



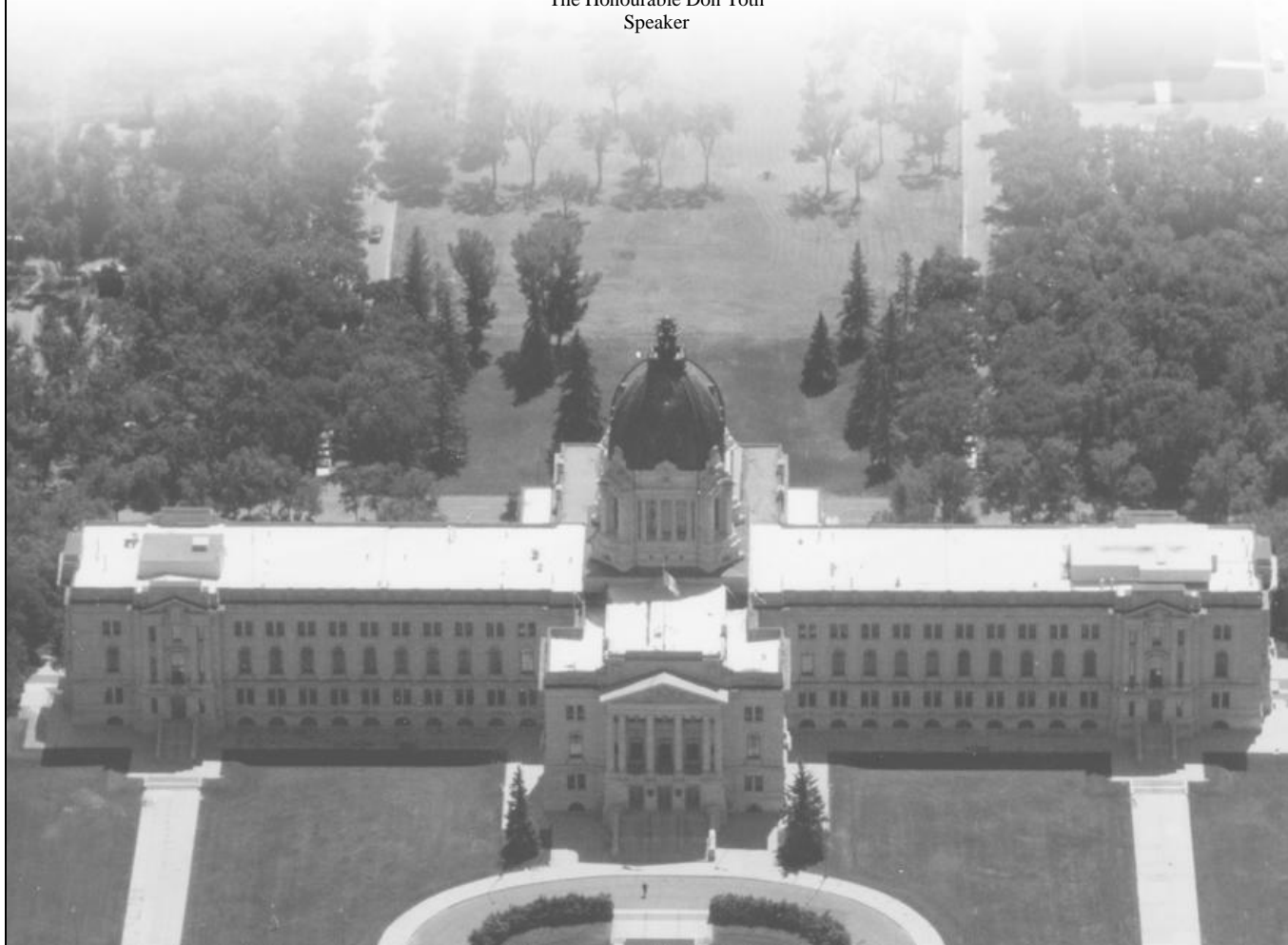
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



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[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

EVENING SITTING

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

**Bill No. 117 — *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping
Heritage Act*
(continued)**

The Speaker: — Debate will resume on Bill No. 117. I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Mr. Furber: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to resume debate on Bill 117, and I'll spend the last three or so hours of my speech talking about the real guts of this one-page Bill because there are very serious implications. Now I would be remiss — because I had a lot of time to think about it over dinner hour, and I practised my three-hour speech at the dinner hour and condensed it, but I would be remiss — if I didn't mention some experiences I had growing up with some very impressive hunters.

Now every fall you could count on a visit from a friend of ours that lived across the street. And he would invariably stop by and open the door without knocking and run up the stairs with his overalls that used to be white and were now absolutely blood soaked. And he'd be bragging about the deer he just shot and was in the back of his truck, and did we want to come over and have a look at it. And it always made my mom frustrated because he didn't care that he had his boots on at the time, crawling up the stairs. But we always went out there and had a look and were very impressed and excited that he was excited about what he was doing. And that was hunting. And he always went to the northeast part of the province to do it.

And what I didn't know at the time, what we learned recently is that Wayne and Sue Schigol used to live across the street from us in Prince Albert. She ended up being the head of the Saskatchewan Outfitters Association, Wayne's wife. And so we've had experiences dealing with different folks who have engaged in hunting, fishing, and trapping. And like I'd mentioned earlier, I'd done much of it myself and had personal experience with it.

Now an interesting aspect to this Bill, right after the short title, is that "A person has the right to hunt, fish and trap in accordance with the law as it exists from time to time." Now I find it interesting that you could ask to enshrine in the legislation an Act that commands that a person has the right to hunt, fish, and trap in accordance with the law when it took Métis peoples in Saskatchewan years to get the same rights to their traditional territory. And truthfully, those rights are still evolving as we speak.

And so you have a Bill here that speaks directly to honouring hunting, fishing, and trapping in Saskatchewan and it creates a day that's designated as a heritage day and it enshrines in the

legislation that a person has the right to do these things. But there are groups of folks who have traditional rights — and as I'd mentioned, the government has the duty to consult with them and hasn't done that — and their own rights are still evolving as we speak. So I do find that interesting.

Now you might also want to talk about where a Bill originates. What's the impetus for bringing a Bill forward? Now it appears that this Bill copies some laws that were brought forward by right wing organizations in the United States. It's not clear who brought this forward, and so we'll be asking questions certainly in committee about what the impetus of the Bill was, and what exactly they want to establish when they mention that "A person has the right to hunt, fish and trap in accordance with the law as it exists from time to time."

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 117. Thank you. Oh, sorry . . . [inaudible] . . . Sorry.

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With the permission of the Assembly I want to enter the debate on the Bill 117, *An Act respecting Hunting, Fishing and Trapping*.

And, Mr. Speaker, as you know, myself and the member from Prince Albert, the good member from Prince Albert — because there is one member that we don't really agree should be there — but nonetheless, the good member from Prince Albert and the member from Cumberland, as well as myself, we are totally familiar with the issues around hunting, fishing, and trapping.

And, Mr. Speaker, while at the outset . . . [inaudible] . . . this Act that talks about the need to respect the hunting, fishing, and trapping, I want to enter the debate and talk a bit about northern Saskatchewan and what they view in relation to the whole notion of this Act as it makes the reference of respecting fishermen, trappers, and hunters.

Mr. Speaker, growing up in northern Saskatchewan, I had the extreme pleasure of living off the land as a result of many people that taught me how to do that and many people that actually had their families survive just living off northern Saskatchewan lands. And, Mr. Speaker, throughout time I can remember, as a young lad, my father hunting, and my uncles, and many of my friends' families out fishing and many, many people trapping. And the most amazing thing, Mr. Speaker, is that these economies — hunting, fishing, and trapping — they sustained a lot of northern and Aboriginal communities. Because there are many people that are not Aboriginal that make northern Saskatchewan their home. And with all due respect to them, I don't want to ignore their role as northern Saskatchewan people.

But, Mr. Speaker, throughout time, as in southern Saskatchewan and more so in northern Saskatchewan, the whole notion of hunting, fishing, and trapping has been a way of life for northern Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, as you look through the history of Western Canada and the country itself, the fur trade era really ushered in a lot of exploration. It ushered in a lot of pioneers. It ushered in

a lot of people that travel from throughout the world, throughout the globe, to travel to northern Saskatchewan, northern Alberta, northern BC, and Western Canada in general to do exactly what the Act talks about — to hunt, to fish, and more so to trap.

And today, Mr. Speaker — a lot of people may not believe this — there are a lot of trappers that are still very, very involved with their trade. They are also teaching their young people. I know a lot of people, older people are showing younger people in the school system how to trap, how to properly set the traps, and what to look for. And there's really a lot of education happening around the notion of hunting, fishing, and more so trapping.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, when I talk about the fur history that people often make reference to, some people said that the fur industry began 100 years ago, 175 years ago. Certainly from the perspective of the Aboriginal people it began many, many centuries ago as that's how they were able to survive the cold, harsh climate of Canada. And it's really truly through the efforts of trapping and using the animals to survive.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that when you look at the history, you look at the importance of trapping and hunting and fishing throughout northern Saskatchewan, what the Sask Party does, it puts up a Bill and says, oh we want to respect those particular aspects of hunting, fishing, and trapping. So we want to proclaim this Bill as an Act to respect that, respect those industries. And, Mr. Speaker, proclaiming an Act such as Bill 117 through this Bill and actually following up and following through are two totally different stories, Mr. Speaker, two totally different stories.

Now one of the examples that I made reference here to the fishing aspect — let me take the fishing aspect as an example, Mr. Speaker, a good example. In northern Saskatchewan, we have a really exciting opportunity in the commercial fishing industry. As people know, we have commercially fished many of our lakes throughout time. The commercial fishing industry was a very strong, vibrant industry and many, many families survived on that particular activity in that particular industry. And, Mr. Speaker, it was during the '30s and the '40s, I believe, that people knew, people knew that the commercial fishing industry was very strong. There was a market for the commercially caught fish.

As you look at northern Saskatchewan with the pristine lakes, with all the lakes that are out there and all the different types of fish, that people in the rest of the world really wanted to have some northern Saskatchewan fish to eat. So as a result of that, the commercial fishing industry was very vibrant and many, many families survived over many, many years as a result of the commercial fishing industry itself.

And this Bill talks about fishing. So one of the things that I think is very important is to remind that government, the Sask Party government, that if you're going to put Acts like this to respect fishing, then you better be comprehensive, you better be in consultation with many, many groups as it relates to not only sport fishing, but commercial fishing as well. And I'm assuming and I'm hoping and I'm praying, Mr. Speaker, that when they have the notion of *An Act respecting Hunting,*

Fishing and Trapping, that part of that Act also includes respect for commercial fishing that many, many families have certainly survived over the years and continue to do so today.

Now, Mr. Speaker, over the last several months, this particular government decided in their wisdom and in particular the Minister of the Environment, I believe, got up and said that her plan was to get rid of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. And for brevity, just for the sake of being brief in my presentation — which I'm known for — I want to use the initials FFMC. So FFMC really is the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

This corporation was established a number of years ago so that they're able to . . . Instead of having 20, 30, 40 fish buyers that could really manipulate the fish price and to really put the commercial fishermen at a disadvantage, the province and the federal government all agreed to establish the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. And the FFMC's role was to not only gather the fish, but they have it inspected to process the fish and to market the fish.

And, Mr. Speaker, this Act talks about fishing. So as a result of the commercial fishing industry, FFMC was created, and a lot of people were at the time quite pleased that they had a central body. They had a central organization that worked on their behalf to market, to collect, and of course to inspect and to package all their commercially caught fish, not only in Saskatchewan but Alberta and Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

Now this government comes along and says, okay, the people, some of the fishermen want to get rid of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, FFMC. We will then turn around and we will say we're opting out of the FFMC marketing plan; Saskatchewan by 2011 will opt out. And certainly from the perspective of Saskatchewan, they have that ability to opt out, and no longer will be forcing our fishermen to have to deal through a Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation as a monopoly in terms of where you can sell your fish and who can market and sell fish throughout Canada and the world.

So they said, okay, commercial fishermen, we'll get rid of FFMC by 2011. So fishermen were calling me. Some of them were confused, saying, well we know we have to kind of hold FFMC accountable, but the fact of the matter is we're not getting the prices we want, so I guess, where do we go from here? So what I told the commercial fishing industry is, well I would hope, I would hope that if the Saskatchewan Party government is going to get rid of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation that takes your fish from Saskatchewan and from other western points and markets it on your behalf, if they take away that opportunity to work with FFMC, I pray that they're going to put some money in for you guys to do your own processing, your own marketing and packaging.

[19:15]

So, Mr. Speaker, when the minister made it, made the bold announcement they're going to move away from FFMC, the next question we had is, how much are they prepared to put in to help the commercial fishing industry build this industry, process their fish, package their fish, inspect their fish, and then

certainly market their fish? I looked through all the budget documentation and not one red, single cent was set aside for the commercial fishing industry. Their only option was to get rid of FFMC. And guess what? There's no money attached to it. No money whatsoever to help the commercial fishermen find their way through the whole notion of trying to look for new opportunities and new markets that did not involve FFMC.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we look through all the documents, public accounts, the budgets, and we found out that this government, really the only solution to the problem was get rid of FFMC. And what happens after that to the commercial fishing industry, well it's anybody's guess. It's anybody's guess what's going to happen. Not one red cent to any of these guys to help with the commercial fishing industry and the development of their industry. And, Mr. Speaker, they pretend to bring Bills like this to show what I think is really is false statements in the sense of trying to show respect to an industry such as fishing, and in this regard the commercial fishing industry itself.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I did have the opportunity to travel to Winnipeg and to meet with FFMC on numerous occasions, and we talked to the president there at the time. There was one president we spoke to, his name was Mr. Hand. Another president that we most recently spoke to was Mr. Wood. And they, of course, run FFMC. And they have operations in the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan, a little bit in Alberta, but most of their activity happens in the Winnipeg area. Lake Winnipeg I guess produces most of the fish that they process and market. So their home base is probably 80 per cent, maybe 75 per cent of the volume of fish that they process at the Winnipeg plant.

And when we talked about the issues around the commercial fishing industry, I asked Mr. Wood the question: how important are the fishermen in Saskatchewan to FFMC? Exactly how much volume of fish do we send you guys each and every year? Because according to this new government that doesn't have a clue what they are doing when it comes to the fishing industry, they want to get rid of you guys. They want to get rid of FFMC.

And the question that I asked him is how much volume does Saskatchewan send to Winnipeg to make up what FFMC handles on an annual basis. And it's bit surprising because I thought the number was higher, but he said 12 per cent. Roughly 12 per cent of our total volume here in Winnipeg we get from Saskatchewan-based commercial fishermen. Now that 12 per cent is . . . Certainly the bulk of our operation's around Lake Winnipeg. So we want to make sure we try and keep that 12 per cent.

So the next question I asked him was, well if the 12 per cent is interrupted, what then happens? What then happens? And he said, well we want to keep it because no CEO [chief executive officer] is worth their salt if they turn away 12 per cent of their volume of business. So his first priority as a president was, you wanted to keep it.

And the problem is if you guys — the Saskatchewan Party — opt out, guess what? You don't have that guaranteed 12 per cent from Saskatchewan, thereby allowing FFMC to shrink by that amount and really putting at risk the commercial fishing industry, not just in Saskatchewan, but throughout Western

Canada, without having a backup plan in place.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I then ask the question is that, why aren't we doing more for the commercial fishermen in Saskatchewan? Why aren't we doing the things that we think are important to develop the commercial fishing industry? And the response I got is, more could be done. More could be done.

But when you throw down the gauntlet of saying no more FFMC connection for Saskatchewan, without putting any money where your mouth is in terms of trying to help develop this industry, what it's saying is now the industry is on its own. It's at the mercy of private buyers. And guess what? We're not going to put any money in there to help protect the commercial fishing industry in our province, in our province.

So the first plan of action is get rid of FFMC by next year, 2011, and no money to help the commercial fishermen navigate these uncharted waters for the last 30, 40 years in which they have to not only make sure their fish are properly processed and that they're properly handled as CFIA [Canadian Food Inspection Agency] standards, but they're also marketed properly.

And, Mr. Speaker, the fishermen in Saskatchewan don't have no processing plant, they certainly don't have no marketing firm waiting for them to come along and help them, and they don't have no dollars to get that economy or that particular aspect of their economy moving, as they hope and that they aspire to do.

So this Act, this Bill that talks about the fishing, the respect for fishing — it's not worth the paper it's written on because you guys didn't put one red cent to back up this particular Bill. And I say shame on all of you. Shame because what you're doing, what our theory is, what our theory is you guys are doing this to set up the commercial fishing industry for failure, and once you set it up for failure . . . And the minister could laugh because she finds that pretty funny. The minister can laugh because once you set it up for failure, then you can move in all your corporate buddies or your American business partners. They'll come take over the sport fishing industry and kick the commercial fishermen out of these lakes. That's what I think your plan is, madam.

So, Mr. Speaker, the minister could laugh from her seat and say not so, but look around. There's no money attached to your plan to get rid of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. You're going to boot them out. And if they deserve to be booted out, let them be booted out. But if you don't have a backup plan, then obviously you don't care for the commercial fishermen and you don't care for the fishing industry in general. So this Act, this Bill 117 is not worth the paper it's written on.

And about the best thing I can do with this Bill, the best value I could see for this Bill and the paper that it's written on is to start a fire in my home, in my fireplace, and keep my house warm. And that's about the only thing it's good for, is to start the kindling burning because it isn't worth the paper it's written on, Mr. Speaker.

So I would say to you, to the minister, and to the government in relation to Bill 117, that the Sask Party did not consult. They

just reacted very quick, saying, okay FFMC, you're gone; 2011, you're gone. But guess what? We have no action plan in place to help you develop your own fishing resource. We have no action plan to help you develop a processing plant. We have no money to help you market this fish. Guess what, you guys? You guys have to find those partners on your own.

And now the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation says, well if we're booted out of Saskatchewan, if we're no longer allowed to work with the commercial fishing industry in Saskatchewan, then we have to make sure we protect our own customer base. So they're not about to say to the commercial fishermen in Saskatchewan, here's our marketing access. Here's all our information. Here's our contacts. I guess you guys can go ahead and try and see if you can get these customers. The Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has to protect themselves. So they're not about to share all that information.

So the minister says Freshwater is out. But guess what? No money set aside for the commercial fishing industry in northern Saskatchewan and in Saskatchewan in general. Because you look through their budget: not one red cent.

So, Mr. Speaker, that leaves me the alternative to having no government support for the commercial fishing industry, and say, okay, where do we go from here? Is there opportunity in the private sector? Well generally the rule of thumb — and I tell a lot of commercial fishermen this — generally the rule of thumb, if you're going to a private investor or a group of investors, guess what? They're going to control where they put their investment dollars in. They're going to dictate how these dollars are spent. They're going to manage these dollars how they want those dollars managed. And quite frankly, when it comes to control, when it comes to the profits, it's going to go to the investors that put the most money in.

And in this case, Mr. Speaker, it isn't going to be the commercial fishermen because they simply don't have the money of that magnitude to try and control their own industry. In a perfect world, Mr. Speaker, if they had the money, they had the connections, they had the market, they had the plan, they could do wonderful things. But these guys simply took away one tool that they could've used or could've learned from — that's FFMC — and left them no tools to work with when it came to the protection of their commercial fishing industry, Mr. Speaker. And I say shame. And I say shame, shame on the minister and shame on that party for letting these guys . . . for cutting their ties and letting them float out there, hoping somebody comes along to help them save that industry.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say today to many of the commercial fishermen out there that yes, we made a decision to not deal with FFMC. Every person should respect that decision, but if somebody comes along and gets rid of FFMC without no backup plan and dollars to help you achieve what you want, then you are being set up, and being set up badly, Mr. Speaker.

So everywhere I go, everywhere I go I tell the fishermen one thing. The Sask Party got rid of the FFMC; it's supposed to help you guys out. Did they put their money where their mouth is? The answer is absolutely not.

So it leads me to believe today that you guys have no intention

of backing up the commercial fishermen in any way, shape, or form. No intention. You'd rather move in people from other places, that they come along and to take that fish resource, try and spin it off to a tourism opportunity in which the commercial fishermen are no longer in control and no longer have the benefit of the fish stocks in northern Saskatchewan. And I say that today, that that's what I believe. That's been the plan from day one.

Then all along you come along and you bring this so-called an Act to support and respect the fishing industry. This paper isn't worth the ink it's written on. I've said it four times and I'll keep saying it for the rest of the evening if I can, Mr. Speaker.

Now I'll look at the issue again on the cost. Does the minister have any idea what it costs to build a processing plant? Does the minister have any idea what it costs to get your CFIA certification on food processing? Does the minister have any idea what it costs to actually get all the necessary equipment, and equipment has been proven and is safe for food production? Does the minister have any idea what it costs to market these fish? Does the minister have any idea that you have to have a certain amount of volume — it means you guarantee that volume going through this plant to make it sustainable — to make it profitable?

The answer to all those questions is, she doesn't have a clue. She doesn't have a clue what it takes to get this industry going. So why is it you're meddling, meddling in those affairs without putting money where your mouth is? Put money where . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order, order. I just want to remind the member the member is supposed to address the floor through the Chair and is not to bring into question members directly. You can speak about the government or a ministerial position but not the member directly. I recognize the member.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel fairly passionate about this issue and then when you see Bills of this sort you certainly want to . . . I'll always follow the rules but I'll point out, Mr. Speaker, that when you put Bills of this sort that don't really respect the people that you're trying to point out that you're respecting, then obviously it'd have to be called and called to account for their wording.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'll give the minister somewhat of an idea, through you, what the costs are to establish a plant. I think based on some of the information that I received, you're looking at anywhere between 10 and 12 million bucks just for the plant. Now you obviously have to have CFIA involved because if you're going to be processing this fish there's certain guidelines, and they're very, very strict guidelines. Food processing is a very, very tough business, as people would know, and that in itself is a huge, huge cost factor.

And so once you've got the plant, once you have CFIA on board, then you've got to do one thing, is to market it. And when you get these customers and you're able to find customers — which is a very tough business — then you've got to make sure that you have the supply because if there is the demand for your product out there, then you better have the supply. Because if you don't guarantee the supply, then customers that would normally come to you and get the fish from you are

going to say, well you promised me X amount of volume of fish and I'm not getting it, so I've got to go somewhere else and I've got to get that fish from somebody else.

So, Mr. Speaker, it really is a worrisome trend that I see when I talk about this notion of Bill 117, *An Act respecting Hunting, Fishing and Trapping*. In no way, shape, or form, Mr. Speaker, no way, shape, or form though I see any notion that this government or this minister respects the fishing industry in any, any shape or form.

[19:30]

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to share with the members of the Assembly the names of individuals that have contacted me this past week, and these individuals are from the Dillon area, Buffalo River First Nations, otherwise known as Dillon. They work in concert and co-operation with the Buffalo Narrows fishermen. And these four fishermen — and, you know, I want to make sure I don't give out their names — these four fishermen contacted me and said, what recently happened, Buckley, member from Athabasca, what happened last week was we lost our cheques.

What happens is we go to the fish plant, we deliver our fish. We mark our fish properly. And then when we go to get our cheques, we're told that the cheques have been seized. And they have been seized by the government, by SERM [Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management]. And I think last week — and I could stand being corrected, but I'm pretty certain that — the amount that was seized from two or three fishermen was well over \$10,000. Mr. Speaker, \$10,000. And what happened was SERM didn't go there and take the cheques from the fishermen. They went to the fish plant and basically said, all the cheques are to be given to us. And then they left. So when the fishermen come along to pick up their cheques, the fish plant manager told them that you can't take your cheques.

And these are the guys that worked. They got up early in the morning. They went to . . . It cost them money to get the fish out. They paid their workers. They paid for gas. And they worked really hard because it's a very tough industry. They've done all these things. And then when it's time for them to get paid, they go to the fish plant to get their pay, they're told that the cheque has been taken. The cheque has been taken by SERM and by the Saskatchewan Party government.

And what I told them — all the fishermen in the Dillon area that lost fish, that lost money because SERM took away their fish — is, quite frankly, this government is so broke that they're hoping that the commercial fisherman like the four in Dillon that lost their cheques, they're hoping that they'll pay off this deficit from this government, Mr. Speaker.

So today I'm challenging the minister: why don't you give back those commercial fisherman their cheques? They worked hard. They paid their fishermen. They paid all the costs attached with this industry. And these guys come along and they take their cheque and they take food out of the children's mouth, the grandchildren's mouth. They take money away from this family.

And, Mr. Speaker, these commercial fishermen from Dillon are

very, very upset and that's putting it mildly. And when they contacted me, they were quite upset with this minister and this government. Because quite frankly, their fish that they caught — they paid helpers, they paid fuel, they paid all the costs attached to this — they worked hard for that money, and what do they get paid? Oh, the cheque has been confiscated by the government, by that Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

So today I'm joining them and I'm asking the minister to return that money and return that pay to those commercial fisherman because that is the right thing to do. And what they did was just totally unconscionable and was very disrespectful. And they really got people, a lot of people very, very upset, Mr. Speaker.

So again I would challenge the minister to do the right thing. If this Act is about respecting commercial fishing and respecting the trappers, then do the right thing and start working with them as opposed to taking their cheques from them to help cover your deficit, Mr. Speaker. You're going to have to catch tonnes and tonnes and tonnes of fish to help cover that deficit created by the Sask Party. And I say to them today that they shouldn't expect the commercial fisherman to start backfilling some of your mismanagement in your budget.

Mr. Speaker, again these are some of the examples of how they cut Freshwater loose: of how they have not put money into their plan; of how, I believe, they're trying to get rid of the commercial fishing industry in Saskatchewan; of how, I believe, they're giving away land, they're giving away allocations. They're giving all these resources away, and the northern people are sitting there wondering what's going on.

But the minister comes along and says, oh here, I have a Bill. This Bill says we're going to respect hunting, fishing, and trapping. And that's why I say today this Bill isn't worth the paper it's written on because quite frankly there is no intention by that minister or this government to respect any of the people that they talk about in here, Mr. Speaker.

Again I point out a couple more examples on the commercial fishing file. The industry itself has worked very closely with a number of groups and a number of people. And even the COs [conservation officers], they worked quite closely with them. And over the years, the commercial fisherman worked very hard. They've always sustained their industry and they've always defended their industry. And, Mr. Speaker, it's an industry that really has a lot of benefit to northern people. There are a lot of Aboriginal fisherman and a lot of non-Aboriginal fisherman. But the northern people really benefit from this industry.

And our lakes are pristine. The fish are fresh, and people want them. So we look at all these attributes of the commercial fishing industry, and you wonder why would a government that claims to respect them through an Act like this turn around and do some of these things to the commercial fishers that are out there throughout the North.

Because I say to them, their plan was to never support them. Their plan was to set them up and to destroy the commercial fishing industry. What they want to do, then they can bring in their buddies to take over all the fish stock in northern Saskatchewan and turn it all to sport fishing industry. And, Mr.

Speaker, the fishermen are a lot brighter than that. And they know the game and they know what's going on.

So again I would ask the minister for the fourth time in two days, will she return those cheques that she confiscated from the four fishermen in Dillon that was done a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Speaker? That's my challenge to her, if she's serious about this notion attached to the Bill respecting commercial fishermen. And I say to them that she's not, and she isn't going to do it. And you can just make sure to keep that information and share the information to all the people and to all the fishermen in their area.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out again, you look at the notion of the Act itself and hunting, and this is a good example in hunting as well. And I'll shift gears here a bit. You look at what happened recently through the Department of Agriculture. The minister talks about the respect to hunt. And what we find out is that the Minister of Agriculture turned around and took away wildlife habitat lands without consulting with the Minister of the Environment.

Now I think these guys should get their act together and figure things out. You don't remove wildlife habitat protection lands if you want to respect hunting. I think wouldn't you rather enhance those lands that you are trying to keep, as opposed to trying to reduce the amount of lands that you have available for habitat? And, Mr. Speaker, a lot of the Crown lands that the Minister of Agriculture has sold or given away as a result of these lands becoming not Crown lands but private lands now, now they can become posted, and as a result that means less hunting. So you have more lands that's posted. Isn't that generally means there's less hunting?

So I think before the minister brings Bills out of this sort to talk about the respect to . . . or an Act to respect hunting and fishing and trapping, once again we've seen totally different direction by this government by Bills that they pretend to put forward to try and fool people, Mr. Speaker.

So I would ask the minister where in this whole notion is the respect to defend and support hunting, when all you've done was remove wildlife habitat lands from protection, all you've done is sold off Crown land, all you've done is destroyed commercial fishing. Every single action that you've undertaken quite frankly shows that you're not interested. Nor do you respect fishing, trapping, or hunting.

So that's why, as an opposition member, I tell people throughout the North that what these guys say and what they do are two radically different things, Mr. Speaker. Two radically different things. Their actions do not follow through with some of the wording that they use in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

So I'm going to say it, Mr. Speaker. I've said it once in Cree. I've just told the people of northern Saskatchewan, those that fish and trap for a living, if the Saskatchewan Party come along and say they're going to do all of these wonderful things, I told them don't believe them — absolutely not. They've done more damage, they have done more hurt to our northern communities, and they don't care what happens to many of our commercial

fishermen, many of our hunters, and many of our trappers.

And it's a shame, Mr. Speaker, because this Bill, this Bill, whether it's action by the Department of Agriculture or action to get rid of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, it does nothing. It does absolutely nothing to respect commercial fishing, to respect the hunters, and to respect the trappers. If you respect the hunting so much, why do you take wildlife habitat lands away? Why did you sell off our Crown lands? Why did you disrespect the First Nations and Métis people when it comes to their right to hunt, fish, and trap? Why is he trying to get rid of the commercial fishing industry? The list goes on and on and on, Mr. Speaker, in a sense that what the Sask Party's failure is, quite frankly, is they shouldn't be putting Bills of this sort forward because it doesn't do anything to build credibility to the people that I know and the people that are involved with these industries.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think what's happening over there, and I look at the whole notion, the Minister of Agriculture gets up and he says, I'm removing all these wildlife habitat lands and I'm also selling all this Crown land because all these guys I'm selling to and removing it, they're my buddies. They're going to be voting for me. And of course the minister says, well hold it here. We've got some animals, we've got some hunters rights. And oh no, you just never mind; we're going to do this and that's that.

So when you come along and we know how this works. You come along and you look at this Bill, *An Act respecting Hunting, Fishing and Trapping*, you don't respect hunting if you're going to take away wildlife habitat lands. People know that. You don't respect trapping if you're going to take away Crown lands that once had animals and people could access that, if you're going to give those Crown lands away. You can't have people posting lands on a more consistent and grander basis if you want to respect hunting and fishing and trapping. You don't do that. You don't get rid of a Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation until you have a backup plan in place if you respect commercial fishing. You're doing exactly that without having a backup plan.

[19:45]

So you look at all these issues, Mr. Speaker, all these issues of tax for that government. What they say and do out there is radically and totally different than what is being said in some of these Acts, in some of these Bills that they're trying to convince us are good and general, Mr. Speaker.

I look at the whole notion of this heritage day that they're going to plan to say, okay today's a grand day — and I hope it's not budget day, but today is a grand day — to recognize hunting, fishing, and trapping. Now, Mr. Speaker, it may be 364 days of the year that they're working against hunting, fishing, and trapping; there's one day they want to take a break. And, Mr. Speaker, it should be the exact opposite. It should be the exact opposite. They should be working to respect commercial fishing, fishing of any sort, hunting and trapping 364 days out of the year and taking a day to recognize them.

And, Mr. Speaker, what's happening — and I tell everybody across my travels — is Bill No. 117 is legislation to create a

heritage day to recognize fishing, trapping, and hunting. And in the meantime, in the meantime they're doing things radically different to hurt those three sectors. And, Mr. Speaker, I just pray some day that this government gets it, and I don't think they ever will. But I know members across that way have a lot of hunters in their constituencies and a lot of people that support trapping and commercial fishing. And do the math, look at what's going on in your backyard.

If your Minister of Agriculture can arbitrarily take away huge chunks of wildlife lands without consultation with the Minister of the Environment, then guess what? You don't have a team. And guess what? You shouldn't be putting Bills of this sort proclaiming respect when you're doing things exactly, exactly opposite, Mr. Speaker.

Well the member from Moose Jaw North is pointing to the Speaker, Mr. Speaker, and that's the first time I've seen any activity from that guy in the last two years. So I would encourage him to talk to his trappers, to talk to your fishermen. You know, do something instead of sitting in the background waving your fingers and try and get this government, if they want to respect hunting, fishing, and trapping, to maybe follow up and follow through with what you guys intend to do, Mr. Speaker. Maybe that's what they should do.

And as we look at what's happening here, we know, we know across the way that Finance or the bigger departments trump any activity that's being planned in relation to this Bill. And, Mr. Speaker, *An Act respecting Hunting, Fishing and Trapping* as presented by the Sask Party government is not worth the paper it's written on because of the activity that they have undertaken, the decisions that they have made and, Mr. Speaker, more so for the set-ups that they're going to have, not only to the commercial fishing industry but to the trappers and to the hunters.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to spend a bit of time on trapping. As I mentioned before, many people in the old days talk about the value of trapping, the fact that there is still a lot of opportunity with trapping. And a lot of the older people still do it. It's something that they love to do and they make a little bit of money on it when the fur prices are right.

Now what happens now is that they talk about their traplines; there's these little things called traplines. And when the Sask Party comes along and allocates all a whack of land to different American buyers and a bunch of outfitters, guess what? The traplines that the people have are not respected. The logging companies don't respect some of the traplines and neither do some of the people you are bringing in to Saskatchewan that want to take over that land.

So a lot of the trappers tell me, well one of the things they ought to do is have a trapline thought process where you would really engage the trappers in trying to figure out how they can protect the land. Mr. Speaker, when I was the minister of SERM, I often referred to the trappers as the conscience of the land because they are there to do one thing, was to make sure that the environment was taken care of. They took the animals that they needed and made sure they protected the land at all costs. So I always made the reference that the trappers were the conscience of the land and that we ought to really listen to what

they have to say.

And, Mr. Speaker, I have seen no evidence of that whatsoever. I've seen land being given away and I've seen American and different people from all the place come along and buy land that these trappers never had the opportunity to own. But hey, it's for sale. That's the attitude of the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker.

And the traplines in northern Saskatchewan go a long ways. The Dene, the Métis, the non-Aboriginal people, a lot of people trap in northern Saskatchewan. And when you see people out there that come forward and they say, well we had an outfitter from the States come up and he ran his quads all over my trapline and destroyed it, and the chance of me getting animals back are pretty . . . You know, it's not going to be very good for me in the future. You scare animals away. And so he brings his concerns forward to SERM, and guess what? The American trumps . . . the North American or the American trumps northern Saskatchewan trapper because they've got deeper pockets I guess, and they're friends of the Sask Party.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you go back to the notion of respecting the trappers. Quite frankly trappers are saying time and time again that our traplines we value as our area and our land. We'll protect that land. We will nurture that land and, as we've said before, we believe that they're the conscience of that land. And you guys disregard the trappers. You don't have any comment, nor do you have any support for them. And the trappers are not only in northern Saskatchewan. I want to make sure people know they're in southern Saskatchewan as well.

And, Mr. Speaker, you look at the notion of how the trappers themselves have hung on to their fur blocks. They've held on to their traplines. They've hung on to their industry. They're really solid in terms of trying to teach the young people. They think it's going to be an industry that's going to survive many, many years. And you do this to the trappers and you start hurting them, they are not going to believe that this Bill is, just because you say you have a Bill here, is going to respect them. Your actions are speaking louder than words when it comes to this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

So everywhere I go, on every front, whether it's Dillon fishermen getting their cheques confiscated or whether there's the traplines being destroyed by American outfitters or whether it's lands being taken away from the Crown or being taken away from habitat protection for hunters, they're not doing any of the work that they profess to do in this Bill. Not one bit.

So, Mr. Speaker, why should the people of Saskatchewan believe this government anymore? Why should they believe this government anymore when all their actions and all their activity is just massive confusion and massive hypocrisy and quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, doing exactly opposite of what they say they're going to do in Bills like this, Mr. Speaker. So everywhere I go, everywhere I go I tell people they don't have any intention, they have no intention of respecting the fishing industry, no intention of respecting the hunting industry, and no intention to protect the trapping industry.

So one of the reasons why I'm going to stand up and I'm going to vote against this Bill when it comes to the vote is because

I'm going to vote for the trappers, for the fishermen, and for the hunters of this fine province by saying, maybe you guys should start backing up what you promise. And maybe you guys should start doing what you say you're going to do in Bills like this, instead of doing exactly opposite, Mr. Speaker. And I don't believe in any way, shape, or form we're going to see that day that the Saskatchewan Party's serious about protecting fishing, fishermen, protecting hunters, and protecting trappers, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think if they think it's important, if they think it's important, why don't we have two or three things happen as a solution? Why don't we have legislation that expands wildlife plans around our province? And if lands are not designated as protected wildlife lands for animals — hunting and trapping, something that our people should look forward to — then they should at least say we can't do it. They should at least say we can't do it.

I remember the member from Lloydminster talking about horses, the great fanfare he put forward protecting these wild horses. And then a couple of weeks later, they removed more wildlife habitat lands. Why? Because they want to give it away. So why do you do one thing on one hand and do the exact opposite on the other hand? Like, it just doesn't make any sense. You guys got to get with the program here. There is a thing called consistency, leadership, and vision. And, Mr. Speaker, on all those fronts, you don't see anything in that regard.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, on *An Act respecting Hunting, Fishing and Trapping*, one of the things that people are telling us is you have to do the climate change stuff. It has a lot of effect on the ecosystems that have fish and certainly trapping habitat and hunting habitat. Now in this global warming challenge we face, should we not also consider the fact that dealing with climate change is pretty darn important in an effort to respect hunting, fishing and trapping? And we've seen these guys go backwards, Mr. Speaker.

And one of the things that I mentioned with the Minister of the Environment, which this Bill is under, she talked about a clean air management system. A clean air management system which, in theory, would help hunting, fishing and trapping, Mr. Speaker, which follows through the intent of this Bill. And I tell people if you want to do an air quality management system, I pray every day they don't follow their financial management system because we'll be in a lot of trouble, Mr. Speaker. We'll be in a lot of trouble.

So I think what's important to the people of Saskatchewan and people of the North and people of the South, West, and East — the hunters, the fishermen, the trappers — is everywhere you look, one promise after another promise after another promise has been broken. And actions that are totally, totally opposite of what the commercial fishermen want, what the hunters want, what the trappers want. Actions that they want to see undertaken, these guys are not doing.

There is massive confusion over there, massive confusion. and I tell the people that this Bill isn't worth the paper it's written on, Mr. Speaker. It isn't worth the paper it's written on. This party, this MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] is going to be

voting against this Bill because all it does is sets one day aside to say, okay, we'll take a break from disrespecting hunters, from disrespecting trappers, and disrespecting fishermen.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that we have a lot more to say about this. We're going to be talking to a lot of people involved with hunting, fishing, and trapping. And we're going to continue debating this Bill as long and as hard as we can. So therefore I'd like to adjourn the debate on this Bill. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 117. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure to adjourn the motion? Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 101

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 101 — *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make other points on this Bill 101, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009*, the talking points. And Mr. Speaker, I didn't see the Bill in its . . . [inaudible] . . . so what I want to do is I want to read in some of the points I wish to raise, not only to familiarize the people that are listening but also to familiarize myself with the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan credit unions are an important part of the province's history. When farmers and working families found that they couldn't rely on the big banks, they built credit unions to serve the needs of their communities. And, Mr. Speaker, the credit unions are a powerful part of the province of Saskatchewan, and they always will be.

And some of my recent involvement with the credit unions go back to the North West Credit Union out of Buffalo Narrows. We found out that many of the banks wouldn't come and deal in northern Saskatchewan, so what happened was a number of communities got together and they approached the Credit Union Central, I believe, here in the city, to see if they'd be interested in setting up a northwest credit union. And I believe I was the mayor of Ile-a-la-Crosse at the time; I'm pretty certain of the date. But anyway, I remember giving support to the community of Buffalo Narrows for the creation of the North West Credit Union. And part of that process was to support each other and to actually put money into the credit union, to buy into it, which the community of Ile-a-la-Crosse did.

And I'll point out, Mr. Speaker, that the credit union is still operating in Buffalo Narrows. And while they're under The Battlefords credit union, certainly the credit union there continues remaining very strong and very vibrant 20-some years after somebody began the process to get a bank going.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they are very, very necessary because we did have an experience in some of our northern communities. As an example, I think it was Beauval and Ile-a-la-Crosse and a number of other communities that were successful in getting a BMO [Bank of Montreal] branch. And the Bank of Montreal basically came up and set up shop in some of these northern communities. And they were there for just, I believe it was only for a couple of years.

[20:00]

And of course as the economy downturned and a bunch of other issues certainly hit some of the BMO branches, the decision to pull out the BMO branches from not only Ile-a-la-Crosse and Beauval but from some other northern locations was made in last fall. BMO pulled out their branch service in these communities. It was a huge blow for our communities. And through it all, the credit union in Buffalo Narrows, it continued to operate. It continued to operate and it stayed the course of the northwest people. And that's something that we ought to be very, very proud of.

And I would point out again, as I pointed out, that the credit unions are not only the leading edge in coming to northern Saskatchewan, working with many communities, but to stay the course in terms of keeping their branches open and the service available. And one of the things that people ought to know is that we in northern Saskatchewan certainly appreciate heavily and heartily the notion of having the credit union continue operating in Buffalo Narrows.

Mr. Speaker, the credit union movement allows people to keep their money right here in the province, investing back into our local community at a time when global financial crisis have made many people more vulnerable about their personal finances. And the credit union certainly has been doing a remarkable job in Buffalo Narrows, not only serving the community of Buffalo Narrows, but as I mentioned, a number of neighbouring communities — La Loche, Turnor Lake, Ile-a-la-Crosse. And they really got their partnership together and they've got their act together.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think one of the points that we want to make is that the credit union movement throughout Saskatchewan has a rich history. It is something that we appreciate. It was established that a lot of big banks wouldn't deal with Saskatchewan communities. And we in northern Saskatchewan have certainly seen evidence of how effective they are, of how important they are, and of how valuable they are to not only Saskatchewan but to our communities as well.

Mr. Speaker, we want to ensure that any amendments to *The Credit Union Act* strengthen that system and provide Saskatchewan consumers with the best possible service. And that's one of the things I think people ought to know, is that from our perspective we want to take a reasoned approach. We want to take a responsible approach when it comes to supporting solid initiatives, good initiatives such as the credit union movement in our province.

So, Mr. Speaker, when the Sask Party comes forward with some of these Bills and some of these issues, we pay very close scrutiny to see and to make sure that not just one member but

all the members of opposition are aware of what some of these Bills are trying to do or what some of the potential pitfalls of these Bills could be.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of people that are listening, there are provisions in this Bill around services and coercive tied selling which appear to be similar to the Bill's existing provision. However upon closer inspection, the insertion of a phrase "a group of products or services" may give credit unions greater scope to offer other financial services such as insurance. This has been traditionally been prohibited in Saskatchewan. We need to consider the potential ramifications of these provisions for consumers and for other financial service providers in this province before rushing to judgment on this Bill.

So any time there's wording, there is a significant difference between may, shall, or will. And, Mr. Speaker, it's always important that people know that scrutinizing the Bill, not just one member or the critic responsible on this side, but all the members of the opposition certainly have the opportunity to look at the Bill and see where this thing is going and some of the possible ramifications for any credit union, whether it's in Buffalo Narrows, Regina, Saskatoon, or Yorkton.

So, Mr. Speaker, I look at this Bill, and I point out that there's also processes for handling the disputes between credit unions and their members, as an example, on the termination of a membership. As we all know, we joined the credit union under a membership, guys, and it's appropriate that credit unions be involved in this process. And at the same time, it's also important for people to have access to an independent process in the form of a registrar. Hopefully these new provisions maintain this balance.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out before, the credit union is a movement. It's rich in its history. And we want to make sure that any kind of wording, any kind of amendments, any kind of changes, any kind of movement in that regard, that we watch it very carefully. Because what's the use of supporting this particular industry if we're not — this particular movement — if we're not prepared to put the time and effort to watch where it's going.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I pointed out the history of the Buffalo Narrows credit union, the Northwest Credit Union. It began operations a number of years ago, and we certainly worked closely with them. We opened an account there, and we didn't put all that much money there, but we certainly used their services and always found their staff to be very professional. I've always found their board to be very co-operative, and I've always found the credit union itself a very impressive service in Buffalo Narrows.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that, as I mentioned, this is back probably in 1989-1990, that we've seen some of the effort actually come to bear in terms of an actual building being looked at when the credit union itself was finally established in Buffalo Narrows.

The most amazing thing about the credit union movement in our region is how it brought the communities together. La Loche is the biggest community in my constituency. Buffalo Narrows is one of the most business-active communities in my

area. And Ile-a-la-Crosse also has a fair population, as does Beauval. And all these four communities were vying for the credit union. And Buffalo Narrows put together a very impressive package. They put a lot of work into it. I can remember the time. I believe the mayor was Dennis Shatilla, and I think he really pushed, along with other leaders in that community, to have this credit union established.

And while there was competition between the communities, at the end of the day the leaders of the region thought it is better to have a bank somewhere in our area than having no bank at all. And we applauded the efforts of the credit union movement to bring that particular service, and a credit union itself, to Buffalo Narrows by co-operating and backing up the Buffalo Narrows proposal.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of history of the credit union movement in the province. And I tell people wherever I go that if there's any way, shape, or form that we can build a credit union and make it stronger, we ought to do it. But more so when the Sask Party bring forward amendments, we better scrutinize them, each and every one, to make sure that the intent is to protect this movement, build this movement and not do something that they have been known to do and that's to mess up a lot of things . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well let's say for example the budget, Mr. Speaker.

And while it has no direct bearing to the Bill, the connection is you want to make sure that if Bills are being brought forward by a government that has no credibility, you'd better make sure that you look through the Bill very carefully because we have to make sure these guys don't make any more mistakes. And that's the best we can do, is try and stop them. But they are pretty persistent; they are pretty persistent in making mistakes.

And it's just a fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the whole notion, the whole notion of keeping these guys accountable. Every single Bill and every single word and every single amendment, no matter whether it's a single word or a single phrase, right away we watch very carefully to make sure they are not trying to pull the wool over our eyes and certainly pull the wool over the people of Saskatchewan eyes in terms of messing with the credit union movement.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to, I want to point out in my final few minutes here, I want to talk about the effort of the credit union movement and to also talk about the fact that there will be other speakers on this particular Bill, so we are not going to be moving the Bill any further along the process now. And therefore in terms of the Bill itself, I have a few more minutes. I want to make a few more comments, and then we can certainly make a motion after we are done the comments.

I would say that the credit movement, the credit union movement itself, when we first thought of the process, we came down to Regina, and we seen this big fancy building on the main street here. And we thought that Credit Union Central, we thought they would never ever give the opportunity to the people of the Northwest. And today we see that the credit union is still there, still operating, and is very strong. So that big building was there for us, and I was really, really impressive when they came along and said, yes, we would do it.

So, Mr. Speaker, we want to protect the credit union movement. And Bills of this sort coming from that particular government that doesn't have a lot of credibility on many, many issues, we want to make sure that we look through it and really research it as best we can so we understand exactly what they are trying to do and to spread that message.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to now make a motion to adjourn the debate on Bill 101. And thank you very much.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved adjournment of debate on Bill 101. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 122

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 122 — *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise to make a few comments on Bill No. 122, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009*. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important piece of legislation as the existing Act needed some amendments to it to bring it in line with present-day realities in the environment.

But, Mr. Speaker, before I truly get into making my comments, what is most disturbing on this is, Mr. Speaker, is the . . . is this Act, part of the amendments are based on the Ministry of Environment asking for a report, for a report from the Clifton Associates group to which they then made a number of recommendations which were either accepted or not accepted by this government.

Mr. Speaker, the important part about that that is striking is that the Clifton report made some key recommendations. And in that report, one of the recommendations that they made was to facilitate — and this was the duty of consultation with the Indian, Métis, and the First Nations — to facilitate, as they put it here the “. . . First Nations and Métis to participate in consultation and engage in resource and land management issues.” Mr. Speaker, this is very important.

Now in other places in the Clifton report the government simply flat out said, agree. But on this very important issue, the ministry response was that they agree in principle and that they go on to say, in the response to the report, that they will continue to facilitate capacity, co-ordinate, and participate in related consultation activities with First Nations and Métis.

Now again, this is fairly significant, Mr. Speaker, because when you look at what's being attempted here and this government's record on consultation, this should be worrisome to all of us in Saskatchewan. Because what we're trying to build here, we're

trying to build a model under which we will do set environmental standards for various projects in this province.

And one of the . . . And the way the government has seen fit to deal with this issue among many others, and this one is probably key, is the government says that "Saskatchewan's policy direction is that the Crown will lead the duty to consult with First Nations and Métis before any decision is made that will impact Treaty or Aboriginal rights."

Now again they could've simply accepted this recommendation but they did not. And that should be worrisome to us because I think leading from that is the involvement of the rest of the people in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, on this very important issue. Consultation has not exactly been the high point of this government. We can look at any legislation that we have met, where people one day are called into meetings and told that they should expect new legislation in their areas, without any prior consultation or anything.

Now in turning to the amendments in the Act and the speech by the minister, there were a number of areas that were covered that seem okay, Mr. Speaker, and one the minister started out that, as I did, that the Act has not been changed for 30 years and a lot has changed in that time. So we can all agree with that.

[20:15]

And again, the purpose of the Act was for the development of Saskatchewan, as Saskatchewan proceeds with environmental safeguards, and a process, a process that we could all agree on so that people building projects in this province would have an understanding of what their environmental responsibilities might be.

Now a key issue here in this was the amendments include the ability to establish class assessment processes where projects have common characteristics, and this becomes something, when we build a model here, Mr. Speaker, as to what, what the thinking should be and what that model should be.

And, Mr. Speaker, it reminds me, it reminds me of the occupational health and safety that we have. Here we have environmental standards that we need and sort of for the safety of the people of Saskatchewan. And this reminds me of occupational health and safety in our province, Mr. Speaker, where we require to look at and how will all these, how will we deal with the environment? How will we deal with projects in our province? And it's very interesting that when we come upon this that we see, at a time when we need consultation, when we need to involve the community — perhaps the community should be part of the model of environmental consultation — that that is non-existent, Mr. Speaker, non-existent.

And what is at the base of this, Mr. Speaker? What is at the base of this that people are looking for? What are they looking for? They're looking for the ability to have some faith in the system, looking for the ability that their concerns will be addressed and that we will have a safe environment for not only ourselves but our children and our children's children into the future.

It is at that point that we lose a bit, a lack of faith because, Mr. Speaker, we have not yet heard from this government anything that would make us feel confident that they would deal with this in any other manner than they have on other pieces of legislation. And we don't have to go over all the pieces of legislation that have been foisted on us so far, on the people of Saskatchewan, without fully realizing the impacts and what we are doing. We see a lot of times legislation that's not thought out, that we've had instances of legislation being withdrawn and being redone and to the point of, we were at this point from our side, calling it redos, Mr. Speaker. A lot of redos were being done in the province of Saskatchewan.

And it comes to the credibility, the credibility of the government to deal in this. They have changed, changed targets. We've seen them change targets on these issues, Mr. Speaker, going with the federal government even. And I'll have more to say about that in terms of following and trying to make this sort of . . . coordinate this with the federal government. And in fact maybe it should, but I don't think that the federal government should be held up as any sort of stellar model which these folks across should aspire to, Mr. Speaker.

What we need and what is important is that we involve the people of Saskatchewan, and that we involve the people of Saskatchewan and we have a homemade environmental policy in Saskatchewan, a policy that would address our concerns, whether it be First Nations and Métis people and the land issues that they have, but not only that. Building a huge project close to the settlements is also important and they should be consulted. And we see a total failing on that issue when it comes to consultation, and not only with the First Nations and Métis but with all the people of Saskatchewan.

So there's nothing in here, in this Act that would make us feel comfortable in terms of that there has been proper consultations with people. Although the minister talks about that there have been numerous consultations, we have not been able to see those consultations. We have not been able to look and determine or have any access to who exactly was consulted. Because, Mr. Speaker, as we did on a number of other Bills, the people who are consulted are in fact perhaps not even associated or not impacted directly on this. However when it comes to the environment, Mr. Speaker, we all, Mr. Speaker, we all are impacted by the environment and that should be of grave concern to us.

Mr. Speaker, so one of my concerns here is the credibility on environmental matters. We had heard the minister opposite on a number of occasions change like the changing weather we have in Saskatchewan, never knowing what we're going to wake up to, Mr. Speaker. We know generally there will be a spring. Generally there'll be a summer. But, Mr. Speaker, in that springtime and late fall we don't know what the weather is like. We could get a snowstorm. And I want to say, put this on the record, that this government has changed more than that. So is it any wonder that no one here feels that they have the credibility on these environmental matters.

And, Mr. Speaker, whether it be on this government talking about the promise to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 . . . well they didn't. They in fact said they would do this and they haven't. And it's just another broken promise and we

can . . . Again I can go into it in terms of the lack of consultations and the broken promises and the redos. It's been quite a circus at times, Mr. Speaker, from where we sit over here.

The greenhouse gas emissions and reduction and targets, again those are just some just within this area that we have to listen to here, whether it be in question period or the minister standing up in statements that she has made to this House and changing them a week later or saying that we have now established some new targets and saying that that was just fine.

But what is lacking is the debate. What is lacking is the consultation. And what is particularly lacking here, Mr. Speaker, is not only the lack in consultations, but what is disturbing about all of this is that the engagement of the Saskatchewan public is not there. It simply is not there.

And so what do we have? Is this another smokescreen for what we see daily for actions? We have just today, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health talking about how you negotiate an agreement and then, well we would implement it if we had the money. Now he didn't quite say that but it came very close to saying that. So you can negotiate a deal and then just simply say it's not a deal any more.

I wonder how the many people who are in negotiations with this government feel when they hear comments like that — that we can just change after we come along, after both parties have spent perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars in any negotiations. And then it's changed, Mr. Speaker, changed at the last minute to mean nothing.

And this is what we've seen on the environment file — daily and weekly and monthly changes, new targets. I guess the analogy in terms of hockey might be just ragging the puck, Mr. Speaker. Just absolutely doing nothing, going nowhere on this file, and hoping that nobody will notice. Yet they're playing with the very lives, they're playing with the . . . of the environment. Because it is, Mr. Speaker, on many times, on many times, whether that government who is so fond of doing all the polls and governing by them know that the environment's important. So every time, I would suggest, that they get a new poll, they run out and we have a new policy. A new policy on the environment which impacts all of us, Mr. Speaker, impacts all of us.

And now why should anybody believe them if they come out and they say, now we're going to do something that's so important for this province, and we consulted. We don't know who they consulted. There's been no papers on this as to who they talked to. And they say, trust us. Trust us again, Mr. Speaker. Trust us again on this one, and it's so, so important.

Is this going to be another redo, Mr. Speaker? Are we going to get new targets next week? Is that what we're going to get — new targets? And maybe we'll get a phone call to the Prime Minister, and we'll say, well no he's changed his targets too, so we better change them back here. We want to keep in line with that. I don't know if that's exactly the folks that I would be looking to, to be following. But I guess when you're in bed with those fellows, I guess you go the way they do. So, so goes Saskatchewan.

And it's a sad tale. It's a very sad tale that what we have today is, on an issue like this, a government with such low credibility on issues as we have today.

Mr. Speaker, the minister in her speech as well said, that "The Ministry of Environment is working to ensure its regulatory framework conserves and protects the environment while working at the pace of our growing economy." Now I'm not sure exactly what that means: "The Ministry of Environment is working to ensure its regulatory framework conserves and protects the environment while working at the pace of our growing economy."

Now if we allow these people to stay around much longer, the pace of our growing economy is going to be zero, Mr. Speaker. And so does that mean environment stops because we're going to be zero?

So I'm a little stumped on saying that ". . . the environment while working at the pace of our growing economy" because the environment is something that we need done in all instances, Mr. Speaker. We need that done because there are larger projects in the works, and they need the regulations that we should do them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the ministry . . . This whole business, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I'm missing something, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I'm missing something in terms of the ". . . framework conserves and protects the environment . . ." I'm not certain. But to me, that statement has certainly . . . I'll be thinking about that a long time.

Now again, these amendments, the minister went on to say, "The proposed amendments are based on the initial review of the ministry's mandate and three rounds of stakeholder consultations." Now we would like to know what those consultations were. There were three rounds of consultations. Who were the consultations with? What did the people say?

Is it going to be similar to the consultations they did around the uranium file, where we had the Premier running around and talking about building nuclear reactors and then going out and doing consultations? And was it because of the consultations? Was it because of the cost? We could have saved them a huge headache and a lot of work, Mr. Speaker, if you simply would have not started out on something like that.

Mr. Speaker, the minister further then went on to say that they will require regulation — and I will come back to this — to establish the kinds of developments that may be subject to class assessment, and "Our intention would be to seek advice from industry and . . . stakeholders about what sectors of the economy might benefit from a class assessment approach."

Mr. Speaker, this is worrisome to me. And it is worrisome because of the . . . Here we come to a crucial issue of where we need to, Mr. Speaker, be very careful that we include the right kinds . . . Here's the balance that we need in terms of the balance that we need to achieve, Mr. Speaker, between communities and government. Communities and government must be involved. And the communities, the people of Saskatchewan, must be involved, and that should be part of this model.

If we look at establishing a model, perhaps we should look at the occupational health and safety system in this province and how that model was established to give workers the safety that they require, to give workers the safety that they require. What the model there and what the thinking was there, and there is a progressive, Mr. Speaker, model which . . . But it requires, it requires the government to play a role in that model, to play a role in being there and policing it so that the regulations are adhered to.

But within that model, Mr. Speaker, and this is what we should . . . We should all look at models because models can be taken from one system to another. The important thing about the occupational health and safety model is that it is based on a system of equal parties sitting down, equally represented by both — for example in occupational health and safety — employer and employees and that what is recorded there is then sent back to the occupational health and safety office where people there, the officers there, can look at that and take action from that.

Now in the model here perhaps what we should be looking at, the model that we should be looking at is having the community or, in the case of First Nations and Métis, a model where you have the First Nations and Métis folks also look at and be involved in developing the regulations that are necessary.

The approach where we take as general an approach, where we have the model being one of class assessment and so general, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many pitfalls in that, to simply say. It becomes what you might want to look at this and say, well what's occurred here is that we . . . A lot of regulations and a lot of enforcement of the environment could fall by the wayside.

Mr. Speaker, based on that — and these are points that we should be paying attention to — we need to look at this, and we need to study it carefully and look at what was happening because if we rush in on an important issue like this, rush in too quickly and say, well this will take a load off the government in terms of regulation . . . We have to be careful about that, Mr. Speaker. We have to be careful when we say that, well, we will maybe go and just set up some regulations and have people self-regulate.

[20:30]

It's not saying that we shouldn't have regulations and we shouldn't have laws, environmental laws, and we shouldn't have a model where companies would understand what the basic rules are. But, Mr. Speaker, when we allow and perhaps go too far afield and say, well, that we would not look at each project separately, that perhaps there should be plans submitted separately, we are in fact, Mr. Speaker . . . What this government a lot of times likes to do . . . because I don't think they believe in government. They believe that if government went away and probably if unions would go away then the world would be better. But that's not the way it works. But they haven't learned that yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They haven't learned that or anything, anything else. And so this could very well be another redo that they have to look at this. And they do that.

So, Mr. Speaker, it goes right back to the credibility issue of this government when they take on issues of this type. Do they ever think this through? And when they talk about consultations, I think more and more people in Saskatchewan are saying, oh boy, here they go again because their idea of consultation is getting somebody on the phone, calling them into an office for a half-an-hour meeting, and saying they consulted. And that's sad, Mr. Speaker. That is really sad when you do that and especially when you do that on an issue like the environment. So we have where the minister says that she has consulted. Again we have not seen anything on that.

And moving into the cost assessment area is an area that we should tread carefully, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because it is on areas like this that we need to sit down and do some real thinking about this as to what we are doing here. It is very easy to say that we will set regulations, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that through self-regulation or maybe — and I'm not certain what the thinking is here — maybe through occasional checks or something, that all will be well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot of projects are different, and there is a role for government in here. And I'm not seeing this, Mr. Speaker. I'm not seeing that, Mr. Speaker. In fact there is every reason to think that there'd be a privatization of environmental assessment, a privatization of environmental assessment.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've seen across . . . and I want to come back to the occupational health and safety model, when you might privatize something like that and have outside people doing the checks on this. You have to have a balance, and that balance is struck in a delicate manner where you involve all the people in our society. And a number of times our leader has spoken about the three pillars that we think, that we believe in on this side, that you need strong government, that you need strong business in the Crown sector, public and private, and that you need strong unions and the working people have to participate.

And again here, as in this model that we see that that government over there, the Sask Party is not . . . their beliefs are coming through in where they think this should go. But this is the environment. It's occupational health and safety. This is very important for the people of this province, and there is truly a lack of thinking here.

And the directions that we're going . . . and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I return again to the lack of consultation where it would've been the easiest thing to say to the Clifton recommendations — the people that they got to do the environmental, to do some environmental work for them — to say yes, yes we'll consult. We will consult with the First Nations and Métis people of this province and that's just on. But that's not what was said. We will work with, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In other parts they would say, yes we agree but not in this instance.

And will they work with the people of this province on an important issue like the environment? Will they work on that? Or whether they want to just push this off and to say, no we would like to privatize this and we'll have somebody else do this, this is abdicating responsibility of the government, abdicating in some instances a model that perhaps would have

input from the community because we would make sure that that was there.

And I think there's a very significant difference in how this side would approach these issues and how the government of the day is approaching them. And the way that they are approaching them, Mr. Speaker, does not create any confidence in the people, for the people of Saskatchewan, that our environmental concerns will be looked after, and much as we have seen difficulties arising in our occupational safety system because of the lack of action by this government.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, it's any wonder that perhaps this is happening. I just want to read a quote here, in terms of . . . and you know, sometimes it goes a long way when we can kind of look into the thinking of members from the other side. This was said by, this quote is from a Sask Party member and it says:

. . . red tape and regulations that have been foisted onto the business community by this NDP government, be it through Workers' Comp or occupational health and safety or various pieces of labour legislation, too often has driven businesses and jobs they create and the taxes they pay out of the province.

This is a direct quote, the "red tape and regulation." Now I've often said on this issue that I wonder if we went and we took this and said this to a family who just had experienced a death on the work site, I wonder how many of them would say that there's been too much red tape and regulations. But you know who said this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know who said this. This is the member from Swift Current. This is the member from Swift Current who said this and now sits as Premier of this province.

That's the thinking and that's the difference. And I will, I will say that since members are wanting . . . they're saying red tape and regulations have been foisted onto the business community by this government at that time, the NDP, be it through Workers' Comp, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I couldn't believe when I read this: ". . . or occupational health and safety or various pieces of labour legislation, too often has driven businesses and jobs they create and the taxes they pay out of the province."

Now, you know, this is outrageous, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's outrageous that you could say this. I would like the Premier of this province, every time there's a death in this province, to read this to those families in this province. That's what I would like him to do. I'd like him to go around every family, and I'd like him to read this because I'll tell you what . . . I just might do it. I just might do it. This is outrageous. This is outrageous, but that's at the base of what these people are about, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And now with all the rest of that, with the trust, they want us to work on this environment. What have they done? They've changed their targets. They've changed like the wind in Saskatchewan. They change like the wind in Saskatchewan. But I'll tell you why they are like that, because that's what they are about with occupational health and safety. And that's important to the people of this province, and the environment's important

to the people.

And that's why the government is needed in this role, but they haven't learned that. They haven't learned that. No. They will always try and take a little bit away from the Crowns. They will always try and take a little bit away from the people because they think if there's no government, all will be better. Let's just leave it for free enterprise. And we see in the United States what happened when we allowed that. Then we're bailing out, bailing out the banks, bailing out the banks because they abdicated their responsibility.

And it's so easy to abdicate your responsibility, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but it's wrong. I'll stand here, and I'll say that's wrong. That's wrong and shame on them for doing this, for doing this. But, you know, the people of Saskatchewan are seeing through this because, as I travel around and I talk to people, they're seeing through this. And they're signing a lot of petitions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and all over the province, all over the province. And I was surprised at the change of how they view this party and how many people are saying, we've had enough and how many people are saying, we voted for them but we'll never vote for them again. We'll never vote for them again.

And they think and they can sit there and they can release press releases, and you can deal with things like the environment here, but the credibility is gone. And you need the credibility on the environment, and you need the credibility on other pieces of legislation to do a proper job because you have to involve the community. And that's lacking here. There is no involvement of the community. Where's the model on the environment that says that when you consult that you involve the communities?

I don't see anything here about involving the First Nations and the Métis other than, we'll continue to consult. Well they've had consult and consult and consult, and they don't want any more consult. They want some action, and they want some truth, and they want to be involved. That's what that means.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the other parts that is also of concern is the Clifton report also recommended harmonization of environmental assessments with Ottawa to the greatest extent possible. Now it would seem to be good, a good point to try and harmonize issues across this country. We should harmonize them. But there's always the point about who is in Ottawa and what is happening there.

Now the question, the question here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question about this is that it sounds reasonable enough on the surface. It sounds reasonable enough on the surface, but will these folks stand up to the federal government, particularly the federal government that's there? What will they do, other than perhaps, as we've seen, a lot of cheerleading? A lot of cheerleading. And what about the thinking through of the hard issues here? And how about standing up to the federal government and saying no, we disagree in Saskatchewan? That isn't good for Saskatchewan.

We don't hear a lot any more about how great the Conservatives are in Ottawa. We don't hear a lot about that from this party, where there was a lot of cheerleading going on before. But that's an issue. And the issue of harmonization is

good but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to be careful about where we're going on that.

The other issue, if I could, one of the positive things in here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are the financial penalties, allowing the courts to impose these. And perhaps that said, you know, the . . . Again if it was the role of the government to do this, that's not really clear of how this is going to happen, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how this is going to happen.

Are we going to, are we, in fact with the model that's being presented here, are we going into a system of courts and people suing each other? Is that where we're heading here? And I think it is. And if it is that, then there are going to be some losers. There will be some losers here. The losers will be the people of Saskatchewan because you will need money. You will need money so that you can fight environmental cases. And that's because if you are injured, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you'll need money to fight these cases. And the losers will be the people, Mr. Speaker. They will be.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the environment is an important issue for this province. It is important for us here. And it is important that we take the time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to do the right job, to do the good job here that needs to be done . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the issue of losers, that the Sask Party has spent the amount of money that they did on the issue of . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order. I'm having trouble hearing the member that has the floor, and it's his own members that are drowning him out. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not hear . . . I think of it not interfering with my speaking from this side, but that's fine.

Now on the issue of losers, on the issue of losers, you know I talked about some of the difficulties people would be having with this. But about the issue of losers, I've had people who have come to me — and this should be worrisome — and asked if we were running ads about the Premier, asked if we were paying for ads about that.

And I was wondering about that, the amount of money that they spent on that. And the people were saying, well we know he's a loser, but, you know, why are you running ads to say that somebody is a loser? And it took me some time to have to explain that it wasn't our ads that were saying that this person was a loser. It was the Sask Party ads that were a loser. So it got very confusing.

In fact, I wanted to talk to him about the environment, but we got talking about losers. Who was the losers . . .

[Interjections]

[20:45]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. I'll ask the member to discuss

the Bill that is on the order paper at this time.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Yes. I've heard it said that the first time that that person was ever mistaken for an athlete, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that . . . Luger.

Anyways, now another potential problem with the class environmental assessments, again as I mentioned, one of the key things could arise from the government's duty to consult and accommodate First Nations.

Now I guess one of the other things is that it's not only consultation because similar projects, when we look at what the class environmental assessments could do, are approved on this, could fall on to traditional land of several different First Nations. And the government has an obligation to ensure that the duty to consult and accommodate is not shortchanged in the haste to push a project forward — not in haste to do this. And right now, and I just would review with you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there were difficulties in this area, difficulties in this area here where the Clifton report, the key recommendations — and I would just like to put those on the record — where it says recommendation no. 39:

The Ministry should:

Facilitate capacity of First Nations and Métis to participate in consultation and engage in resource and land management issues;

Point no. 2:

Participate in cross-Ministry efforts to build a revised consultation and accommodation policy;

These are the recommendations of the Clifton report:

Formalize coordination, communication and documentation of consultation activities within the Ministry;

Build capacity within Ministry of Environment branches to increase understanding and application of the Duty to Consult, and ensure affected branches are resourced effectively to manage consultation . . .

We don't know who was consulted. And here is a recommendation — a recommendation that the government paid for — to build capacity within the ministry. Now we wonder what kind of capacity has been built in that ministry on the duty to consult, on the duty to consult First Nations and Métis. I wonder what they've done here because that's a recommendation.

Now, "In cooperation with other Ministries, create partnerships with First Nations," it goes on. And here's the reply . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And they should have probably run some ads on the environment and inviting people to consult and inviting people to come out and talk about this very important issue, but they have different priorities. And I guess that's a government who want to talk about losers. But perhaps we'll have a general ad next time about a group of people being losers.

The ministry response to these issues: the Ministry of Environment agrees in principle with their recommendations as stated. And again I said, in other parts of the report — and I could probably, I'm not sure what it would do — but in any other parts of the report it's very clearly where the ministry says agree, agree. So they still can't agree on the issue of the principle on a key issue such as to consult.

Now that is worrisome. That is worrisome as a core belief. That is worrisome as a core principle. That is worrisome, should be to all people in Saskatchewan. And then if you combine that, if you combine that with having to take this issue through the courts, we see the difficulties, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We see the difficulties when you abandon, when you abandon, when government abandons its role in society.

Historically, historically there's always been this issue. And we have come a long, a long way, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in setting up a model of democracy. Every once in a while we get the kind of thing about the red tape and regulations. Well you know, I mean it's a setback for us all but we'll live through that. We'll live through that because people see through that and they know that that kind of thinking is not on. They know, you know, it's not on and perhaps they sometimes will forgive that kind of thinking but it builds up, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and there will be the piper to pay one day, Mr. Speaker, with that kind of thinking, because it's just not on for the province here. Because historically the things that we have built, the things that we cherish in our democratic societies are not based on that; and that is old-style thinking and that is not a modern economy and that is in the past.

But to get back to the consultation and what we have and what the difficult issues that we come up against when we're not prepared to move forward on the duty to consult and accommodate when it comes to First Nations and Métis on an important issue like the environment. Because, Mr. Speaker, everybody knows a large portion of our resources are in northern Saskatchewan and throughout this province and we also know that there are numerous reserves that we must deal with and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't see any of that here. I don't see of that in here.

Again, I would say that in this that it's time to have a look at this. No question we should look at this, at this Bill to bring it, bring it forward to the modern age but it's worrisome, worrisome to me in terms of the way it's being done and then of course overall it's worrisome for what we've seen in these last two years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's say one thing, do another. Look at the Department of Finance. Look at the disaster and what people are saying about that. I mean it's unbelievable that you can have the amount of money and then be in a deficit position. It's, you know, we read in the papers, incompetence. Those are serious words and we don't see anything from the government that there's any change. No. Other than a few more glum faces around here, not a lot of change, you know, so all is well. And that leads to some other problems because there's no two-way conversation, no two-way conversation.

Just further on the class environmental assessments. Now even if there was, if we grant them that there is some merit to this

idea, there is always the concern that without the proper consultation process that this approach might be general, too general, and in terms of taking in too many projects at a time. And if we don't have the policing and the regulatory framework in there to go out and check whether the environmental standards are being met, that does not leave anyone here feel secure. Or in fact if we have some projects now that we might go to, perhaps we should be talking about, are those the standards that we want before we move everybody in together and say everybody will follow those standards.

And the concern is here is that every time there's standards set or targets, these folks change them. They change these standards and it's hard to tell where you are on any given day. The finances are being redone. They change the environmental standards and they change . . . You name it. And they were redoing Bills.

It's disheartening. It's disheartening to the people of Saskatchewan when they see what is going on. But they have the memory. And the memory that they have, they will remember this when they go to the polls in 2011, and that's not that far away. That's not that far away.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what more can be said? I think perhaps a bit of the review of the most important points that I've made. But I think we could probably sum it up to a lack of credibility on this file. And a government must have credibility, must have integrity in order to deal with issues like this. But you lose that when you don't consult, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You lose that when you don't consult. You lose that when you have beliefs that are so out of touch, that are so out of place, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would say, in a modern economy. And then you try and deal with issues like this, and you wonder why there is no confidence, no confidence in that. So legislation, perhaps is well said here, built on quicksand, built on quicksand.

So again, just to review on the credibility issue. Government that promised to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. Where is that, Mr. Speaker? Where is that, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

It's a government that promised to implement NDP targets of greenhouse gas emission reductions and later admitted they will be breaking that promise as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So now we have, now we have that.

Now this is a government, perhaps we could say, led by a Premier who, in terms as I used before, perhaps ragging the puck, that's probably not quite grasping the issue, a Premier who in fact you wonder what, if any, concerns he has, particularly when we are dealing with situations of occupational health and safety — what I would say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, life and death issues — that we have the kinds of statements that were being made here. You wonder, if that kind of thinking is applied to the environment, is it any wonder that we can change targets, that we can change things like stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions in a week's time, in a day's time?

An Hon. Member: — But why is it always lower targets? Why is it always weaker . . .

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Well it's . . . Yes, and we wonder why. And

where's the scientific data? Where's the research to show that we should be going lower and not higher, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

In fact it wasn't that long ago that I'm sure a lot of members over there, whether there in fact is a belief that there is such a thing as climate change. And that's maybe for another speech on that issue, whether or not there is in fact a belief over there.

So what do we make of a government that promised to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 and didn't? They promised to implement the NDP targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and had to admit it later they'd be breaking that. And a Premier who we can tell philosophically is not that keen on environmental regulations — in fact any regulations — because at the base of it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they do not believe in government. They do not. Get government out of the way would be what they would say. Get government out of the way.

And when you get government out of the way and you do that, you perhaps should be careful when you do that because there are regulations. There is a role for government to play in a modern society, and unfortunately sometimes we are witness to people believing that that's not so. And that goes deep because that is more of an ideological kind of position to take than in fact a position that's very objective and perhaps dealing with the reality of the situation we face.

Again the other things, just to go over the result of a model like this, where there is the balance and that's not very clear in the legislation what that balance will be, responsibility of environmental protection where the government comes in after, after the fact instead of being proactive on these issues, proactive like we need proactive things in occupational health and safety to be proactive to be out there and doing the work that should be done to protect the lives of Saskatchewan people. We need the government to be proactive on files like these so that they are proactive on this so that we do not get into environmental calamities, environmental disasters, that we are proactive and we head them off.

And we have to discuss, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to discuss what the standards will be. We have to set those standards and we have to carefully assess who it will be that will police these standards and who it will be, how do we do that, and what role the government plays in that and what role we might want to hand over to self-regulating companies — what role we would hand over to people outside of the industries that would do this. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we don't see any of that.

We see a lot of changes and we see a lot of broken promises. And on top of it all we see a government floundering in the very important issue of finances, of being able to manage the finances of this province. And now we're being asked that this government would manage the environmental file.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I've made my points on what I see as the privatization of the assessment. And I've made it. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't want people to forget that the thing we have to be very careful on, one further point on the environmental assessment, is that when you apply and you do the class assessments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the generality that you could fall into, class environmental assessments, it's very

important that we have the proper regulations so that when we compare projects that we are not comparing to the lowest possible standards, that we are in fact in Saskatchewan achieving the higher standards.

[21:00]

And it often reminded me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of when we had the disaster at the mine. And our miners were safe because the time had been taken by government at that time to put in safety standards so that they thought ahead, if there were disasters, of what we would do, of what we would do and so that we would need safety rooms.

For those of us who've had the opportunities of going into mines across this— be it potash, uranium, or other mines — and looking and being there to see clearly that when you sit down and you do a file properly, you don't end up in a disaster and then react because it's too late. And when you do the due diligence upfront, it saves. And the due diligence, whether it be finances, whether it be occupational health and safety, has to be done, or otherwise you get newspaper articles that say incompetence. You've got newspaper articles that say incompetence, but by that point in time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as unfortunately the members opposite have learned, it's too late. It's too late then because now we've got a problem. And boy, do we have a problem. You know, what a bunch of glum chums over there.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, had they done the work and had they . . . probably do the best work that they could, they wouldn't be sitting in this problem . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, he wouldn't have done that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's perhaps getting more difficult to speak here. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I guess it depends on the tone of the statement or the type of statement it is to knock off a good speech.

But anyways, so the things, I guess, that finally that, in terms of what the minister has had to say, we could probably review that one last time. It is in the record. But I would just like to . . . some of the things again which perhaps I will need to myself do a bit more work. But the one statement that keeps coming back to me: "The Ministry of Environment is working to ensure its regulatory framework conserves and protects the environment while working at the pace of our growing economy." What does that mean? There it is. Because if it was regulations keeping up with the . . . Does it mean regulations keeping up with the Act? Or does it mean regulatory framework? But I think that means something larger, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and at the pace of our growing economy. So if the economy that these folks are putting the brakes on, does that mean the environment will stop because we will not be growing at the pace of our economy? Is that what this means?

What does this mean? That they will not go ahead "while working at the pace of our growing economy"? It's perhaps . . . But it was read into the record. I'm not sure if the minister wrote this herself or if in fact someone had written.

An Hon. Member: — Was it the minister or the minister's officials?

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Yes. Well we'll be now saying that this is somebody else's fault. Was it probably somebody else's? Yes. Or is it like that? Yes, as the member here has said. Will we be now getting the staff to come out and answer these questions around what is happening here? What is going on here?

Now the proposed amendments are based on the initial review by the ministry's mandate and three rounds of the stakeholder consultations. Again what consultations were held here? With who? When were they held? Are they ongoing? Were they a telephone call, as this government is so well noted for, a telephone call and a 15-minute meeting? Is in fact, perhaps, is this a meeting, a conference call, or perhaps an email? Maybe this is all about an email, sending a few emails back and forth, or a casual reminder, a casual remark in passing over a coffee.

We don't necessarily know what the consultation that the government over there . . . In fact they've had Bills come forward and without anyone knowing about them and they have said that they held consultations, for perhaps it was some event that occurred and they interpreted that they needed some direction from that. And they went ahead and they called that consultations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is many, many things that you could spend a lot of hours here thinking, what is going on, but I think we would best see, perhaps, what will come out of here. But again, if the minister would gladly not bring up the issue, if we knew where these three rounds of stakeholder consultations . . . because there will be further consultations on the class assessment would be what kind of . . . to talk about their intention that they're going to seek from industry and other stakeholders about sectors which might benefit from the class action approach.

Will they actually hold meetings to explain what their intention is? Who will they be contacting? Will they be contacting the people of . . . Are the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are the people of Saskatchewan a stakeholder in these consultations? Are the people of Saskatchewan going to be stakeholders in these consultations? That's what I wonder. But it's not very clear, and that information does not seem to be forthcoming.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in conclusion I would again just want to say that on issues of environment, I would say that there needs to be credibility, credibility for the government, and that's sorely lacking. And the issue's here that the government had promised again to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. A government that set targets, moved those targets, said that's okay . . . we're changing today. And again a government led by a Premier who, I would say, ideologically is not necessarily interested in the environment.

And with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would look forward to more of my colleagues entering the debate on this issue, entering the debate on this very important issue for the people on the environment. But at this time I would like to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 122, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the

pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 97

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud that **Bill No. 97 — *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter into the debate on the Act to amend *The Agri-Food Act, 2009*. As I understand it, this Act is essentially going to change the way the refundable provincial levy is collected on cattle sold in Saskatchewan. And I have the honour to have been the Agriculture critic for our party after we formed opposition in 2007. And it became immediately obvious to a lot of cattle producers in the province that the minister was moving away from the way the check off was collected and distributed and that there was going to be a new organization created to represent the livestock producers in the province.

And so in essence, what this Bill is doing is putting into law the creation of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association. And this Bill is going to give the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association — note cattlemen's association, not cattle producers but Cattlemen's Association — the ability to collect a \$2 refundable provincial levy. And for the first time they're also going to be able to collect a national, non-refundable levy which wasn't allowed under the old legislation and regulations. So what this Bill does is it gives the Cattlemen's Association the power to collect both the refundable provincial and the non-refundable national levy on cattle that are sold and marketed in the province of Saskatchewan. This Bill will repeal *The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act, 1998* and subsequent amendments. And this will allow the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association to collect both levies.

Now it was interesting, the minister probably spent about three minutes in his second reading speech talking about this, and I think I know why. There is a petition that has gone across Saskatchewan among livestock producers, and they don't like this idea one little bit.

They think that the Sask Party only favours a certain group, philosophical group, of livestock producers, and hence this new piece of legislation, and hence the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association. And they really don't like the fact that the Stock Growers basically will be blown up, as well as another livestock organization. And they've signed a petition. They tried to talk to the minister; that didn't really work. They went from auction sale to auction sale getting petitions and signatures from livestock producers saying they didn't like this idea.

And why don't they like this idea? Because they think that the money isn't going to go into research. They think that this money is going to go into meeting after meeting after meeting

of people that will want to meet on livestock issues and that it'll no longer be basically a volunteer organization that acts frugally, but it will be an organization that spends a lot of time meeting and meeting and meeting and not a lot of time dealing with research and development of the industry.

So the question will be, how much of this money is going to go to the day-to-day operations and marketing of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association? That's one of the things that livestock producers in the province, that don't support this organization that the minister is creating . . . they want to know how much is it going to cost, out of their levy, how much is it going to cost to run the day-to-day operations of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association?

And, you know, the other question is, will other cattle producer organizations such as the Stock Growers — because not everybody agrees with the creation of this organization — are they going to benefit from this levy? And will the Stock Growers still receive money from these levies to use for their operation and marketing as they did under the old system? And I think the answer is no.

So the question is, who within the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association will determine where and when these funds are going to be allocated? Because that's what individual livestock producers want to know about. And if a board is being put in place to allocate the use of these funds, what's the makeup of the board?

Because here's what the government is doing. What they're saying is, you cattle producer — every cow, every steer, every heifer that you sell in this province — you're going to pay two bucks, and it's going to go to the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, and they're going to get to decide how that money is spent. And if you want to, you can ask for a refund on this \$2 levy.

Well a lot of people, like the Stock Growers, they were involved in this. They liked the fact that the ministry held the money. They liked that fact that the money went for the most part into research. And they're not at all sure that this new organization is going to represent the long-term interest of the cattle producers in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now if you look at the legislation, there is going to be the windup of the Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund, and all of the assets and liabilities of the fund are going to be transferred to the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association. Well apparently, and odd that of all of the accounts and the financial statements as well as a report of the activities of the former fund and financial statements showing the business of the former fund for the period commencing April 1, 2009 and ending on the day that that comes into force, this going to be tabled by the Minister of Agriculture.

[21:15]

Well the question is this: is that report going to be shared with individual producers? And as an individual producer, there's a whole bunch of people that don't want to have a mandatory check-off to go to the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association. They're opposed to this and they've let this government know

this. And in fact they are literally thousands of individual producers that are opposed. They've let them know, but they haven't paid one iota of attention to what these producers have to say.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know you do represent some people in the cattle industry. I know there's a few folks over there that represent some people in the cattle industry. And there are literally thousands of people that have signed these petitions, but these guys haven't listened to what individual cattle producers have had to say. They have only listened to a few select friends. They've listened to them, but they haven't listened to people on the ground. And this causes people in the livestock industry a great deal of difficulty, Mr. Speaker.

Now what's interesting is that we see coming into the Legislative Assembly many pieces of legislation where they are turning over the administration of funds to other organizations, outside organizations. And right now the fund is essentially administered by the industry, but it is in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Earlier today we had a Bill put into the legislature where they're blowing up the fund that's administered by the tourism ministry and culture for Doukhobors in the province of Saskatchewan. And now what they're doing is they're getting rid of the previous legislation and they're creating the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association and they're going to get to administer the fund. And there is a whole bunch of people in the industry that absolutely are opposed to what this government is doing when it comes to this compulsory fund that's going to be administered by an organization that these livestock producers do not support.

Now you would think that they might be given a vote to decide whether or not they want the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association to represent them. You would think they might be given a choice. You'd think they might be given the ability to say no, I don't want to pay two bucks; I don't want this money to go to the Cattlemen's Association. Yes, I can apply to get it back, but these folks have absolutely no choice.

So, you know, here is a group of men and women that declare themselves as a bunch of free enterprisers and let individuals determine what they want to do with their money. Well, we have livestock producers in the province of Saskatchewan that sell an animal, and they are forced by this legislation to pay a \$2 check-off fee to the Saskatchewan — per animal — to the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association. And they've had absolutely nothing to do with the creation of this organization.

And in fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, thousands of producers have signed a petition saying they are opposed to this, and these men and women have absolutely nothing to say to these producers. They are hell-bent and determined that they are going to ram through this legislation and amendments to create an organization that benefits a few of their buds, and people don't like it.

Now these free enterprisers over here, they tell us that it should be individual choice. They tell us that it should be up to the individual producer to make their way, determine how they want to farm, determine how they want to ranch. But when it

comes to a cattle check-off, they are determining that the check-off is going to be compulsory, and it's going to be given to the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association. No one got to vote on this, not at all. This has been jammed down people's throats and there's absolutely nothing people can do. They can sign a petition, they can tell the minister. And they have been told apparently that the petition wasn't put in the proper form. It didn't have the humbly prayith and this sort of thing, and so therefore it can't be presented in the legislature. But they have given it to the opposition.

None of their members over there would put it into the legislature. They wouldn't tell the minister, lookit, we've got thousands of signatures, we want you to think about this. Maybe we should back off. Maybe we should go back to the drawing board. Maybe we should do further consultation with individual farmers and ranchers and livestock producers. Maybe we should talk to people on the ground. Maybe we should go out to those auction marts, see what those ranchers and producers really think about this.

Did they do that? Absolutely not. Not at all because they had a few of their buds that wanted the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association to be the representatives of the industry, to do the checks, have the money from the check-off, and determine how that money was going to be spent.

Well, Mr. Speaker, these guys are losing support in rural Saskatchewan. They're losing support. They are determined to . . . They have decided how, when, and where individual livestock producers are going to pay their check-off and to which organization — no choice, no choice there.

They've decided that, gee, we're not going to have educational assistants out in those rural schools anymore to support learning disabled students or physically disabled students or mentally challenged students. We're going to get rid of them.

They've decided that, they created a Crown corporation, for heaven's sakes, to attract doctors to rural Saskatchewan. And they're against Crown corporations, but they Created a Crown corporation. Now tell me why we need to have a Treasury Board Crown to recruit doctors to the province of Saskatchewan. This is a group of men and women that bird dogged the NDP government on all the Crown corporations in Saskatchewan. And what do we have? We've got a Crown corporation for the railroad hub out here. I think they've got some member over there that's the Chair of the board collecting money.

Now we've got another Crown corporation to get doctors. And guess what? A lot of their friends are sitting on the board getting big per diems at another Crown corporation. I'm sure that those people like getting a Crown per diem to recruit doctors to rural Saskatchewan and yet there is plastic bags over hospital signs on highway after highway after highway on weekends. And why is that? Because this group of men and women — and by goodness they've had two and a half years to get this little job done — they can't recruit a doctor to rural Saskatchewan.

And, you know, I was the Minister of Health. And I can honestly say there were doctors in Shaunavon. There were

doctors in Shaunavon when I was the minister, but are there doctors in Shaunavon under the Sask Party? Absolutely not. And what happened? What happened to the doctors in Shaunavon? They moved over to Swift Current. And that's okay apparently, even though they were given a little enhancement grant to go down to Shaunavon. But these guys can't get doctors in Shaunavon.

Now, Mr. Speaker, getting to the point. This is a group of men and women that think they've got the rural vote all sewed up. They think they've got the pitchforks. They've got that rural vote and now they're going for the city vote. You know, Grant Devine used to . . . There was a great, great cartoon done by Brian Gable. It was Grant Devine and Eric Berntson with their pitchfork. And it was going for the rural vote. In fact I still have that cartoon. It's hilarious.

But now it's the Premier with his, I guess, glass of wine, going for the urban vote. That's what he's trying to do. And while he's going for the urban vote, guess who he's leaving behind? The rural vote. They don't care about livestock producers, thousands of petitions given to those members. And are they prepared to put them into this House or tell the minister? Absolutely not, absolutely not. They're going to let the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association and their few friends, they're going to control this fund. Doesn't matter what individual livestock producers have to say. No, it doesn't matter.

You know, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds, I'll say thousands of women work as educational assistants in rural Saskatchewan. Thousands of women work as educational assistants. A lot of these educational assistants are married to farmers and they have a job at the local school. They've been able to get that education and training through the regional colleges in their rural communities. They've got the skills and the training and they can get a job in their home community to support their families and the farm.

And what's this outfit over here doing? Well they've got this lovely plan; page 18. The minister doesn't want to talk about page 18. Page 18 shows how it's their plan to get rid of 75 per cent of educational assistants in the province of Saskatchewan in six years. Those are rural jobs for the most part, Mr. Speaker, but they're going to get rid of them.

And then let's talk about another little flight of fancy by this government. Let's talk about what they're doing to home care workers. Home care workers work in rural Saskatchewan and they're married to livestock producers.

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. I ask the member, the Bill up for debate is *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009*. I would ask that the member stick to the topic that is on the floor.

Ms. Atkinson: — Now, Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, it's coming together nicely. Home care workers are married to livestock producers. And why, and why are they working in home care? Because they can't make a buck. They can't make a buck in the cattle industry because it's gone down the tubes since these guys came to office; but anyway. So a lot of these livestock producers' spouses have gone and got some training through their regional college and they've become home care

workers. They have the skills and the education and that home care job helps support the family farm or the family ranch.

What is this bright group of men and women over there proposing for home care workers? Home care workers work an eight-hour shift, eight hours a day, kind of normal. Well this group of bright lights over here, their plan is to have them work that eight hours in a 12-hour period. And guess who these people are? They're women. And guess what they do? They not only work at their job at home care but they look after children, they look after the household, they help their husbands, their business, the farm, whatever. And these bright people over here, they want to say to these women, you can go to work from 8 until 12, go back to the farm, have a little rest, I guess, and then come back in four hours and work another four. Now, Mr. Speaker, how does that support rural families and how does that support rural women?

[21:30]

But do they care about this? Oh, no. Oh, no, no, no, no. They want to get a cheap little deal with the unions. You know, let's get the one and a half or whatever it is per cent. But be damned, be damned if we have those women who are going to work a 12-hour shift and get paid for eight hours. And that is simply wrong, Mr. Speaker. It is wrong. It goes against good labour relations and it goes against what women have struggled for and worked for for decades, to get to the point where split shifts are gone. But this group of men and women are taking us back to the past and it is wrong, wrong, wrong. And they're not going to let people have a choice. It's wrong.

Now, Mr. Speaker, now let's talk about rural day care. Let's talk about rural day care because a lot of those livestock producers, a lot of those livestock producers have little kids. And apparently all of these spaces are going to go into creating rural day care to support rural farm families and rural people — farm families that are involved in the livestock industry. And have any of those spaces been created? No. No they haven't, not at all.

And yet we have families that are trying to work to support that farm because the cattle industry is in the hole. The hog industry is in the hole. And guess what? In 2010, the farm is going to be in serious problem because of what's happened with commodity prices. And where are the supports for these rural families? Absolutely nowhere. So we'll be very interested in the budget.

Will there be a program, and will we get rural doctors? I don't think so. I don't think so. Will we see more spaces because there are literally hundreds of families, thousands of families waiting for child day care in rural Saskatchewan, urban Saskatchewan? Absolutely not. I suspect not. And will we see doctors in rural Saskatchewan? And I don't think so. I don't think so.

So you see what we have over here is a group of men and women; they're really good at the spin. They're really good at the spin. You know, shaking hands, slapping people on the back. We are for you. We're the rural people. We're the rural revitalization people. Everything's going well. Well it's not. It's not going well in rural Saskatchewan, not at all. There are a lot

of people that can't afford the rent. They can't afford to pay the bills. The cattle industry is in the dumper. The hog industry is in the dumper. Commodities aren't selling. And I would think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you might know this. Maybe you know this; I think you do. And yet we have . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — [Inaudible] . . . the member not to draw the Speaker into the debate. I think she knows better than that. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — You know, Mr. Speaker, I guess what I'd like to say to my colleagues is, it takes more than a pair . . . I think it takes more than a pair of blue jeans and cowboy boots. It takes more than that. You have to have public policy that people can relate to. And this piece of legislation . . . You know, you can go out to the stockyards and the auctions with your cowboy boots and your blue jeans on and the stetson, but there's a whole group of people — lots, thousands of people — that do not support this legislation. They do not support this legislation. They think that this is a cooked-up deal between a few friends in the Sask Party and the Sask Party for the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in order to be a politician I think you have to appeal to a few more people than a couple of people. I think so. And your friends. I think you need to think about the people who don't like things — and they may very well be your supporters. But this is how you start to lose support, Mr. Speaker, and this is how you're seen as not listening and not caring about what people in the industry are saying on the ground.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think I've said enough about this legislation.

[Interjections]

Ms. Atkinson: — I think I have. I know that I have other colleagues that want to speak on this legislation. We have a petition of thousands of signatures that we'd like the legislature to accept because people are opposed, people are opposed to this and you folks need to know that. They do not like the compulsory nature of this and they do not like the fact that this organization is being forced upon them and they weren't asked to choose. And that's wrong.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will adjourn debate and no doubt that other people will enter into other debates.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 97. 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. 108

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 108** — *The Cities Amendment Act, 2009* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm pleased to be on my feet to enter into debate this evening on Bill 108, *An Act to amend The Cities Act and to make a consequential amendment to The Land Surveys Act, 2000*.

Now essentially what this legislation aims to do is a few very simple things. It's at least what it aims to do. What it does firstly though is reduce the provincial government's role in approving of street closures except in the case of provincial highways passing through cities. Seems like a reasonable idea.

And I just spent some time at the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, and went to SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and note that the various municipalities around Saskatchewan do an absolutely tremendous job of managing their cities and towns and rural municipalities. And certainly we would applaud the work that the men and women who are part of these organizations do on a daily basis to make their communities better places to live and to make this province a better place to be. And so we appreciate the work that's done and we appreciate that they are perhaps in the best position to make some of these decisions with respect to their own streets and whether or not they should be closed or sold or retired.

Additionally this legislation does something unique and perhaps interesting to some folks. It gives municipalities the power to seize mobile homes in cases where property taxes have gone unpaid and there's a concern that the mobile home could be moved.

Now what's interesting is that you have to consider what might cause somebody to be behind on their taxes on their mobile home. You know, a lot of folks choose to live in mobile homes because their work is transient in nature. They work in one oil field in one part of the province, and they work in another oil field in another part of the province. So they'll travel with their home and set it down in whatever jurisdiction they live in. Some folks live in mobile homes because they're less expensive than permanent dwellings with a basement.

Now what would cause somebody in one of these situations to have property taxes that have gone unpaid? If you look at a list of things that this government has influence over, you'll note that many, many fees in Saskatchewan have increased under this government. Virtually everything related to the cost of living has increased under this government. And it certainly would cause you to be behind on the taxes on your mobile home. There are homes in Duck Lake where they're paying three times as much for their water than they were in the past. I'm told that 80 per cent of the people whose water in Duck Lake they're unable to pay their bill for are Aboriginal. And so it's a sad and shameful thing.

Now you might ask yourself how this affects property taxes. Well if you can't afford water, you're probably going to buy your water ahead of paying your property taxes. So you'd be behind on those. Additionally, SaskPower rates: they raise them by 20 per cent, and they reduce them by 5. And then they raise them by another 8, and then they'll reduce them by 2, and then

they'll raise them by 14. So power rates have gone up exponentially under the Saskatchewan Party government in Saskatchewan. That might cause you to be behind on your taxes and have your mobile home fall under this jurisdiction.

SaskEnergy rates, same principle applies. They'll raise them by 20 per cent in the wintertime when your bill's higher. In the spring, they'll reduce them by another 5 per cent, and then they'll raise them again in the fall when it gets cold out. That's another case where you might not be able to afford your taxes on your mobile home, and you might have some issues related to Bill 108.

Now if you look at tuition costs in Saskatchewan for the last four years or so, up to 2007 there was a tuition freeze in Saskatchewan. Students in Saskatchewan paid exactly the same for their tuition as they paid the year before. Now for many, many students, in fact virtually any student attending a post-secondary institution in Saskatchewan, that's not the case and hasn't been the case for two years. And it's my understanding in discussion with students and student leaders that they are fully expecting increases between 5 and 10 per cent because this government can't control their own spending. And so they take it out on the students of the province.

Many of those students in Prince Albert that I've talked to live in mobile homes and might fall under this legislation because they are unable to pay their taxes. Because if I have a choice to pay my tuition or my property taxes, I'd make sure that my tuition was paid first.

Additionally, if you look strictly at the cost of housing, it's unbelievably expensive. And it's gone up unbelievably under this government. And what do they choose to do about it? Well they'll take a cheque from Boardwalk for \$10,000 to support their party to ensure the rent controls aren't put in place.

Well how does that help the average person in a mobile home in Saskatchewan? Their rent is through the roof. It might cause them to be unable to pay property taxes.

Additionally, because we found once again this year that people aren't appreciating their parks enough, the Saskatchewan Party government decided that they'd raise the rates on camping fees. So they laughed and joked and thought it was funny that you would apply a fee to somebody who wanted to use firewood, but they take that off, the \$3, and add \$10 worth of other fees across the board for everybody that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now they're arguing, they're arguing that they got rid of it.

But their own members have no idea what's going on in their caucus. I'm not sure if the minister responsible is not telling them. But some folks might choose to go camping — though I'm sure it's going to be fewer and fewer — and they're going to pay more. And they're going to pay more every year under this government because when you can't control your own finances, when you have no idea what you're doing when you take in \$10.2 billion in one year but you spend 11 and you blame it on potash, you have to make up the fees somewhere. And so you'll make them up on camping, and that might cause somebody to not be able to pay the fees and taxes on their trailer home.

Now we understand today that if you've got a sore back, you are going to have to pay more for your chiropractor. If you don't have insurance to go see a chiropractor, it's going to cost you more because they are going to de-insure them. There is no longer going to be a co-pay by the Government of Saskatchewan for chiropractic services. It's become clear today with the answers from the Minister of Health.

[21:45]

So if you have to pay more because your back has been hurt at work, you might not be able to pay your property taxes on your mobile home while you're . . . You might have put your back out hauling your own water in Duck Lake by hand because the water is so bad there that you have to haul it by hand. And I'm sure they don't carry it all the way from P.A. And so if that happens and you injure your back carrying your own water in Duck Lake uphill both ways, there might be a case where it causes . . . So you hurt your back. And so then you go to the chiropractor and you find out there that they de-insured them. And so now you have to pay the full bill and that might cause you to be in a position where your property taxes have gone unpaid.

Now additionally you might be an entrepreneur that wants to — this ought to get the members' attention — you might want to be an entrepreneur that comes to Saskatchewan. And so if you are an entrepreneur that wants to come to Saskatchewan, before recently you could do it without paying a \$2,500 levy, but now if you have to pay the levy, you might not be able to pay your property taxes, and therefore the municipality may have power to seize your mobile home.

Additionally what these guys could have done when they inherited a \$2.3 billion surplus is keep the lowest cost utility bundle to ensure that people in Saskatchewan have the lowest cost utilities in the country. Why wouldn't they do that? Because they know that they are going to overspend. It doesn't suit what they want to do with the Crown corporations, which is overspend on the general revenue side, draw it down from the Crown corporations so that they meet in the middle. And you can't do that if you are not charging people through the roof for their power. Because they love the back door so much, they're going to use that to get fees from people and pay . . . Their power bills will be a lot higher.

So those might be some of the reasons where you'd have your mobile home seized by the municipality in cases where your property taxes have gone unpaid.

Another interesting aspect to this portion of the Bill is, and I'll quote from the minister's speech on November 16 of 2009:

The timing is slightly different. A city can seize or immobilize a trailer during the year the taxes are due if, for example, the city determines the trailer is likely to be moved before the taxes are paid.

I'm not sure what towns are going to do. But the city can do this anyway.

This may not seem like a significant issue, but it demonstrates a present inequity in our property tax

system and a challenge for cities.

Now what they are saying is that a city has the opportunity to seize a mobile home if it determines the trailer is likely to be moved before the taxes are paid. So they're going to look into their Sask Party crystal ball — that's pink now because it's stained with potash — and they're going to try to determine whether or not they can seize somebody's mobile home and whether or not it's likely to be moved before they pay them. So before somebody has a chance to not pay their taxes, they are going to attempt to seize their mobile home because it's likely to be moved. What kind of sense does that make, Mr. Speaker?

Well they've got . . . I'm sure that all of the money that should have went to HTC that could go to research in Saskatchewan is going to the Sask Party crystal ball to get the pink out of it so that you can actually see through it to determine whose trailer is likely to be seized under this legislation. So I find that another interesting piece of this legislation. I don't know how they legislate that you can guess whether somebody is likely to move their mobile home or not. I have no idea how you are going to do that. Sask Party map and geography lessons have been rough today and apparently science is no better.

Now in addition, I'd like to read another portion of the minister's speech where he says:

I'd just like to remind the Assembly, the purpose of allowing such checks is not to prevent someone with a criminal record for running for municipal office. It is to allow municipalities to decide locally if they want to require a higher level of public transparency in the election process.

Now it's unclear of who can bring the legislation to bear in this case. So when a private citizen has a concern about somebody that's running for public office, can they bring it forward to the government to ensure that there's a record check? If there is a municipality, does the municipality make the decision? Does a private citizen that has a concern make the decision? Who makes the decision on whether or not there is a higher level of public transparency?

And if you want to talk a little further about how they create legislation that will apply to everybody else in Saskatchewan but them, this is it. So they'll have somebody that may be affected by this legislation working in their own caucus and they ensure that it only applies to municipalities. It doesn't apply on the provincial level because well, trust us. We'll do our own checks, thank you. I wonder why that is?

It's not much different than Bill 103, the miscellaneous statutes professions Act where they list 40 different professions, and I read them here last night. And who's exempt? Police officers. And why? I think people can draw their own conclusions. But what would be the point? It's two cases in two nights in this legislature where they design legislation that exempts themselves. I find it hard to believe.

Now it also says . . . And I'll quote the minister again in his speech. Maybe he'll give a shorter speech next time, and I won't be able to quote so much of it:

The ministries of Highways and Infrastructure and Justice were highly involved in developing the amendments relating to streets to ensure that the provincial interest, role, and responsibility is appropriate.

So when it comes to ensuring that the province doesn't have a vested interest in a street, in somebody's back alley, in their home, then we're going to consult the ministries and ensure that we get the right information.

But when it comes to guessing on how much we're going to take in on potash revenue in Saskatchewan, who do we talk to? No, no, you wouldn't talk to your ministry then. You wouldn't talk to the officials who would be in the best position to make that judgment. No, no, you would exempt yourself from doing that. But when it comes to ensuring that somebody's back alley can be moved under city jurisdiction or municipal jurisdiction, that's when you consult your Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure or Justice.

I find that a bit strange where, when it comes to an alley in a city, you would ensure that you do a great big consultation with the ministry. But when it comes to the revenue of the province and guessing, which is what ended up happening, whether or not you'd have 3 billion as was suggested by the Minister of Energy and Resources, whether you'd have 2 billion which was the Premier's best guess — the Minister of Finance tried to sell that to Saskatchewan people — or whether it would end up at being 100 or minus \$204 million, where you end up in a position where you're paying back resource companies to take the resource out of your province. The only place in the world where that happens is Saskatchewan.

And would you consult with your ministry to determine whether or not you'd have appropriate income to match the level of spending? No, because that's somehow deemed to be unimportant. But when you try to ensure that the back alley of a city or a town is treated properly by the municipality, that's when you consult your Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure and Justice. I find that a little bit, a little bit strange and tough to take as well, Mr. Speaker. And it is, I would argue, as the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs suggests, disingenuous.

Now if you would also look at what it says specifically about some of the clauses in here, it says in here that they'll add the following clause after clause (hh), and that is:

'travel trailer' means a structure that:

is equipped to travel on a road.

Well "equipped to travel on a road" could mean nearly anything. The member from Regina Rosemont is strong enough to carry one on his back. Now is that equipped to travel on a road? I'm not sure. So I think we need to work on, in this Bill, what some of these things mean exactly. What is it to be equipped to travel on a road? Does it have to have wheels and tires or can it be put on the back of a flatdeck? So what exactly does that mean?

And so we have many questions about the specifics of the Bill. We also have questions about the general principles of the Bill and how they came to make these decisions. And so we have

questions that we'll want to ask in committee, and with that, I move to adjourn debate on this Bill this evening.

The Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 108. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 121

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 121 — *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased tonight to enter into the debate on this Bill for the environmental management and protection in our province.

The minister spoke at length and I read her remarks. And honestly I don't know who wrote them, but it's almost, it's not really terribly understandable, a lot of big words.

And I do notice when I read the report that was commissioned by the government, the Clifton report, towards a results-based environmental regulatory system for Saskatchewan. This was commissioned by the government in 2008, and it took about a year to come into this form as the report. And that was in February of '09, and now it is February or March of 2010, a year later.

And reading through the recommendations, there's 40 of them in the report, and I imagine there was a fair amount of taxpayers' money spent on this report. And it reminds me of the Patient First Review that took a year to do, in health, spent a lot of money, a lot of the taxpayers' money. And basically we've heard nothing of that report or likely will we ever hear anything that's been done with that report.

So this one is . . . We have serious issues with whether this report's recommendations will ever be implemented. And reading through the recommendations, 40 of them, the minister agrees with every recommendation, but the recommendations are wide-ranging, wide-sweeping, expensive recommendations. And the report even mentions that the ministry does not have the capacity, the human resource capacity to do the things that they see need to be done. So basically the few amendments and the changes in legislation are a minor part of this Clifton report that talks about the environment and what this province needs to do for that.

This government really has no credibility on environmental issues. We're two, plus two years into the mandate of the government and have seen nothing but this report and very little else from the minister. And like I said, her speech in the legislature, her second reading speech, is almost incomprehensible. and it doesn't speak to, really, things that

people can see will happen with our environment.

And the report is actually interestingly enough called Go Green Saskatchewan. I imagine by the time anything is done with this, go green will have now been able to be called gone brown. Because there's really . . . I can't see how anything's going to be done that's going to fix any of the things that are in this Clifton report.

And their recommendations, given the budgetary situation we have, most of these recommendations that will deal with environmental management and protection are very costly, even in up to and including the electronic databases that are recommended, more people to supervise, standardize, looking at some of the things that have to be done in the industry.

And I can hardly see that this government will have the capacity to do anything on environmental issues other than put some legislation, tweak some legislation, which is basically is all this is doing. It is putting together some Acts, changing a few things, putting them all into one and basically has done nothing to do anything to it, nothing to enhance the environment.

[22:00]

The Clifton report, as I said, clearly says that the ministry doesn't have the capacity to implement the recommendations. So looking at the budget that's going to be coming up this month, I can't imagine how we're going to find this government seeing any money added into the environmental ministry to deal with any of these very serious issues on the environment. And I think, as usual, we will likely see nothing happening. And like I said, the Patient First Review, it makes me think of that one because nothing's happened with that one either.

So I think it's quite interesting that a government that promised to implement some targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions hasn't been able to do anything. And basically another study is now a year old, and all we have seen generated from that are some of the minor legislative changes that we see.

Some of the things that were suggested in the legislation — environmental codes — a lot of these things sound good on paper, but the fact is the government is asking us to pass this legislation without knowing what the minimal standards will be. Who's going to write these standards? And who's the government going to consult with? Mostly the industry itself it sounds like.

And I know when the federal government was looking at giving the meat industry self-regulation and trying to save money at the federal level — so cutting back on meat inspectors, going to give the inspection and the standards setting and basically the self-regulatory job to the meat industry itself — and then all of a sudden listeriosis hit. And that was totally, totally removed from the federal government's agenda. They realized that you can't let an industry police itself alone. There has to be government intervention, government oversight.

This is something that the people of the province are sincerely, sincerely interested in and committed to — the environmental issues. And they've seen nothing from this government, nothing in just over two years. There's been nothing. And I can see with

these legislative changes very little that's going to move the environmental issues forward at all. And I think, given that the government thinks they're going to set baseline emissions, simply can't . . . we haven't seen anything. We've seen a lot of talk, and basically nothing has happened. In fact the talk has even died down. I really haven't heard much of that left over either.

So it's interesting that, as I said, that the government is going to let the industry be accountable for the damage that they do to the environment, for example. And I think people expect the government to actually do more than just tell the industry that they've done damage after it has been done. I think they expect more responsible action from the government when they think that the environment is sometimes irreparable, irreplaceable too. But sometimes the damage that's done is irreparable, and we can't be letting industry set all of the standards and give all of the guidelines without some government intervention or oversight.

And I think that there is some merit in some of the changes that the government has suggested. There is some proposals that would suggest that there's going to be baseline objectives that the industry would be required to meet. But again, I think a lot depends on how those objectives are set and whether they're rigorous enough to be meaningful in any way. And the principle, as I said, is probably a good one.

But given the things that we have seen from this government, it's hard for anybody to actually believe that something will be done. And when we see a report that took a year to do, and basically in the report it said that, in the minister's comments, consultation has happened. Well consultation to this government doesn't mean the same thing it does to most people. A lot of people have just had passing comments construed as consultation.

And I found that out in the wild ponies Act. The band that we were being told had been consulted, when I talked to them, they had not been. They did not think a passing comment at a meeting about a Bill that might be coming was, in their view, consultation. And they were promised that they might see the Bill when it came. They never saw that either. So I really don't think people have a great deal of faith in the definition of consultation from these government members and their various ministries.

And I think that people do think that environmental management and protection is really a core responsibility of government. I don't think you can give it to industry. There's a role for industry. There's a role for businesses. There's a role for private investors. But the role of government is to prevent environmental degradation where possible and not simply, as I said, to make a judgment after the fact when the damage has been done. And it's also the government's responsibility at times to step in and prohibit specific activities that we know are going to be harmful to the environment.

There's going to be some . . . There was a recommendation made in the Clifton report that suggested, for example, that there would be permits to construct facilities that would be discontinued except in certain extraordinary cases. The government indicated that they agreed with that

recommendation. As I said, they agreed with all 40 recommendations which is interesting because, like I said, I don't know if anybody costed this report and the recommendations. I would like to actually see that, and that would be a question I think I'll ask in committee because the cost of doing what the Clifton report recommends is, I would think, fairly high. And it would be interesting to see that cost if somebody has done it. And I don't have any actual faith or anything that I would see that this has been done.

There's things that also in the report . . . I mentioned earlier on that the report says itself that Saskatchewan doesn't have the current "staff capacity or capability to monitor and regulate the current industry and oversee the social licence." And that was a quote that's from the actual report. And it notes that the Environment ministry is short of certain important skill sets, not only at the ministerial level but in the ministry with engineers, hydrogeologists, water quality and air quality specialists, toxicologists, epidemiologists, and risk assessment specialists. In other words, the report says the Ministry of the Environment doesn't have the people to do the job.

And I think we can basically see that. I think everybody believes in the province that this is one of the things that has been dropped by the Sask Party government, a promise that was made and certainly not kept. People are waiting to hear what is going to happen with the environment. What's the government going to propose? What's the government going to do, because basically proposing isn't going to actually fix anything.

And the report did suggest that the Ministry of the Environment should consider developing a long-term preferred supplier — for example — relationship with a private sector firm who could be kept on retainer. And the government again agreed. So there is some room to build expertise outside of government and in places actually use the private sector. But there is a fundamental role of protecting of the environment and the protection of the people's long, long, long-standing view of the environment as being theirs and that the government is a steward of the environment.

So we can't see that building expertise in government to protect the environment is one thing and contracting out is another. So there has to be a careful balance that you don't privatize by another name here.

And I said people are really not convinced that this government has the ability to deliver on environmental issues. I'm pretty sure that if you asked anybody that they do say that health care of course is first on their list of concerns, but the environment comes a fairly close second. And I don't think we've seen anything that would encourage the public to believe that this government, the Sask Party government, has a handle on this, has a commitment to it. And certainly having a report done a year ago and coming forward with . . . The only thing we see coming forward in the year following is a few pieces of legislation that do really nothing to establish any actual plan.

I would like to see of those 40 recommendations, when the minister agrees with every recommendation, is there a work plan to actually address each of those? Are there targets to achieve what the report has asked for in the recommendations? Forty recommendations and all you do is say we agree. Well

that's pretty light and superficial. I don't think anybody can . . . Most people who know about action plans and work plans and getting things done, you have to have a work plan. And I don't see that happening here, and I don't think three pieces of legislation is going to constitute much of a work plan.

And this results-based environmental regulatory framework for Saskatchewan sounds really good, but I'm not sure. I haven't seen anything that says how this will happen, how it's going to be facilitated, and certainly not with the legislation that I've seen.

And there's people that of course are excited about this because basically it's the only thing we've heard. So I think people would consider a report of this nature from Clifton Associates to be a starting point, but I don't know how long you wait to start actually doing the action. And right now I don't think anybody has any, any confidence in the government to put any plans in action. And I am certain that there isn't going to be any money to address the 40 recommendations that are in this report that go far and beyond legislation and the few legislative changes that are contemplated here today.

So I think that we'll probably be disappointed again in an environmental plan from the government. And I think that people will be concerned, continue to be concerned about what is lacking in protecting their environment and protecting the environment for their children and for their grandchildren. I think people, like I said, have this as a top-of-the-mind issue.

And really we've heard nothing from the Minister. You know, a second reading speech, like I said, was pretty vague, full of long, big words and really nothing in commitment, nothing that would signal to the people of Saskatchewan that there's something that is going to be done. And I think consulting various stakeholders, First Nations and Métis Nation they talk about, most of that consultation is really considered to be fairly non-productive. And I think First Nations and the Métis Nation have a need and a requirement to be consulted on many things in a meaningful way. None of this, none of the consultation that has been done so far has been meaningful or productive.

And like I said, when I saw the small Bill or the Bill that was done with the wild ponies, it showed me that really what somebody defines as consultation and sincerely, I think, believed that that was good enough, was significantly lacking in the eyes of the people who had a significant interest in this Bill. It was on traditional treaty land, and they needed to see something in the Act that would protect that, and indeed it was in the hunting and fishing Act that government proposed itself. And yet they objected to putting it in this other Act, mainly because I think it was, you know, grandstanding, grandstanding because they didn't think of it. And it was pointed out that they did it wrong. And they didn't really like that; they're fairly thin-skinned.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty hard to follow my colleague from Athabasca. He does such a wonderful job on environmental issues. And it's interesting. It's always interesting to listen to him. And I think people enjoy hearing his comments on a really, really, really, important issue, but to make it real to them. I think he always makes it real to them.

And I think people are looking at the government to deliver on their promise of greenhouse gas emission targets, on environmental stewardship, and they're not getting it. And they're not getting it. And I don't think they're going to get it in this budget because there's simply no money. When this government has mismanaged the finances so badly over the last two years, there's lots of things people are not going to get, and that things that people need and this province needs aren't going to happen.

So I think there's going to be lots of questions when we get this Bill into committee about what it all means because if there's changes to the legislation that actually enable some of the recommendations to be put in place, good. How much did the report cost? Interesting. Legislation that does nothing but basically do housekeeping, combine some Acts, isn't going to move us forward on environmental issues or change our commitment to the province. It isn't going to deliver. And I'm sorry to say I think this is what all this legislation is going to be . . . fairly useless, I would think, to actually achieve many of those goals. It will be a very, very, very small step forward, if at all.

So with those remarks I will move adjournment of debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Eastview has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 121. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 104

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 104 — *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, tonight is . . . actually the first two days of session have been pretty great days as we are debating a significant number of Bills. And there's one thread that has come through as I make my preliminary remarks on the *Act to amend The Summary Offences Procedures Act, 1990*.

One thing that seems to be a common thread through all of the discussion, all of the debate, Mr. Speaker, is the inability of the people of Saskatchewan to trust the government's word on what it is they're doing, on consultation that's taken place. And there are many examples where the consultation . . . One that just came to mind earlier today, that was brought to light earlier today was the chiropractors, where chiropractors negotiated an agreement with the Ministry of Health. The ministry had the press release all ready to go, and then now nearly three months later it's on indefinite hold. And that's the kindest way I could put it.

[22:15]

Mr. Speaker, that's just one of the things that lead us to question what it is that the Sask Party government is doing. And Bill 104, the summary offences procedures Act seems like a fairly reasoned, maybe even reasonable Act at first blush. At first blush, it does. But you know, Mr. Speaker, this Act allows for tickets to be served via mail, and it's a change from the status quo where a ticket has to be served in person.

Now I know I hear the members opposite saying, well what's good, what's bad, what's wrong with that? Well let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that we get elected, all of us in this Chamber get elected to pass laws. And we pass laws with the blessing of our constituents, which is made up of our neighbours, our friends, our relatives, our family are constituents. And we make laws based on the experiences that we have in our lives, but what we need to be sure we're doing, Mr. Speaker, is passing good laws.

And the reason that I say it has to be good laws is if you have the opportunity to travel throughout the world — I've had some ability to do that in my lifetime — as I have travelled around the world, I have seen laws that make no sense at all. And I have seen local populations where that's the case, that defy every law — every law. We have a great society in Canada. Saskatchewan is the best province in the entire country; I argue Saskatchewan is the place in the world to be. This is an awesome place to live and to call home.

But what we need, Mr. Speaker, is good laws that make sense and that work and so that people want to follow these laws. People have to understand them. It has to be clear, it has to be concise, and it has to make sense. We've got some questions with this summary offences procedure Act: you know, how many tickets are going to be converted to a mail system, how many tickets; how many person-years of time will that mean that police don't have to spend serving tickets? That clearly, clearly should be the upside to this debate. But then the question is, well now what happens then with these person-years of saved time? Does that mean we're going to have more police patrolling or more investigation into crimes? Or does it mean more holiday pay or more doughnuts? I don't know what the answer is. Will it be better utilization of police time? And if that's the case, if it was just straight-up better utilization of police time, it's a no-brainer. Of course we would support that legislation. That's just automatic.

But what we need to be sure is that we don't change the system of sending out tickets, of making sure that people are aware they're being charged with a summary offence in a way that leaves some doubt. If people have an ability to say, gee you know, I didn't do that crime or that I didn't do something to cause that summary offence to take place, then they'll balk. And then what's the fallback position? How do we recover from that?

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I know I see a lot of people wondering what is it I'm talking about here. Let me put some wheels, let me put some wheels under it for the Justice minister and others.

Many years ago in a previous lifetime I lent my car to a good friend's wife who took the car, who took the car to a town that had parking meters. And she got a ticket. The fine in those days was \$1 — \$1. And so . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . It tells

how old I am, and absolutely it tells how old I am.

But, Mr. Speaker, the point of this story is that my buddy's wife, who was also my friend obviously, didn't tell me, didn't pay the ticket. And I went about my business, I'm at my workplace in Whitewood at the Pool Farm Service Centre there. And I was a little slow getting out at lunch hour and in walked an RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officer. I'm all alone in there. And I'm behind the sales counter, and I jokingly put my arms in the air. And he said, are you Kim Trew? And my jaw hit the floor, and I admitted to who I was, and he served me with a summary offence ticket. And it was now not \$1, but it was \$10.

And I had quite a significant exchange of mail with the town of Nipawin because initially I said, look, I wasn't even there. How could I possibly have this ticket? I wasn't even there. And it was true. Anyway it's a little late to shorten an already too-long story, but I wound up paying the \$10 and have suffered the embarrassment ever since.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we're changing the summary offences procedure Act and how we deliver tickets, we want to make sure that we don't wind up with . . . Let me rephrase it. We want to make sure that individuals have the opportunity to have their say — to say, I wasn't there. Give me the description of the vehicle, if it's a parking thing. Which the town of Nipawin was able to do; they gave the description of my vehicle, and that kind of got me thinking.

But we need to provide for people the ability to have their say — guilty, not guilty; here were the circumstances — so that they are participating in the ongoing way our society operates, the ongoing good of the general society. Because we all, virtually everybody, supports that you should not drink and drive. Virtually everybody. You can hardly find anybody that says, oh it should be legal for someone to drink and drive. People don't even, I don't think, think in those terms anymore.

So what we need is a society where all of us appreciate what legislation is about and want to support it. Our laws should be protecting people, our society from harm and protecting our civil freedoms. And I'm just not sure how this mail serving of tickets affects our collective rights, Mr. Speaker, particularly as I've said, our ability to have our say respecting guilt or innocence.

Now I know in the notes it says that there was consultation made around this particular piece of legislation. And I want to again say that we are skeptical about when the government says there's been consultation, we wonder with whom. Was it perhaps a little tea party with their staff, or was it something a little more refined than that? Because the record around consultation of the government members opposite is very anemic, very weak, Mr. Speaker.

I know that just about a year ago now, we were told that there was much consultation with potash experts throughout the potash industry and that the province of Saskatchewan was going to get \$1.9 billion from potash, 1.9 billion. That's \$1,900 for every man, woman, and child for all 1 million Saskatchewan people. And, Mr. Speaker, that 1.9, the member for Kindersley said, oh it could easily pass 3 billion. He said that at that very

time.

Well that 3 billion quickly became 1.9, and then halfway through the year, mid-term report, it became maybe 250 million. And now, Mr. Speaker, due to their consultation, the consultation of Sask Party members, we find out that the government had to pay \$204 million to the potash industry. This is after consultation, the major consultation on the biggest single item in the budget year that we're just finishing up. The biggest single budget item, and they were more than 100 per cent out after much consultation. So we are really, really skeptical. Their batting average on consultation is grim. It is dismal.

Mr. Speaker, we have chiropractors that negotiated a deal, negotiated a deal with the government in good faith. Nearly three months later after they had an agreement that the chiropractors signed, that the Ministry of Health said they were going to sign, nearly three months later, no signature. No deal, and it's very much up in the air whether they're going to honour that deal. How do you consult any more widely, any more directly with an interest group, a group that's interested, than what they did with the chiropractors? They negotiated the collective agreement with them for heaven sakes and then won't honour it. What is the point of consulting, Mr. Speaker?

What consulting was done around *The Summary Offences Procedure Act, 1990*? We're told there was consultation, but I'm not sure how much consultation it was.

We're told that with respect to there's environmental questions out there, the law on the environment is being changed. We're told, Mr. Speaker, that as a result of the consultations there that the government, the Sask Party has an air management program. Well I want to tell you, air management's more than breathe in, breathe out. Breathe in, breathe out. And consultation should be much more than that too.

Mr. Speaker, they consulted on education property taxes. They had a mandate in the last election to deliver on education property taxes. What's the situation this year? Well, nothing. Nothing this year. Nothing. Municipal tax revenue stream: to describe that as being on hold is generous, Mr. Speaker. Well I mean there's consultation, there's announcements, and then nothing. What a sad record. What a sad record it is.

You know they used to say that Saskatchewan was in the pink. And then they stopped selling it. Now it's in the red. Now we're in the red. I don't know how a government could take us from prosperity, from boom to bust, in two years. How we could go from a \$2 billion surplus to more than a \$1 billion deficit in two short years, how is that possible? I haven't even started to talk about essential services legislation where I don't believe there was consultation in any meaningful way done at all. There's lots of credible business people that say there's no need.

Mr. Speaker, the best example I can give you around this is Bill 80, the construction labour relations Act where for 17 years now there has not been a strike — 17 years. The Saskatchewan construction industry has been booming, Mr. Speaker, booming. It is not broken.

And yet what is the Sask Party doing? They're saying, oh we've

got to fix this. Well fix things where there's a problem for heaven sakes. Fix things where there's a problem. Don't be pretending, make up problems. Don't put the boots to working people of Saskatchewan just for the sake that you can because the Premier said, I'm going to go to war with working people. I'm going to go to war with unions. Just because he said it, I mean surely you could break that promise like you've broken all the rest of the promises. Surely you could do that.

Mr. Speaker, we don't believe the consultation has taken place. We don't believe the consultations are done in good faith, if they're done at all. We think this legislation needs to be looked at very, very seriously.

The Speaker: — It being 10:30 this Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 22:30.]

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