reasoning for the increase that is being put into the legislation. Projects are more expensive. Cities and communities are demanding more, and there is a need to accommodate that. But there is also a number of other concerns that go along with it.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, there is a couple of people that I need to speak to. We need to talk to some of our stakeholders in our communities. So with that, I know a number of my colleagues would like to make comments to the Bill and I will adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Moose Jaw has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 98. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

**Bill No. 99 — *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2009***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give second reading of *The Emergency 911 System Act*.

A legislative change is required to *The Emergency 911 System Act* for two reasons. First, as Minister of CPSP, the new legislation will give our ministry the authority to operate and maintain the network.

Second, an amendment to the Act will generate the new radio system into the Sask911 system. Prior to amending *The Emergency 911 System Act*, the legislation described the Sask911 system as a province-wide telephone system. This amendment will recognize that the provincial public safety telecommunications network — or the PPSTN for short — is part of the 911 system, and therefore all of the authorities currently in the Act will extend to the PPSTN as part of the Sask911 system.

With the PPSTN now part of the Sask911 system, this will strengthen the 911 emergency communication system in rural and northern communities and provide a stronger, more reliable connection between dispatch and emergency service providers. The enhanced system will provide for interoperability links between fire services, police services, many government ministries, and other emergency responders, and with the large municipal emergency services operating independent radio systems.

The PPSTN is in the final phases of construction and will replace the SaskTel FleetNet system which is scheduled to be wound down by the end of 2010. With the ministry's plan to migrate users onto the new system as early as 2010-11, the amendment to give us the legislative authority to operate the PPSTN system will enable our ministry to migrate users in early 2010.

I must stress that it is important for CPSP to continue to be responsible for the system. I believe this is necessary as the PPSTN will be used by public safety users for public safety purposes, and the operation of the network directly aligns with the ministry's public safety mandate. I want to emphasize the importance of our provincial interest in this new system. The benefits for all users will be a stronger, more reliable connection between dispatch and emergency service providers along with an affordable province-wide radio system.

Just as important is the interoperability between police, fire, and EMS [emergency medical services]. This will not only provide communities with a more coordinated response to emergencies and enhanced safety for the responding agencies. It will also enable the possibility to . . . [inaudible] . . . a regional response in greater emergency situations.

Having the public safety users on the new provincial network is significant. Many volunteer their time to protect our communities, people, and property, and need this tool to provide their services. As well as being able to deliver their services more effectively, the participation of these users will certainly contribute to the network's overall sustainability. Maintaining a sound, effective public safety radio telecommunications system over the long term will achieve an important obligation — the safety and security of Saskatchewan citizens.

Government has already invested significantly in this system — more than 130 million — and this ministry has provided oversight on all phases of this important public safety project. With the authority to operate the network, we will now be able to ensure that this valuable public safety tool will aid all of our dedicated and professional public safety responders and result in an increase in the safety and security of Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of the emergency 911 systems Act. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2009*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I have to say that it truly is a pleasure to be able to get up and make some comments. And I know you're smiling because I may say that a little bit too much, but I also have a bit of an understanding of some of the work that has gone on behind the scenes over a number of years to put in place the provincial public safety telecommunications network.

And when you first look at the Bill, really it just looks like some housekeeping, other than a couple clauses in the one section in particular that makes some changes and really integrates the public safety telecommunications network, or PPSTN, into the Saskatchewan 911 system.

Mr. Speaker, I know the work and the time and effort it took to put in place 911. I also know a great deal of the work that went on previously with the issues over FleetNet and what would replace FleetNet. And how would that all be put in place and how would it roll out? And how would it give consideration not only for the professional services that are across the province but also the volunteer services that are across the province?

And it becomes the age-old problem that we deal with in many, many issues in Saskatchewan with our just over 1 million population that is spread over a vast geographical area. And how do you provide consistent services, and how do you provide the same level of service right across the province? Because they're all citizens.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I look at this Bill, there is a couple of questions that I do have and a little bit more work I have to do and discussion I have to have with a couple of people. But the changes that were in section 2, when there is some discussion about the 911 system, of course that refers to the telephone system which has always been housed within SaskTel. The fees for that are collected on our land line on our phone bills, cellphone bills also. We see it on those bills monthly, may not notice it.

[15:00]

And as the system has settled in and there was a better understanding of the costs and the needs, those costs have dropped. But now we're seeing an amalgamation of the two in this Bill. The public safety telecommunications network, I would assume, is going to be the title or the name for system as

a whole which would include the 911 telephone system, but also the replacement for FleetNet.

So there is much more to this small piece of legislation than what you might first think. The housekeeping — minor, really just changing department to ministry to accommodate the language that this government uses. And that's understandable. That's the decision that they have made, so we'll probably continue to see those types of changes over the next year anyway while they run across pieces of legislation that will still contain reference to departments.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'll get back to this section 2. And it:

. . . will enable the Minister to:

enter into agreements with government partners on the PPSTN;

So that's the provincial public safety telecommunications network. Not a catchy acronym, I must say, but I'm sure it's one that we will all get used to. They will:

provide programming; and,

access the . . . 911 account for the purposes of strengthening the 9-1-1 emergency communication system and ensuring interoperability between those emergency service providers operating on the PPSTN.

So when I read the words "access the Sask911 account", I would make a bit of an assumption from that. But it sounds like where the funding for 911 has always been maintained through the billing service at SaskTel, they have accounted for that money and covered the costs of the operation which are reimbursed by the fees that are charged. So I'm assuming that that will no longer be the case, that it sounds like that will be transferred to the ministry.

Now I don't know whether that means billing will be maintained the same, whether it will just be an accounting procedure, or whether I'm understanding this inaccurately, Mr. Speaker. But those are all questions that I need to look into and things that I need to ask people that have a little more in-depth working understanding of this issue than I do.

Mr. Speaker, otherwise a majority of this looks like housekeeping, and like I say, what we're seeing is the adjustment of legislation to go from department to ministry. And I don't think that's unexpected by anyone.

I do have to say though, it's going to be an interesting process to see this network roll out. And I was interested especially in the minister's comments talking about migrating users as early as 2010 because it will be good to have a discussion on what exactly is replacing FleetNet and how that will service the needs that are out there.

And there also is a big issue — a big issue — when it comes to municipalities and to some of the volunteer organizations, whether it's volunteer firefighters in smaller communities. There is a need for those communities to be supported in whatever technology and hardware is needed for the switchover

to the new system.

And I've also heard some comments — and I don't know how accurate this is — that the new system that we are going to, I think it was referred to as PS25, is something that there are states in the United States are getting rid of. So I hope that's not the case. And I hope there is clear reasons as to why it may work in one place and not work in those states that I've heard about, and that it will adjust and be suitable to what's needed here in the province of Saskatchewan.

But those are all issues that will come as we begin to talk about this. And I'm sure once this legislation is in place, we'll be able to ask the minister many, many questions about the system, the cost of the system, what the final decisions have been made, how it will fit with the RCMP network and SaskPower and some of the communication systems they have. Also how it will integrate SaskTel and whether it is an overlay onto the towers and the hardware that is already there or if we're going to something totally new.

So I'm pleased to see the ministry take over this project. That may have been a bit of the problem previously was that there were a few too many people passing along opinions on the project. It is complicated but, Mr. Speaker, it's very important.

So I would say, on the surface this looks good to see it all put together. And I'm also very pleased to see that work on the whole next-generation FleetNet is moving ahead.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know there are a number of my colleagues that would like to have an opportunity to speak on this Bill and to make comments of their own. And for now, I will adjourn debate so I can have time to speak to some of the stakeholders involved and gather some other opinions. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

**Bill No. 100 — *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2009***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 100, *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2009*.

Mr. Speaker, the history of our province is rich and diverse. It incorporates peoples and traditions from around the globe. And, Mr. Speaker, an important contribution to our history as a province and as a nation comes from the Doukhobor people.

And, Mr. Speaker, before I get to the Bill, I want to encourage all of my colleagues, if they have a chance next summer to take a trip to Blaine Lake, to see the national historic site, the

Doukhobor Dugout House, Mr. Speaker. I was up there earlier this summer early in my tenure in this position, Mr. Speaker. And certainly I want to encourage all members to experience that for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, the Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund was established by an Act of the legislature in 1980, after the wind-down of the Doukhobor co-operative that operated in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. Since there was no corporate body to hold and administer the fund that resulted from the liquidation of the Doukhobor co-operative, a trust fund was required at the time.

Mr. Speaker, the Act permitted the board of directors to spend interest on the trust fund's investment to further the culture and heritage of the Doukhobors in the three western provinces. Mr. Speaker, according to the latest financial statements that are tabled in the House, there is approximately \$290,000 in the trust fund with yearly average interest earnings of approximately \$12,000 per year.

Mr. Speaker, the government and the Ministry of Tourism, Park, Culture and Sport, our current involvement with the trust fund is limited to approving the board of directors' appointments as recommended by the Doukhobor Society in the three western provinces and also ensuring that the financial statements of the trust fund are tabled in accordance with *The Tabling of Documents Act, 1991*.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe at this time that there is any compelling public policy reason why government should continue to be involved with the trust fund as currently constituted. Government's role in the management of the trust fund is negligible, and the trust fund can continue to fulfill its intended purpose without a legislative framework in place. It will allow for the trust fund to be converted to an ordinary private trust or non-profit. Once the new corporate structure is in place, the Act then can be repealed on proclamation.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport has consulted with the Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund board regarding proposed changes to the Act. We have been informed by them that they will be proceeding to investigate a new corporate structure to administer the trust and feel that they no longer need the assistance of government once this new entity has been established.

Mr. Speaker, with that I am pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 100, *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2009*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport has moved second reading of Bill No. 100, *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2009*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I have to say that I appreciate the comments of the minister just giving a little bit of background on where this Bill originally came from and a bit of background on the trust fund itself. And I have to agree with the minister that Doukhobors of Canada really have added a great deal to our country. And I think it

reminds each and every one of us that it's ever important and vigilant — much the same as our proclamation, the Premier's proclamation today to recognize 2010 as the Year of the Métis — I think it's really incumbent on each and every one of us to make sure that our culture is maintained and celebrated, and that we pass those principles and values and celebrations along to members of our family because it is an important piece of who we are.

And the comments about the Doukhobors of Canada and specifically the trust fund Act, the minister's comments that it was felt that it was no longer needed, that they were looking to transition to a private trust fund and are looking at the process of winding up this actual trust fund that really was overseen by the government, and that they felt that the government's involvement was no longer necessary — those comments really speak very clearly to what's contained in the legislation. Obviously this trust fund has been in a bit of a transition and a bit of a change over the past number of years because it wasn't that many years ago that there was other changes that were enacted. So again we're seeing changes put forward.

And I think to allow for that transition to occur is something that personally most of us don't have any problems with, but I know that there are a couple of folks that I need to touch base with. We have calls that have been placed and conversations that will happen shortly. And with that, Mr. Speaker, until those conversations — and I've done some further investigations, my caucus colleagues and I — I would move that we adjourn debate on this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

**Bill No. 101 — *The Credit Union  
Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to rise in the House today to move second reading of *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*. Mr. Speaker, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* is the result of co-operative efforts of Credit Union Central and ministry officials to complete the first thorough review of *The Credit Union Act, 1998* since it came into force a decade ago.

The Bill will facilitate a number of credit union initiatives, most importantly the creation of a prairie central through amalgamation of Sask central with the credit union centrals of Alberta and Manitoba. Prairie central will have a larger asset and liquidity base in order to ensure that credit unions from across the Prairies have access to the liquidity and other central services that they need to continue their important role in the province's very competitive financial sector.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a history of strong leadership

within the credit union system. The board of directors of a credit union plays a key part in the governance and strategic outlook for the credit union. This Bill contains an amendment that ensures that only people of the highest character and integrity are eligible to be members of a credit union board or to be an incorporator of a new credit union.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will assist credit unions to more efficiently operate their boards and to interact with their memberships by creating a new process for dealing with conflicts of interest on material contracts and clarifying the process for terminating a person's membership in a credit union. Mr. Speaker, this Bill creates a new process that allows a credit union to reapprove a material contract where a conflict of interest is discovered after the initial board approval. Without this amendment, the credit union's only option is to seek an order of the court confirming the contract.

The new process gives the credit union two options to deal with this situation. It can seek the re-approval of the contract through a vote of credit union members followed by a new vote of the board. The credit union still has the option to make a court application if in fact they deem that to be necessary and appropriate.

[15:15]

This Bill clarifies the process for terminating membership in a credit union while maintaining fairness for the person affected. The Act currently allows the former member to appeal to the registrar of credit unions at two points. The new provision continues to allow the former member to request a review by the registrar after exhausting the internal credit union appeal process. When the board of directors of the credit union votes to terminate a person's membership, the person may appeal to the members.

And, Mr. Speaker, while that appears to be a relatively small change, it in fact is a shift in that authority from the registrar back to the credit union itself, which is where in fact that type of authority and decision making should be. The credit unions in our province have got a proud history of handling their own affairs and dealing with their own members in a strong, effective, and efficient manner, and we wish to give them the legislative framework in which to deal.

Mr. Speaker, if the members vote to confirm the termination of the person's membership, the person may request a review of his or her termination by the registrar of credit unions. The registrar then has the ability to confirm or set aside the termination, or in fact return the matter to the board for reconsideration, which follows up on the original position that I stated earlier, where we want to continue to have as much possible control within the individual credit unions' boards.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is indicative of the strong relationship between the credit union system and government. It maintains the balance between flexibility for credit unions in managing their business and the government's ability to oversee this vital and integral part of Saskatchewan's economy. Mr. Speaker, credit union movement in our province is part of the prairie background, and it's part of the fabric of prairie life and prairie businesses in this province.

I would like to commend the individuals at Credit Union Central for the work and assistance that they've given and the good co-operation that they've given my ministry during the last two years. In particular I'd like to mention their CEO, Ken Anderson, who's been very prompt at returning calls and in giving us assistance as we were preparing legislation or dealing with other routine matters dealing with credit union governance. I've had the opportunity to meet with Credit Union Central members and with a number of the employees and have been both pleased and impressed by, not just their co-operation, but their professionalism and their level of competence.

Mr. Speaker, the credit union movement in our province deals competitively with the chartered banks and a number of trust companies that carry on in our province and in our jurisdiction. It's an imperative that the province continue to provide the appropriate legislative framework so that our credit union system can act competitively, retain their fair market share, and deal in an appropriate manner where they're dealing with other financial entities that are regulated at a federal level and have the national clout to compete in a very different manner than what may have taken place in the past.

The banks have always acted in a professional and competent manner. The credit unions have as well. And we just wish to ensure that the framework that they operate in continues to maintain an appropriate and fair balance.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 101, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the Bill and looking at the explanatory notes and actually listening to the minister, I have to agree with him wholeheartedly — and I don't do this very often. I must just be having too good of a day today, Mr. Speaker.

But I have to agree with the minister's comments right at the end of his speech where he talked about the professional manner with which credit unions have operated in this province, and how important they are to the province as a whole, and that they are in a very competitive industry, competing with national banks, international banks, and providing services in a very demanding situation.

Mr. Speaker, I've had an opportunity to go through the Bill and look at the various aspects of what the changes are. And when the minister talked about access to member's lists, clearly defines that and lays out what recourse anyone has if they're accessing a list, what it can and cannot be used for. There is also clarification in a number of areas, not only to who and who cannot be a director. And also, it lays out some clarification on the power of credit unions to provide services to a number of entities within the credit union sphere and their affiliates and substantial investments.

Now it also comments that there may be requirements for further regulations to be provided to add a little more definition.

But, Mr. Speaker, all in all, much of this you could almost class it I think as not only clarifying definition and updating current legislation, but also some of it borders on housekeeping where we're looking at the changes to, I think from president to board Chair to Chair and from vice-president to Vice-Chair. So a number of housekeeping initiatives, a number of clarifications on definition, and qualifications that are required. And also I think one of the most important pieces is the clarification on the conflicts of interest that need to be declared and what happens and how it's dealt with if that doesn't work as smoothly as what it's intended to work, what recourse it is.

So there's a number of areas of concern but, Mr. Speaker, there is also a number of people that I need to speak to, and I know there are a number of my colleagues that also have a great deal of interest in speaking to this Bill, *The Credit Union Act*. And I know that for sure, Mr. Speaker, because I know for each and every one of us, I believe all of us pretty well deal with credit unions — either have in the past or currently or will at some time in the future. They are a major part of who we are in Saskatchewan. They have helped build this province, and I, along with the minister, am always aware that there needs to be an updating in process and procedures and to make sure that the credit unions will remain competitive in this industry that they are so active in.

But I know my colleagues also believe credit unions are important here in Saskatchewan and I know there are many of them that would like to make comments on the changes that have been put forward in the Bill. So at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 101, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### **Bill No. 102 — *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009***

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009*. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009* is firstly to update the language and procedures in *The Personal Property Security Act, 1993* to match the improved procedures and modern terms now utilized in the land titles registry process. And secondly, to address a series of technical, legal issues, including simplification of the "conflict of laws" provisions that are engaged when people or their personal property cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can advise you that this is something that happens not just in a technical sense in our legislation. But as our province grows and matures, there are increasing number of situations where it's imperative that we have to provide financing facilities for corporations that are carrying on

business in a number of jurisdictions. For example, oil wells, oil companies that move equipment back and forth between the various provinces that have oil and they have to ensure that the appropriate documentation filings are done. So this deals with the conflict of laws that arise from variations in legislation from one province or one country to the other because in fact some of the company is carrying on elsewhere.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009* will introduce conflicts of law provisions that will use the jurisdiction of incorporation of the registered head office of a corporation to provide easily determinable rules for establishing jurisdiction in conflicts of law situations. It will also introduce rules to determine location of general partnerships, unlimited partnerships, and trusts for conflicts of law situations.

Mr. Speaker, the Uniform Law Conference of Canada recommended that all personal property security Acts be amended to define the location of the debtor by reference to . . . and in the case of an individual, his or her residence; and in the case of an organization, the jurisdiction in which the debtor is organized. These conflicts of laws rules are recommended both to address an existing gap in the legislation and, secondly, to ensure uniformity between the provinces and substantially the United States with respect to this important area of secured transactions law.

I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that for a lot of people this seems like boring technical trivia, but many people come into contact with this type of legislation on a frequent basis. It's the personal property security registry that deals with liens on an automobile, if you don't pay a garage bill, or if you finance a new car, or if you lease an automobile. All of those things are dealt with through this legislation and through this registry. So in fact many, if not most, of the citizens of our province have a direct interest in it.

And I might add, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the technology and the equipment now being used are such that individuals are capable of doing their own searches online. And the technology has progressed to the point where a person wanting to buy or sell an automobile on the weekend is able to do a lot of those searches without having to wait till office hours on a Monday morning or later on. These searches can be affected by the use of a credit card and an online search.

Mr. Speaker, without these changes and where there is a dispute between parties that crosses provincial or national borders, determining the location of the debtor and the applicable law becomes very difficult. These rules will address that concern.

Mr. Speaker, the current wording of *The Personal Property Security Act, 1993* contains language that has become outdated. The amendments will include language that is consistent with the terminology used in the Saskatchewan personal property registry.

The proposed amendments regarding corporate authority for fees, the elimination of prescribed forms, and the introduction of discretionary powers for the registrar are all based on processes that have been in place with the land titles registry and have been recognized to be effective.

More specifically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the technical changes in this Bill will firstly eliminate the requirement that forms be contained in the regulations. Secondly, provide authority to establish or advise certain fees and use registry information consistent with public policy, Information Services Corporation's customers service objectives, pricing framework, principles and strategy, all of which will be based on similar amendments in *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2008*.

It will also change the requirement on the secured party from providing to the debtor a copy of a financing statement, to providing a copy of the verification statement to reflect changes in the personal property registry system.

It will also update the language regarding registry searches and printed search results to reflect similar language in *The Land Titles Act, 2000*, and it will also introduce discretionary powers for the registrar of the personal property registry similar to the discretionary power given to the registrar of titles pursuant to *The Land Titles Act, 2000*.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has long been the leader in personal property security matters. This is thanks to the leadership provided by Professor Ron Cumming at the University of Saskatchewan. These changes are made in an effort to ensure that Saskatchewan's legislation will remain model legislation in Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can advise that Professor Cumming has long been a professor at the University of Saskatchewan and I suspect taught the member from Saskatoon Meewasin. He taught myself and many of the other people that are members of the legal community and the judiciary.

At the time that I was going to law school it was before *The Personal Property Security Act* came into place. We had to learn legislation such as *The Conditional Sales Act*, *The Bills of Sale Act*, and *The Factors Act*, all which dealt with financing and secure transactions. Thanks to the work of Professor Cumming we now have one consolidated piece of legislation that deals with all of these matters all in one Act. Unfortunately at the time I was going through law school, I not only had to learn the old system, but the new system as well. It was a complex system and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the new changes have served our province well since the time that I graduated from law school.

It is my privilege to move second reading of *An Act to amend The Personal Property Security Act, 1993*.

[15:30]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 102, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's a pleasure this afternoon to be able to rise and add a few comments to *The Personal Property Security Act*. I say a few, because there's a number of things that jumped out at me when I first went through the legislation. But there was also a couple of things that the minister mentioned in his comments

that I didn't get quite as clearly as what he made them out in his comments. So I'm going to have to do some more work on this and look at the further implications.

**An Hon. Member:** — I'd be pleased to stand up and read it again.

**Ms. Higgins:** — No, no, no, that's okay. The minister has offered to stand and read it to me again. But if it gets to be that bad and if I don't have some good sources to call on to give me a better interpretation of the legislation, what I'll do, I'll re-read it in *Hansard* tomorrow. So the minister can just relax for the rest of the afternoon.

I guess, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what normally happens when I see a piece of legislation like this, I kind of wonder what situation we are addressing or if something has arisen or some incident has occurred that has caused some changes to be put forward. Quite often a circumstance will arise where we don't realize the deficiencies of a piece of legislation or what gaps may be in the legislation until we do run across an incident that brings it to light.

So that was my first thought, but there's nothing that really raises a number of alarm bells. Maybe that's just my own suspicious nature, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I've had a look at the Bill and it truly does . . . I mean the minister made the comment that we are clarifying, if moving from province to province, conflicts of law and what an issue that can be.

And I would probably be fairly well founded in making the comment that there isn't one of us in our MLA offices, our constituency offices in our home communities who hasn't dealt with this at one time or another in some circumstance or another. And it is a cause for great frustration when you run into these kind of dead ends. They aren't really brick walls. They just kind of stop, and there is no recourse. And it can be a very frustrating process, not only for the MLA that's trying to help a constituent, but I know even more so for the person who happens to be in this situation.

There have been a number of small steps that have been made over the years in a variety of areas, but for sure more needs to be done. So when the minister says that this will help clarify and help ease some of the issues that can arise in these types of cases, not only province to province but country to country, I would welcome any of those.

I also see that in the legislation and in this world, I guess, that is ever changing when we are going to more online . . . You can do all kinds of things from register for classes at the community college to registering for university to ordering just about anything you could eat, wear, or drive online. So I guess it just makes sense that we would eliminate that forms now need to be contained in regulation, not in this day and age. I think that's pretty well an acceptable practice that we all work online. And if we don't have an opportunity or have access to a computer in our home, or Internet in our home — and I have to say, Mr. Speaker, not necessarily for this for sure, but for many other areas — many of the communities do have access through public libraries and other things, which is important.

But more and more we're seeing forms and all kinds of

opportunities and more and more of our information coming online. So that's totally understandable and acceptable. And like I say, in this world where things are changing drastically, it truly does just make sense to see these types of pieces of legislation updated, modernized, to make sure they are kept relevant and addressing all of the issues that may arise in today's society.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know a number of my colleagues want to make comments on this piece of legislation also, and there are a number of questions that I need to get some better advice on and a better understanding of for sure, to get a better feel for what the legislation will and won't accomplish.

And with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved a motion that the debate be adjourned on Bill No. 102, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 103 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) Amendment Act, 2009***

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) Amendment Act, 2009*. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a Bill that will amend the discipline provisions in 40 of the province's professional statutes to allow disciplinary actions to proceed against former members for a period of two years after they cease to become members.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Saskatchewan the legislation related to over 40 self-regulated professional and occupational groups does not contemplate disciplinary members commencing or proceeding against former members. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill will ensure that disciplinary proceedings may extend to former members for a period of two years.

Currently if the legislation for a regulated profession or occupation does not contemplate discipline of former members, disciplinary proceedings cannot be commenced and any proceedings under way terminate upon the individual terminating his or her membership in the organization. Individuals may currently deliberately terminate their membership or fail to renew their licence in order to avoid disciplinary proceedings and to thwart proceedings that are under way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the amendments will ensure that an individual is not able to stop a disciplinary investigation or proceeding by simply terminating his or her membership in a professional or occupational group. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the amendments will ensure disciplinary actions can continue if a person ceases to be a member, provided that the action is commenced within two years of the time that the person ceases to be a member of that organization or profession.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Saskatchewan six Acts currently extend the scope of disciplinary proceedings to former members for a period of two years from the date they cease to be members. The two-year period provides a fair balance between the ability of the organization or regulatory body to enforce and the certainty for individuals that proceedings will not be commenced years after they cease to be members of an organization.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the new provisions will also help to ensure that a record exists of all disciplinary proceedings against a member or former member which, subject to any restrictions in the Act, will be available as public record, so that future employers and professional associations seeking to hire or license the individual will have access to that.

This is particularly important if the individual being investigated ceases his or her membership in Saskatchewan, but attempts to secure a licence in another province. If the equivalent association in another province inquires with respect to a former member's standing in the association, the disciplinary proceeding may be revealed to assist the other jurisdiction in determining if licensing the individual is appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the disciplinary proceedings that have been commenced are allowed to continue. In some situations it places a cloud over not just the individual, but against the entire profession. It gives the professional body the ability to clean the air, learn anything that may be instructive or beneficial from the disciplinary process which may be of assistance to other members. It may, where appropriate, provide a public denunciation of misconduct. It is clearly in the public interest that this type of action or legislation be brought forward.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) Amendment Act, 2009*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 103, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) Amendment Act, 2009*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to rise and add a few comments to Bill No. 103, *An Act to amend certain Statutes with respect to matters concerning Professional Discipline*.

Mr. Speaker, what you are going to get from me is a very, I guess, a layman's view of the legislation. Not having dealt with this issue on a first-person basis, I have to say I have run into people who have, and had some lengthy discussions. And what this Bill will do is help address — I think the minister touched on it right at the end of his comments — some of the absolute injustice that is done when people, instead of facing discipline or facing some type of hearing with the professional body that they belong to, that they have the ability just to walk away. And everything ends when they terminate their membership.

I have dealt with a couple of people who have had this happen.

And there really is a sense of frustration, not only from others within that profession and within that occupation but also from people who may have been affected by whatever the issue was.

So, Mr. Speaker, while this extends the length of time, is my understanding that a complaint can be investigated or that some type of disciplinary action can be taken, that it extends for two years after the ceasing of that person being a member. Two years does sound like a reasonable amount of time. And I wasn't aware that there were six other Acts that actually extend the same type of opportunity for other professions, that they have the two-year time limit in it. So I think important to have a look at those Acts and see how that works in a number of areas.

Also looking at the Bill, Mr. Speaker, there are over 40 professions and Acts that are listed within this piece of legislation. And I'm wondering if the minister had opportunity to do consultation with each of these groups — if there was comments that were back, if they were all supportive of the changes being introduced, and if there were any concerns.

I think as we move along through this piece of legislation there will be probably comments that we will receive. And I know we are seeking a number of comments back from a number of these organizations to hear what they have to say — if they feel this is appropriate, if the two years is too long, too short, if there's something else that needs to be addressed. And it's always important that we make sure that if there are issues that are connected to this . . . It may not be this cut and dried. There might be some other issues that need to be addressed while the legislation is open.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think in general this is something that I think most members are comfortable with. We will see as discussions continue over the course of the session. And I know as we have an opportunity to speak to stakeholders in this area and members of the various professions that are listed in this legislation, it will give us a clearer light if this is acceptable and if the two years is an appropriate amount of time.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this point in time I would adjourn debate on this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 103, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

[15:45]

**Bill No. 104 — *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)***

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*.



Mr. Speaker, this Act amends *The Summary Offences Procedure Act, 1990* to allow service of tickets by mail in circumstances where the tickets cannot reasonably be served at the time of the offence. Some examples are, where charges cannot be laid for a moving traffic offence until accident reconstruction has been done; where a citizen complains an offence has occurred and the police investigate the matter before issuing a ticket; where a mistake on a ticket means it must be withdrawn and reissued; and also for abandoned vehicle charges. Many hunting, fishing, and parks offences require additional investigation after initial observation of the situation by a peace officer or complaint from a member of the public.

Personal, on the spot service will continue to be used in most cases. But in situations where a ticket cannot reasonably be served at the time of the offence, peace officers must find and serve the ticket on the person charged who may live in another part of the province or, in fact, in another province or country. Currently in these circumstances, peace officers in the area where the offence occurred must send the ticket to enforcement personnel in the place where the person being charged with the offence resides so that the person can be found and, in fact, personally served with a ticket. This is time-consuming and can be expensive. In the case of hunting and fishing offences, a significant number of tickets are issued to out-of-province and out-of-country offenders.

The proposed provision authorizes regulations that will provide for the specific method of service; that is, either by certified mail or by registered mail. This change responds to a request from the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police that the province consider allowing service of any ticket by mail where on-the-spot service is not possible or reasonable. This change could result in a significant reduction of police time spent arranging for personal service by or for another enforcement agency.

An accompanying change will allow for a hearing after conviction where the person was convicted in a trial without the person being present, and the person says that they did not receive the tickets sent by mail. Providing for a hearing after a conviction gives the accused an opportunity to say that service did not occur, and thus the person did not have the opportunity to be heard at trial or to ask the judge for a lower fine.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 104, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — I'm trying to hurry it along. I apologize, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I was a little quick to my feet. The members are anxious.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to stand and make comment on the summary offences procedure Act. The minister's comments were interesting. And when he talked about the various offences and where the difficulties may lie, and also really the better use

of police officers' time, could be RCMP too. I know he made a couple of comments there that I didn't quite catch.

But really the big change is, in this legislation, is having the opportunity to serve summons or offence notice by mail. And there also is a section within the legislation which talks about the issue that if no notice is received, I mean, it would be served at last known address. And there is an appeal, and I believe it's an alternate hearing process that will occur if that happens to occur that you do not receive the notice by mail.

The minister seemed to be quite comfortable with this legislation. I guess he would be; otherwise he wouldn't have brought it forward. But I guess there will be a number of people that will have more questions amongst my colleagues. We had a quick conversation on this the other day, and I know that many believe this is the way we need to go, that police time could be used much better, resources could be utilized much more efficiently if some of these changes were made.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, not all people for sure believe that way, so I know we will have a bit of discussion when the legislation as it moves through the House. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I know there are a number of my colleagues that also wish to make comments on this legislation. And at this time I will adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved adjourned debate on Bill No. 104, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This House now stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:52.]

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall .....	3431
McCall .....	3431, 3433
The Speaker .....	3431
Nilson .....	3431
Chisholm .....	3431
Belanger .....	3432
Draude .....	3432
Trew .....	3432
Morgan .....	3432
Vermette .....	3432
Harpauer .....	3433
Wotherspoon .....	3433
Michelson .....	3433
Cheveldayoff .....	3433
Iwanchuk .....	3433
Yates .....	3434

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

Forbes .....	3434
Vermette .....	3434
Brotten .....	3434
Morin .....	3434
Iwanchuk .....	3434
Taylor .....	3435
Wotherspoon .....	3435

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

<b>Year of the Métis</b>	
Kirsch .....	3435
McCall .....	3435
<b>Outside City Workers' Local Celebrates Anniversary</b>	
Wotherspoon .....	3435
<b>2010 World Junior Hockey Championships</b>	
LeClerc .....	3436
<b>Winston Knoll Students Participate in Science Events</b>	
Morin .....	3436
<b>Members' Responsibilities</b>	
McMillan .....	3436
<b>Montgomery School Makes Top School List</b>	
Chartier .....	3437

#### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

<b>Relevance of Responses and Decorum</b>	
The Speaker .....	3437

#### QUESTION PERIOD

<b>Public Safety Procedures</b>	
Yates .....	3437
Huyghebaert .....	3437
<b>Severance of Public Servants</b>	
Taylor .....	3438
Morgan .....	3438
<b>Workplace Safety Issues</b>	
Iwanchuk .....	3439
Norris .....	3439
<b>Support for Seniors' Centres</b>	
Atkinson .....	3440
Cheveldayoff .....	3440
McMorris .....	3441
<b>Forestry Sector Issues</b>	
Furber .....	3441
Heppner .....	3441

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

<b>Bill No. 105 — <i>The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
Cheveldayoff .....	3442

<b>Bill No. 106 — <i>The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act</i></b>	
Cheveldayoff.....	3442
<b>Bill No. 607 — <i>The Public Safety, Security and Protection Act</i></b>	
Yates.....	3442
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 97 — <i>The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
Bjornerud .....	3443
Higgins .....	3443
<b>Bill No. 98 — <i>The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
Gantefoer.....	3444
Higgins .....	3444
<b>Bill No. 99 — <i>The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
Huyghebaert.....	3445
Higgins .....	3446
<b>Bill No. 100 — <i>The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
Duncan.....	3447
Higgins .....	3447
<b>Bill No. 101 — <i>The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)</i></b>	
Morgan .....	3448
Higgins .....	3449
<b>Bill No. 102 — <i>The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
Morgan .....	3449
Higgins .....	3450
<b>Bill No. 103 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
Morgan .....	3451
Higgins .....	3452
<b>Bill No. 104 — <i>The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)</i></b>	
Morgan .....	3452
Higgins .....	3453

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

---

**Hon. Brad Wall**  
**Premier**  
**President of the Executive Council**

**Hon. Bob Bjornerud**  
Minister of Agriculture  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Crop Insurance Corporation

**Hon. Bill Boyd**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Power Corporation  
Minister Responsible for Uranium Development  
Partnership  
Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Research Council

**Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff**  
Minister of Enterprise  
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

**Hon. June Draude**  
Minister Responsible for Crown Investments  
Corporation  
Provincial Secretary  
Minister Responsible for Information Technology Office  
Minister Responsible for Information  
Services Corporation  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Government Insurance  
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**  
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport

**Hon. Rod Gantfoer**  
Minister of Finance  
Government House Leader

**Hon. Donna Harpauer**  
Minister of Social Services

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

**Hon. Nancy Heppner**  
Minister of Environment  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Water Corporation

**Hon. Bill Hutchinson**  
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations  
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Gaming Corporation

**Hon. D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert**  
Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

**Hon. Ken Krawetz**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Education

**Hon. Don McMorris**  
Minister of Health

**Hon. Don Morgan**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Telecommunications

**Hon. Rob Norris**  
Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour  
Minister Responsible for Immigration  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan  
Workers' Compensation Board

**Hon. James Reiter**  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Transportation Company

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Government Services  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Liquor and Gaming Authority  
Minister Responsible for the Capital Commission