



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

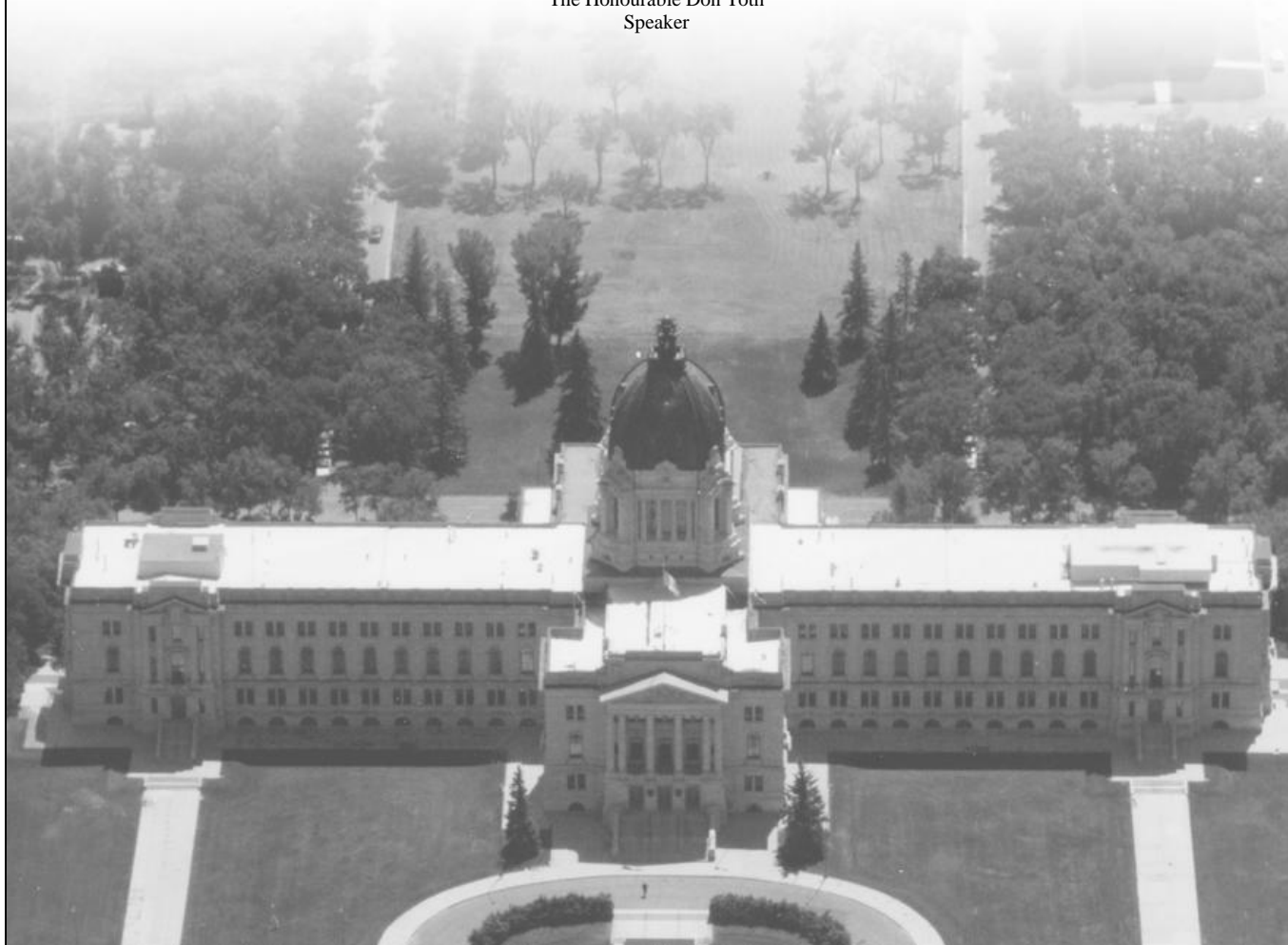
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the legislature, 21 students from Sheldon Williams Collegiate who are here in the east gallery. And they are accompanied by their teacher, Steffany Salloum, and they're in grade 11. They're planning to continue their education of how democracy works with a practical example today. And I know we'll all show them how the system works, and we'll also learn and understand that what we're doing is for their generation and coming generations. So thank you.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a fellow sitting in the east gallery, Lorne Hill, a former resident of Moose Jaw that I had many dealings with when he was still living in our community. He's travelled around the province, worked in a variety of areas, but wherever he has gone, he has always shown a great dedication to community and the values that he feels are highly placed in his life and seem to remain fairly constant. So no matter where he's been in the province, he's been active and a contributor to the improvement of the province for all of us. So I'd hope that all of my colleagues would welcome Lorne to the Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture, the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the legislature, my local council, RM [rural municipality] council that I was part of before I became part of the legislature. Ron Risling is the RM administrator out there; Rob Kirkham who actually is my neighbour, but also a councillor out there; Vern Glaicar and Scott Haas. And I'd ask everyone to welcome them to their legislature today.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the condition of Highway 310. The condition of Highway 310 is a potential safety hazard for the residents who have to drive on that highway each and every day. Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to commit to providing the repairs to Highway 310 that the people of Saskatchewan need.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Ituna, Goodeve, Kelliher, and Hubbard. I so present.

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour today to present a petition that was organized by the Saskatchewan Student Coalition. This petition is in support of the implementation of a Saskatchewan scholarship fund, said fund promised in the Sask Party 2007 election platform. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to implement the promised Saskatchewan scholarship fund.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are all from Saskatoon. It's my honour to present this petition. Thank you.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with petition in support of new long-term care beds in La Ronge, given that there's a growing wait-list for long-term care beds in and around La Ronge and an increase in the aging population of Mamawetan Churchill Health Region. And the petition reads:

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

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

The signatures are from La Ronge and Air Ronge. I so submit.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to a petition in support of maintaining quality health care services. And the petition indicates that the Government of Saskatchewan needs to recognize the integral role of all health care providers as valued members of the health care team, and that health care providers are employed across Saskatchewan and that they provide valuable care, compassion, and quality health care services to our citizens. The petition reads as follows:

Whereas your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to negotiating a fair and just

collective bargaining agreement with health care workers in the province of Saskatchewan.

I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of affordable housing for Saskatchewan seniors. And we know that rising living costs are having a huge impact on Saskatchewan senior citizens and that we need more affordable housing options and that would significantly help Saskatchewan seniors cope with the cost of living. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to act as quickly as possible to expand affordable housing options for Saskatchewan senior citizens.

And, Mr. Speaker, these folks are from the good town of Carrot River. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support to repair Highway 123 that goes to the community of Cumberland House. This petition is signed and supported by the leadership of the community of Cumberland House, Cumberland House First Nation. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining and repairing this highway.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good people of Cumberland House and area. I so present.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition that has been circulated by the Saskatchewan Student Coalition. It's a petition in support of affordable undergraduate tuition and a request for the Sask Party's actions to match its rhetoric. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to implement a long-term tuition management strategy in which tuition is increased by an average 2 per cent or the most recent increase to the consumer price index.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of reducing the interest on fixed-rate student loans to prime. And I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately reduce the interest on fixed-rate student loans to the prime rate of borrowing so that students can accumulate less debt and focus their finances on building their lives here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents of the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present yet another petition with respect to water issues in rural Saskatchewan. This is one where the government ministry has decided to, directed SaskWater to cut off supplies of water for domestic use to Furdale customers. And the Furdale residents have been dealing in good faith with SaskWater for over 30 years and have paid large amounts for their domestic systems. And the alternative water supply referred to by the government ministry is a private operator. And I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its order to cut off non-potable water to the residents of the hamlet of Furdale causing great hardship with no suitable alternatives, to exempt the hamlet of Furdale from further water service cut-offs by granting a grandfather clause under *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* and *The Water Regulations, 2002*, and that this government fulfils its promises to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And these petitions are signed by the good residents of Furdale, Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition today, at the end of which I'll also be tabling petitions left out on Monday in terms of naming the towns and cities across Saskatchewan. But the petition I stand to present today is in support of withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Speaker, it is the existing construction industry labour relations Act, 1992 has provided a stable environment for labour relations in the construction industry in our province. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its ill-conceived Bill 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009* which dismantles the proud history of the building

trades in this province, creates instability in the labour market, and impacts the quality of training required of workers before entering the workforce.

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

The petition is signed by residents of Regina. I so present.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise and present a petition in support of affordable rents and housing for The Battlefords. A petition, Mr. Speaker, that was sparked by a 40 per cent increase in rents to some Battlefords area apartment dwellers. Mr. Speaker, the petition reads as follows. The petitioners:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents of the city of North Battleford, the RM of North Battleford, and the village of Denholm. I so present.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition again today signed by citizens of Saskatchewan concerned about the government's disregard and disrespect for constitutional legal rights. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to direct marriage commissioners to uphold the law and the equality rights of all Saskatchewan couples and to withdraw the reference to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal that would allow marriage commissioners to opt out of their legal obligations to provide all couples with civil marriage services.

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

Today's petition is signed by residents of Regina. I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise, as I have every day within this session, to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of their finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the shameful \$1 billion deficit created by the Sask Party. They recognize that this is a problem that's not getting better, but worse, Mr. Speaker. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your

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

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

These petitions are signed by concerned citizens of Carlyle and Regina. I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of the expansion of the graduate retention program. The petition is calling for the inclusion of master's and Ph.D. students in the grad retention program, which should in fact be a key component to make sure we keep our people here, part of the innovation agenda. The prayer reads as follows:

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

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The petition is signed by good residents of Moose Jaw. I so present.

[13:45]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Canadian Music Week

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today kicks off the Canadian Music Week which will run through to March 14. Canadian Music Week began in 1981, but this year's conference in Toronto has grown to become one of Canada's largest and most influential music events.

Mr. Speaker, Canadian Music Week was designed to stimulate the exchange of market intelligence, to increase dialogue, and provide networking opportunities for musicians. Today I would like to recognize the efforts of all people in the Canadian Music Industry, but especially our homegrown talent from right here in Saskatchewan. Many of our musicians had the opportunity to showcase their wares to 120,000 people from across the nation and around the world when they performed at the Saskatchewan pavilion during the 2010 Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, this group consisted of the following: The Deep Dark Woods, Def 3, Jack Semple and the Free Style Boogie Band, Brad Johnner, Jordan Cook, La Raquette à Claquettes, Library Voices, Megan Lane, Andrea Menard, Mobadass, Donny Parenteau, Jason Plumb & The Willing, the Regina Riot, Kyle Riabko, Skavenjah, The True Jive Pluckers, the Ultimate

Power Duo, and the Whitefish Juniors.

I'd like to once again congratulate all of the participants that performed in Vancouver and say that based on their performance, the local music scene is alive and well in the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Poster

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party is holding a fundraiser next month and recently distributed a poster advertising the event to all homes in Martensville. The poster superimposes an invitation to the pig roast fundraiser on a picture of the burning twin towers in New York City taken moments after the second plane struck the south tower on September 11th.

Given the theme of the event, a photo of the fundraiser's guest speaker or any of the many iconic images of heroic first responders would have been appropriate choices. But to use a graphic image of the burning twin towers in which thousands of people tragically died to raise political dollars is both shocking for its lack of respect and disturbing for its lack of judgment.

This poster is now drawing national attention, Mr. Speaker. And online commentators are clear in their condemnation of this offensive fundraising poster. One said simply, "I'm at a loss for words." Another said, "They have no sense of common decency." And finally another said the poster's approval spoke to a "basic lack of humanity." Mr. Speaker, anyone who saw and approved this poster clearly lacks sound judgment. It's as simple as that.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Premier will call on his cabinet minister to immediately withdraw this ill-conceived and offensive poster. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Red Cross Month

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you Mr. Speaker. "Would it not be possible, in time of peace and quiet, to form relief societies for the purpose of having care given to the wounded in wartime by zealous, devoted, and thoroughly qualified volunteers?" This is the question Henri Dunant, the Swiss founder of the Red Cross, asked after he witnessed suffering on an Italian battlefield in 1859.

Mr. Speaker, March is Red Cross month and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize those people that make this organization successful. The Red Cross makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, or political opinions. The Red Cross endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

This was never more evident than the rapid and expansive response to the needs of the people of Haiti after the recent

devastating earthquake. At a time when the people needed assistance, the Red Cross was one of the first organizations to arrive. It is because of their volunteers' tireless effort that for over a century, the suffering of people around the world has been eased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Unions of Regina Christmas Dinner

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was an honour to act as a server at the 9th annual Unions of Regina Christmas dinner for Regina's less-fortunate residents on December 22nd, 2009. I was joined by the Regina members from Elphinstone, Dewdney, and Walsh Acres. This event is organized by the Regina and District Labour Council with the support of affiliate and non-affiliate unions, the Saskatchewan Provincial Building & Construction Trades Council, the Canadian Labour Congress, and community partners.

This event would not be possible without the incredibly generous donation of the Delta Hotel and its staff. Christmas is a time of year that can be incredibly stressful for individuals and families who are struggling financially, emotionally, and socially. At this year's event, more than 1,500 people attended and were provided a place to warm up, a fantastic meal, activities, and gifts for children. Appreciation was evidence; many thanks were provided.

I would be remiss not to thank the event organizer of this year's dinner, Janice Bernier, and the many union donors, volunteers, and their families who made the evening possible. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in thanking all those who contributed to the broader needs within our community and supported the ninth annual Unions of Regina Christmas dinner.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Regina Speed Skater Wins Olympic Gold

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. For nearly three weeks, the eyes of the world were on Canada. There was a strong contingent of Saskatchewan athletes representing our province as well as Canada at the Vancouver Winter Olympics. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Regina's very own Lucas Makowsky for his performance at the 2010 Olympics. Lucas competed against the best in the world that they had to offer in the 5000 and 1500 metre speed skating races. Lucas was part of the men's team's pursuit which collected Canada's fifth and final long track speed skating medal. This Canadian team of dedicated skaters defeated the United States in a head-to-head race for gold.

Lucas Makowsky's story is one that has been many years in the making. While attending high school at Regina's Campbell Collegiate, he epitomized the term student athlete. Now all his hard work has resulted in a gold medal for his country. This gold medal is especially important to the people of Regina who had the pleasure of watching Lucas grow up right before their eyes. Mr. Speaker, I would like this Assembly to recognize

Regina's Lucas Makowsky who is a remarkable example of hard work and dedication.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tribute to Robertson Trading Post Founder

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you. The Robertson Trading Post has been a landmark in La Ronge for more than 40 years. It is a general store with groceries, clothing, and hardware, a northern camps supplier and outfitter, a fur trader in a 200-year tradition, and an exhibitor and seller of fine northern craft, the work of many First Nations artists.

Alex Robertson began working for the Hudson's Bay Company in northern Canada and formed his own independent fur-trading company in 1967. Working in the North, Mr. Robertson grew to love the exotic and intricate works of art crafted by Dene and Cree artists. In the 1940s he began to purchase and collect beautiful pieces, including beaded hide gloves and moccasins, jackets, a rare ruffed grouse feather fan, birch bark bitings, sculptures carved from moose and elk antlers, and intricate baskets of birch bark. These works highlight northern plants and animals and reflect First Nations culture and spirituality.

Alex Robertson decided to build his own collection while also acting as the seller of other pieces to customers who admired his collection displayed in the Robertson Trading Post. The Saskatoon Craft Council, located in Saskatoon Nutana, curated a public exhibition of the Robertson Trading collection on January 15th to February 21st of this year.

Along with my colleagues, I want to thank the Robertson family for their vital contribution to Saskatchewan culture life and for engendering such appreciative support for First Nations artists. I also want to thank the Saskatchewan Craft Council for highlighting this beautiful collection and exhibiting it for a larger public audience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Moose Jaw Hosts the Saskatchewan Winter Games

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's an overwhelming national pride in the performance of our Canadian athletes at the Olympic Games in Vancouver, and rightfully so. However at that same time there was another exciting event: the Saskatchewan Winter Games that were going on.

The Winter Games were especially exciting for my home community of Moose Jaw as that city played host to 1,800 athletes, coaches, and officials participating in 19 different events. The games provided an opportunity for athletes to partake in a multi-sport event in preparation for a higher level of competition such as the Olympics.

The Winter Games attracted 4,000 visitors to the city. Such events are a tremendous economic boost to the local economy.

Mr. Speaker, I can't say enough about the positive effects that this had on Moose Jaw.

Besides the economic value to the community with busy hotels, restaurants, and retail outlets, there was another bigger effect. Seeing how friends and neighbours came together to host this event gave me great pride. Fifteen hundred citizens volunteered in planning, scheduling, preparing accommodations, security, transporting to and from events, and food — feeding hundreds of hungry athletes, no easy task. It meant working together for the success of the games.

I call on all members to acknowledge the athletes, the coaches, managers, officials, parents, and volunteers for the success of the Saskatchewan Winter Games, February 14th to 20th, in Moose Jaw. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Supply of Health Care Workers

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, the government's own website shows that the number of doctor vacancies in the province has increased by 50 per cent since the election of the Sask Party government. And this is a real problem right across the province. In fact, yesterday the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities passed a motion on this very issue.

My question to the Premier is this: when will the government admit that any strategy that increases, increases the vacancy by 50 per cent of doctors in this province is a failed strategy, and when will they step up and do something about it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of the members on this side of the House had the privilege of spending the morning at the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, and I had a chance to speak to the convention.

More importantly, there was an accountability session, and — no surprise, Mr. Speaker — health care dominated the questions from the floor of the SARM convention . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member asks if I participated in that one. The answer of course is yes; we were all there as a cabinet.

And, you know, there is more work that needs to be done. Mr. Speaker, we have laid out a plan that includes new training seats for doctors, new training seats for residencies, doubling the training seats for residencies. We have a recruitment agency, Mr. Speaker. The minister will have an announcement on this issue tomorrow — more developments. Here's the bottom line. Compared to 2007 when members opposite were the government, there are today 164 more doctors practising in Saskatchewan today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, question to the Premier. As the president of SARM said, and I quote, while he was talking to the media, the quote is, “It’s becoming a huge issue in a lot of communities . . . We definitely need some help.”

Well yesterday the members of SARM who talked to us while we were there, many of them indicated that their communities are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to recruit and retain rural doctors. And they simply can’t afford it because it’s money that should be spent on local infrastructure.

My question to the Premier is this: why is the government leaving and abandoning these communities to work out these arrangements on their own? These are the responsibility of the provincial government, not the municipal government. I ask the Premier: when will you take up your responsibility and help solve this problem?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the other thing that Mr. Marit of SARM said is that the NDP [New Democratic Party] are still very unpopular in rural Saskatchewan. Part of the reason why they are very unpopular in rural Saskatchewan today is the decimation that happened to rural health care when they were the government, Mr. Speaker. That’s part of the problem, part of the problem.

When that member sat in the cabinet of the province of Saskatchewan, I was on a volunteer committee in Swift Current. What were we doing, Mr. Speaker? I was on a committee raising money, Mr. Speaker. We were raising . . .

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I was on a volunteer committee of people in Swift Current when those members opposite were the government. What were we doing? We were raising money to supplement recruitment programs. We recruited a doctor to stay in the province of Saskatchewan.

When we took office, we undertook to keep our promises to increase training seats for doctors, for residencies, Mr. Speaker. We undertook to keep our promise, the first one made and kept by a government to actually have an agency focused on recruitment. The net result is 164 doctors, more doctors in this province than what was the case when the members opposite were the Government of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the comments made at the SARM convention from many of the delegates when we were talking to them was exactly about this issue the Premier’s talking about — that is, broken promises. That’s what they said. They said, the Premier and members of the government travelled the province and promised to fix health care. Sadly that promise was broken and is broken and the doctor vacancy has increased by 50 per cent.

[14:00]

But it’s not only in that area; it’s in home care as well. We’re now seeing the home care workers fleeing that profession because the government isn’t funding it properly. And now they’re asking workers to work a split shift, which means allowing them to be on standby for 12 hours a day and paying them for eight. How much sense does that make when you’re trying to recruit health care workers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last two and a half years we’ve been working diligently to recruit health care workers in all parts of the province, whether it’s in urban Saskatchewan and rural Saskatchewan because, quite frankly, when we came to government in 2007 it was a mess because of the former government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we had some of the lowest retention rates in Canada for nurses. Mr. Speaker, we went to work and we put together a recruitment agency, Mr. Speaker, that has moved the nursing recruitment of new grads from the worst in Canada to the best in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, you’re going to hear more on this tomorrow, but the recruitment agency is going to be making an announcement at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] that is going to do the very same thing — moving from not a great retention record of our graduates in the U of S for medicine to one of the best in Canada. Mark my words.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I ask members to allow the member to place the question. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the minister asked us to mark his word. That’s the problem. The members at SARM marked his word three or four times on the issue of health care, and it keeps getting worse. Every plan they bring in, the problem gets worse. That’s the problem.

The problem is they had \$2.3 billion in the bank to fix the problem. They now have a \$1 billion deficit. And one of the delegates came up to me and said, how is this going to work? When they had 2.3 billion in the bank, they couldn’t solve it. Now they’re in deficit \$1 billion, now they’re going to solve it. This is the problem.

My question to the minister is: in home care when you can’t get workers when they’re . . . need to work eight hours a day, how is solving the problem making them be on standby for 12 hours and asking them to be paid for eight? How is that a solution?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you want to start talking about comparing records to records, I’ll put our record on recruitment and retention of health care professionals against theirs any day of the week.

For years the registered nurses were saying that we’re short;

we're absolutely short. And for years, that opposition absolutely turned their back on the nursing profession, Mr. Speaker. In two and a half years, we've set a goal of 800 more nurses in this province — a goal that they thought could never be reached.

In fact the minister, the former minister, the member from North Battleford said, we don't want to set any goals. Why? Because we just aren't going to meet them, Mr. Speaker. We're meeting this goal, and we'll meet every goal that we make, Mr. Speaker. We're at 75 per cent. We're 75 per cent of our way to our goal of 800 nurses in the first two years, Mr. Speaker. We're doing it with physicians as well as all other health care workers.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the minister and the Premier rant and rave and make plans, but nothing happens. Nothing changes. The problem still exists.

Mr. Speaker, many home care workers are parents who have children at home. Many of them are women. Now you're having a difficult time getting people to work in home care and there's a shortage. Now the solution of the government, as I understand it, is to say to them, you now need to be on standby for 12 hours and we'll pay you for eight. And you have to work in different locations — not just one, but multiple locations. And how is a person going to arrange day care or the needs of their family? And how many people are going to stay in that profession, given this? I just simply don't understand.

But more importantly, the public don't understand the kind of solutions this government is bringing forward. And I ask the minister, when will he come to his senses, quit ranting and raving and announcing plans, and fix the problem?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, you know, that member has been in the province for maybe a year. I don't know why in a year he's so down on this province, Mr. Speaker. He seems to be absolutely down. Now perhaps it's because he came from the promised land. Did he come from the promised land of Alberta?

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the member had spent many, many years in Alberta. And obviously, you know, the grass was way greener on that side of the fence, Mr. Speaker. And if he's going to be so negative about the province, I wish he would go back to that greener pasture, Mr. Speaker. Quite frankly, quite frankly, the people of Saskatchewan are not interested in the doom and gloom from that Opposition Leader, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in two and a half years we've made gains in the health care system. Is it enough? Absolutely not. We have a lot more work to do. That's why we've increased the number of training seats in many professions so that will benefit us into the future — something that the opposition members, when they

were in government, didn't do. What they did do was cut training seats, and that's why we're in the position we're in today.

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

Financial Support for Health Care Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister gave every indication that his government would no longer be co-paying for chiropractic services. The financial bungling of the Sask Party has put many health programs in jeopardy.

To the minister: are interagency hospital transfer fee subsidies and senior subsidies for road ambulance trips the next programs to be chopped out of the Health budget due to the government's financial mismanagement? Yes or no.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I answered the questions yesterday that, you know, there are many services that are insured services through the *Canada Health Act* that we cover, Mr. Speaker. There are a vast number of services that we cover that aren't insured. Some are subsidized; some are paid completely by government, Mr. Speaker. The drug plan would be one of them.

We are looking at all the options, Mr. Speaker, because what we need to do is to, when health care is 42 per cent of the budget and we're going to keep our spending down in this government on a tight budget as we move forward, we have to look at all of those expenditures, Mr. Speaker.

Those decisions have been talked about and will be talked about up until budget day. And there will be much debate after budget day, Mr. Speaker, but that's when we'll find out the answers to, for example, the chiropractic question and many others. You can use many other examples, Mr. Speaker, but I'm not going to answer issue by issue until we get to budget day.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every cut the minister makes because of the Premier's mismanagement of the financial situation affects the health of someone in Saskatchewan — someone's parent, someone's grandparent, someone's spouse, someone's child. Two weeks ago when asked, the minister said he would not rule out the complete elimination of the seniors' drug plan and the children's drug plan. To the minister: are children and seniors the next victim of his new slash and burn policy? Yes or no.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, for years and years I can remember on the opposition benches when they were unfortunately on this side for as many years as they were, they talked forever about, you know, oh if the Sask Party ever becomes government, the whole world is going to cave in, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, but what I will say . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, all it was was doom and gloom from that side, Mr. Speaker. They fearmongered and fearmongered and fearmongered. Mr. Speaker, I will put our two and a half years of health care management against many years of theirs, i.e., 52 hospital closures, Mr. Speaker; Mr. Speaker, the smallest college of medicine in Canada, Mr. Speaker. At one point under their watch, we were down to less than 100 seats for nursing.

We're paying the price for those decisions back then, Mr. Speaker. Our two and a half years of government, and especially all ministries including the Ministry of Health, can quite easily compare to their very best record, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, well a smile and a chuckle isn't going to make people happy about this budget. What we have here is a minister desperate to find any saving he can in his budget in order to toe the line of the Premier's announcement that there will be no more than 3 per cent of an increase in the Health budget.

According to the minister, everything is fair game. No program is safe from his axe. And to quote the minister, every line item is being looked at. And he said it again: everything's on the chopping block.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: long-term care and home care are heavily subsidized by the government. Are these two programs also on the chopping block? Yes or no.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we cover a number of services that aren't insured, Mr. Speaker, and most of those services or all those services will continue to be covered. Mr. Speaker, what they're going to try and do over the next number of days is certainly fearmonger like they've done for many, many years. That's what they fall back on is continuing to fearmonger, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what I will say is that it is a tough budget going forward. There are going to be tough decisions. But all we heard, all we heard in the past year is where we should be spending more, spending more, spending more. That's what they would want to do under their watch. They would love to see a huge deficit, obviously, Mr. Speaker.

That isn't the tack that our government is taking. We're taking a very responsible financial tack, Mr. Speaker, looking at all spending. And, Mr. Speaker, those decisions are tough but they will be announced certainly on March 24.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the people of this province fear most is someone who can't manage the money. We've been there and done that, and we don't want that any more.

And what the minister won't say, he won't say if any of the programs are safe. If he's talking fearmongering, say no. Say no today — no cuts on any of these programs. He won't say it. He's being too cute. If he's not cutting these programs, tell the people who rely on them. Tell them now. Tell them today. If he's not cutting the seniors' drug plan, tell the seniors today. If he's not cutting the co-payments for chiropractic services, tell them today.

Now why do you think the minister's leaving people hanging and wondering what's going to be happening to them on the 24th? Why is he causing worry and fear by saying everything's on the chopping block? Is it so on budget day he can say, oh well I only cut two or three programs? So I could have cut more. I'm a big hero. Yes or no.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I can absolutely tell you we won't do what that former government did — close 52 hospitals around the province, Mr. Speaker. I can also tell you what we won't do. What we won't do is cut not only 52 hospitals around this province, but hundreds of health care workers around this province lost their jobs because of the decisions of that former government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tough budget and, Mr. Speaker, we're going to be hearing the decisions that our government made. I will say that health care is going to be in very good shape moving forward. Absolutely it will be, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to deliver services across this province, from corner to corner, with more nurses and more doctors that we've already seen increase over the last two and a half years. We'll continue to see improvements in the health care system like that, Mr. Speaker, under our government.

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

Project Payment and Planning

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party says that building a new domed stadium is a generational opportunity. How does the government plan to pay for it?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Indeed we are partners with the Government of Canada, the city of Regina, and the Saskatchewan Roughriders. We have worked hard to embark upon a feasibility study. That feasibility study was released on March the 1st . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. I recognize the Minister of Enterprise.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The feasibility study said three things. It said that indeed it is feasible to go ahead with a large complex such as that in the heart of Regina. It's not often that there is a large tract of land like there is in Saskatchewan, in Regina, and then certainly that's what the study said. It also said that it would be feasible, that it would be economically feasible from an operating perspective to go ahead with that, Mr. Speaker. And third of all, it said that more work has to be done on the capital accumulation phase.

[14:15]

So we are finished the feasibility stage. We're moving to the capital accumulation phase. We're asking residents, we're asking the private sector to come forward with their ideas. Indeed that's what they're doing, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I recall that the Premier said that this project needs between 100 million and \$180 million in federal funding to go ahead. But we know that the Conservative MP [Member of Parliament] who actually represents the area where the stadium is proposed to be built told the *Leader-Post* that this project isn't even on Ottawa's priority list.

Now at the same time, the Premier has an idea that he wants to build a new medical isotope reactor at the University of Saskatchewan. How does the government plan to pay for it?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, we've been very clear with the people of Saskatchewan. The priorities of this government will be health care. It will be education. It will be fixing the mess that was left by members opposite. When you talk about an infrastructure deficit in Saskatchewan it's health care, in Saskatchewan it's education, in Saskatchewan it's Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. What this government will certainly do . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, that infrastructure deficit certainly extends to highways in our province. Mr. Speaker, what this government will do is we will look at opportunities — whether it's innovation, whether it's medical isotopes, whether it's a reference plant in southern Saskatchewan for carbon capture and sequestration, whether it's a generational opportunity like a stadium for Saskatchewan — we will look at all those opportunities, Mr. Speaker. We will do so in a responsible way, Mr. Speaker. And again, we will not do

what members opposite did and leave this province in an infrastructure deficit beyond compare. Why, that's what they did.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the Premier wants Ottawa to pay 75 per cent of the estimated \$500 million cost for the isotope reactor. That's about \$375 million. And he also wants the federal government to pay on an ongoing basis the \$70 million annually that it costs to run this particular project. Now we note that last week in the federal budget there wasn't any mention of this.

The Premier also announced a joint carbon capture and storage project with the state of Montana with a lot of fanfare last spring. How does the government plan to pay for it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the money is set aside for the carbon capture and reference plant in . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I know there are comments that members overreact to. But there are times when there is certain members . . . And a lot of opposition members have been really working hard to listen to the answers, but there are some are totally interfering, which is creating a problem. I recognize the Premier . . . I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — So, Mr. Speaker, we didn't hear how the Premier plans to pay for this, but we know that he said that this needs \$100 million in federal funding to go ahead. Since then Ottawa has put money into two similar projects in Alberta but nothing for the Saskatchewan-Montana project — nothing for this project, nothing for the stadium, nothing for the isotope reactor.

It seems that the Sask Party's special relationship with Ottawa is one-sided, or maybe it's just in the Premier's mind. Now the Saskatchewan people are on the hook for between 600 to \$700 million for megaprojects that are on the Premier's wish list. Does the government have the money to pay for any of these megaprojects? Or should we add them to the list of the Sask Party's broken promises?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, just a suggestion. The hon. member has asked an important question. He indicated at the beginning of his question that he didn't hear my answer, and I just offer this to members opposite. If they're actually listening for the answer instead of yelling in the Assembly, they can actually hear the answer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan taxpayers aren't on the hook for anything. With respect to the carbon capture project, we do have money set aside in Crown Investments Corporation for the share of the government's partnership in the carbon capture and sequestration project with Montana.

The Big Sky Sequestration Partnership, which would apply for funds for the US [United States] side, have now submitted their application. It has a file number. It's now received by the Department of Energy who obviously also are partners with the project in Weyburn. We're also working with the federal government with respect to the federal government's share in the program. We're going to continue to lead in this area, Mr. Speaker. We'll lead over the objections of the doom and gloomers opposite in the NDP.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I'll ask the opposition members to come to order. Order. Order. I will ask the Leader of the Opposition to come to order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 133 — *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2009*

The Speaker: — Order. Order. If other members wish to have a private dialogue, I would ask them to go behind the bar or meet outside in the halls. At this time we'd like to hear the comments from the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Why thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of amendment to Bill 133, *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2009*.

In developing these amendments, the government has consulted closely with representatives from non-governmental organizations, health region authorities, business associations, and health professional associations. I wish to thank them and their colleagues for their dedication to the working on this Act and to bring this Act up to . . . to bring this new Bill in.

Mr. Speaker, tobacco use in Saskatchewan remains high, particularly amongst young people. The government has already taken several important steps to curb smoking and the harmful effects of environmental tobacco smoke, including enacting a ban on smoking in the workplace. Through these amendments to *The Tobacco Control Act*, government is taking further steps to protect the health of Saskatchewan people and continue the reduction of tobacco use in our province.

Specifically these amendments will: prohibit the sale of flavoured little cigars and provide the authority to restrict the sale of other flavoured tobacco products; prohibit tobacco and tobacco-related products from being visible to the public from outside of retail premises; prohibit the use of outdoor signs that advertise and promote tobacco at a place or premise where tobacco or tobacco products are sold; providing the authority to create regulations regarding indoor signs that indicate the price of tobacco and tobacco-related products at retail premises; provide the authority to exempt prescribed signs and items from the restrictions on tobacco advertising and promotion; prohibit the sale of tobacco and tobacco-related products in pharmacies; provide the authority to restrict smoking near doorways,

windows, and air intakes of public buildings; prohibit smoking in the enclosed common spaces of multi-unit dwellings, such as apartments and condominiums; prohibit smoking on the grounds of schools; and prohibit smoking in a vehicle when a child under the age of 16 is present.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to building a healthier Saskatchewan. We believe these amendments to *The Tobacco Control Act* will do a great deal to protect Saskatchewan residents from the harms of environmental tobacco smoke and reduce the use of tobacco, notably among our province's younger people.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of the amendments to Bill 133, *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2009*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has moved second reading of Bill No. 133, *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2009*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise and make comments on the Bill No. 133, *The Act to Amend the Tobacco Control Act*. I'd like to commend the government for the additions that they made to this legislation. Not only the cigarette, the flavoured cigarette, cigarillos, and reducing or putting in place enforcement of not being able to parcel out these packages, that they have to be contained in their actual packaging that have the prescribed quantities and prescribed number of units. I think that's a good step.

But, Mr. Speaker, you also have to put in place some type of enforcement and some type of enforcement unit that will be able to check on these changes that are being made because one of the early . . . Back up a little bit here, Mr. Speaker.

I sat on the first tobacco control committee in 1999-2000. And in 2001, we brought the initial report here to the legislature. And some of the changes that the minister has proposed today, I won't argue with him. I think they're good moves — banning smoking in schoolyards. But I do know from the initial round of consultations that the legislative committee made in our first round, which was '99-2000, there was a great deal of concern from the various school boards as to how these would be enforced. And would you just be moving students off the school grounds and onto neighbours' property or neighbouring properties? And how exactly would you enforce this and who would enforce the new regulations? And it was a big concern when we did the initial consultations and the initial discussion on the original legislation that was brought in in 2001.

But the questions still remain. Does it just move people off to neighbouring properties? Does it move students off to neighbouring properties? And who will enforce the regulations and whose responsibility is it if students are moving beyond school property?

It's one more job that you're not going to have teachers providing. They are not out in anywhere near enough numbers, or it's just one more job that they don't have time to do to be enforcing tobacco regulations in the schoolyard. So there has to

be some accommodation that's made there. And it's a difficult one, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not saying that it isn't necessary, and I'm not saying that the minister isn't making the right move, but I also would question how it's going to be enforced. And those are things that we need to look at. Because we all know that this legislature and, if you have a large enough majority, government can put in place any type of legislation. But for it to be accepted and adhered to by and I think respected by the citizens of the province, there needs to be an understanding of why you put it into place, and an understanding of how it affects various areas across the province and what type of enforcement is going to be there.

[14:30]

So to put a law on the books that you have no hope of enforcing and may cause other problems in other areas, you need to look at the big picture. And you also need to be aware of what you're putting in place and the repercussions of that legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say to prohibit the smoking of a person in a motor vehicle when another person under the age of 16 years is present, is in the motor vehicle — and it's noted in the explanatory notes that Nova Scotia and Ontario have similar legislation — I believe that it is a good step. But again, I would question by putting it in law, do you expect everyone to realize that it's there and to automatically follow it? There needs to be enforcement, and who exactly is going to enforce the legislation and how it's going to be enforced is an issue.

There are a number of other pieces, Mr. Speaker, that are contained in this new legislation, the amendments to *The Tobacco Control Act*. And when I was first reading through them and having a look at it, what I did, I went back in *Hansard*. And I looked at some of the comments that were made when the initial tobacco legislation was brought forward, and I think that the final report was tabled in January of 2001. And the interesting part is that there was a number of reservations that were tabled and were in the appendix to the original report. These reservations were the Sask Party members of the all-party committee and they had concerns about some of the recommendations that were put forward originally. They stated that they were unable to support the recommendations.

And the recommendation was 4.1(b) which calls for 100 per cent smoke-free seating in restaurants, bars, bingo halls and casinos within five years unless these businesses could opt to install an enclosed and separately ventilated designated smoking room. They felt that there was adequate reasons — it must be things that must be done to protect non-smokers from the reported effects of second-hand smoke — but that this recommendation was not realistic.

That just draws to mind a number of other questions as to how realistic are the recommendations that are being put forward today by the minister and how will they be enforced and how will they be policed and what are side effects and issues that go along with them. I don't doubt that they're necessary, Mr. Speaker, but I would just question as to how thoughtful the minister has been in how much background has been done for

this legislation.

Because we also know that when it was first announced, when the minister first announced and made his comments that this legislation was coming forward, he also announced that smoking would be banned on outdoor patios. There was some outcry and I'm sure quite a few phone calls to the minister's office. And when the legislation was tabled in the House, patios are nowhere to be found.

So that raises a number of red flags, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost is that the minister actually didn't do his work before he brought the legislation to this House, obviously had not done his consultations with stakeholders and people that were affected. So it brings me back to my initial comments and concerns. How do you enforce this? And what are the repercussions that will come from these measures being put in place?

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to the initial report that was tabled in January of 2001 from the special committee on tobacco control. And there was some objections put forward by the Sask Party members on the committee to the process followed by the committee in deciding who was able to address committee members and who was not. While at that time there was obviously . . . I mean they had concerns that people they felt were important, had important contributions to make to the deliberations of the committee, had not been allowed to appear before it.

What we're seeing now is a piece of legislation put in place or tabled before this Assembly that has had no consultations whatsoever. So I'm not sure how you find consultations a priority at one point in time on this topic, but when you're in this position and government in bringing forward the legislation, all of a sudden consultations don't have to happen.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's not only on this piece of legislation, but we have seen it time and time and time again with pieces of legislation that have been brought forward by this government, that the consultations are only done with people who agree with the legislation that's being brought forward, whether it was essential services or it was changes to *The Trade Union Act*. It was only supporters and people who were requesting the legislation that were allowed to have any type of consultation. Others could basically pound sand. There has been total disregard for the general population within the province. It was evident in those Bills.

It's evident in Bill 80 that there has been a great deal . . . we had to make a great deal of noise to get any type of consultations. And, Mr. Speaker, I would use the term consultations very loosely because the minister has said with that Bill, well he consulted with CLAC [Christian Labour Association of Canada] who has a vested interest in the passage of Bill 80 and has basically ignored the other unions that represent workers in this province in the trades who support the trades, support development of the trades and the apprenticeship program, who have worked many, many years to build a good working relationship. And when we look at 17 years without a labour dispute or disruption in the construction area across this province, and in a time when there is a great deal of construction going on in the province, all of a sudden the

government brings forward this Bill 80 piece of legislation with no consultations other than with an out-of-province supposed union.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The question before the Assembly is the Bill No. 133, *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act*, and I'd ask the member to keep her comments to this specific piece of legislation.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I apologize if you felt I was straying from the amendments to the tobacco Act. But what I was really drawing notice to was that while the Saskatchewan Party members on the special committee on tobacco control in 2001 stressed the point that there needed to be broad consultations and repeated consultations with some groups. And they felt so strongly about this, Mr. Speaker, that they even put reservations attached to the official report that was tabled in this legislature in January 2001.

I mean they felt strongly about consultations, but yet when we see the new piece of legislation and the amendments to *The Tobacco Control Act*, there is question as to what kind of consultations have taken place. So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say it's not consultations at the convenience of the minister. It should be honest-to-goodness consultations that happen right across business that the government is doing.

And I guess, Mr. Speaker, that that's where it becomes vitally important for the opposition to make sure that we do thorough scrutiny of these pieces of legislation and ask the questions that obviously the government hasn't taken the time to. And mister deputy . . . or, Mr. Speaker, sorry. I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I expect the Deputy Speaker to be sitting there.

But it is important that consultations are done. And I just wanted to point to the other examples where this government has clearly fallen down — clearly, clearly fallen down. And the consultations have been non-existent on other pieces of legislation. Mr. Speaker, I could sit here and talk to my colleagues, and we could all agree on something. But that doesn't mean it's a legitimate piece of legislation that should go forward.

You need to make sure that you have done thorough consultations, that you have looked at all of the repercussions that will come out of that piece of legislation, and make sure that you're prepared for it. And, Mr. Speaker, you need to also make sure that you are prepared for whatever those repercussions may be.

So those are my comments when it comes to consultations. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, that I was looking at and drawing a comparison between Bill 80 and the poor consultations that have been done in that piece of legislation. Also the poor consultations that were done with essential services and the changes to *The Trade Union Act* and how that will have repercussions that will affect many, many more people in this province. And it will have a lasting effect and a lasting distrust, I have to say. Mr. Speaker, it really builds a distrust for the government, of the government, and the things that they are putting forward.

And it's something that, as you go through a number of these pieces of legislation and realize that there hasn't been thorough consultations done, you start to look for the pitfalls and the areas that could be of concern and may not, in fact, even be workable. So *The Tobacco Control Act* is one of those.

And I draw the comparison to the lack of consultations when we see that once the minister did actually make public comments on this piece of legislation, that it was coming forward, he at that time included patios, but has since, between making his comments and actually tabling the legislation in the Assembly, all of a sudden patios have disappeared. So if he had done his consultations first before he made his announcement, he may not be doing so with a bit of a red face, Mr. Speaker. He may have been able to move through the piece of legislation that he had proposed at the beginning.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of things that are in here that are all good moves. And it's actually encouraging to look at the distance we have come in this short period of time. And I think back to the original tobacco control report and the initial legislation that came forward, and Saskatchewan was the first jurisdiction to put in place the covers and having the power walls covered, and not a normal place. And that was the intent so that power walls which . . . We were so used to walking into just about any store, any operation, and there was a power wall of cigarettes because we know, by marketing, that they are put there for a specific reason. And the whole intent of having those walls covered and moved was that we de-normalized tobacco and tobacco in our communities.

And, Mr. Speaker, that has since been picked up by many other jurisdictions around the world. And in between there, it had a substantial court challenge as to whether it was a legitimate move for governments to make. And I'm very proud of the fact that it did withstand the court challenge and that it has been picked up by other jurisdictions around the world, not only across Canada but around the world.

Mr. Speaker, we were at the forefront making changes. Some would argue that we needed to be a little quicker, but we always made sure that we were thorough in the discussions that we had and in the position that we took. And I hope that this piece of legislation will turn out to be that thorough and that we won't see repercussions that the government has not prepared for and has in fact made accommodation for.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know there are a number of my colleagues that are anxious to make comments on this piece of legislation. And we have people to talk to and see if those accommodations and preparations are in fact in place for the government's legislation. So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would adjourn debate on Bill 133.

The Speaker: — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 133. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

[14:45]

**Bill No. 135 — *The Prescription Drugs
Amendment Act, 2009***

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill 135, *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act, 2009*. The amendments to this prescription drug Act will require pharmacies to record the sale of non-prescription codeine products in the pharmaceutical information program, better known as PIP. PIP is a secure web-based computer application that provides authorized health care providers such as pharmacists, physicians, and nurses who have access to medication history of Saskatchewan patients and other tools to help make drug therapy decisions.

Mr. Speaker, non-prescription codeine products can be harmful if used inappropriately, and pharmacists have indicated that they feel limited in their efforts to prevent abuse and misuse. Currently there is no central collection of information on sales of these products in the province and there is a risk of misuse of this medication. By recording these products in the patient medication profile in the pharmaceutical information program, we hope to prevent the inappropriate use and enhance patient safety.

Mr. Speaker, federal and provincial regulations and bylaws currently govern the sale of non-prescription codeine products. In Saskatchewan, pharmacists are not permitted to sell more than 50 tablets without a prescription and must record all sales of these products in their store. However because there is no centralized collection of information of sales of these products, it is challenging for pharmacists to verify potential inappropriate uses. Due to the risk of harm and abuse with these drugs, the College of Pharmacists have expressed its support for a more effective way for pharmacies to monitor their sale. We believe the proposed amendments of *The Prescription Drugs Act* will do a great deal to limit misuse and improve patient safety.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 135, *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act, 2009*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has moved second reading of Bill No. 135, *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act, 2009*. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Going through the Bill No. 135, *The Prescription Drugs Act*, Mr. Speaker, basically I mean it's pretty straightforward by the looks of it. Reporting the sale of non-prescription codeine sales and having a central collection for the data and the information is important. And there needs to be something in place that will facilitate that. And by the looks of this piece of legislation, that's what it will do, other than we have a few housekeeping amendments that are also put in place, changing department to ministry, which is happening throughout. Whatever Bills are put in place, there is also that housekeeping process that has been adopted by the government flipping to the ministry title.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't see any problems with this Bill, and I

can clearly understand the reason and the rationale for wanting a collection of the data across the province and for pharmacists to be able to report to the pharmacist information profile, I believe is what the minister stated.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are others in our caucus and stakeholders that will have more expertise in this area than for sure I do. So at this point in time, to facilitate others in my caucus to make comments and to speak to stakeholders across the province about the Bill, and if there's any problems that they see with it, at this point in time I'll adjourn debate on Bill 135, the prescription drugs Act.

The Speaker: — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 135. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 112

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 112 — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1988 sur les juges de paix*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be on my feet today to provide some comments to Bill No. 112, *An Act to amend The Justice of the Peace Act, 1988 and to make consequential amendments to certain Acts*.

And so what essentially has taken place with the introduction of Bill 112 is the government's proposing legislation that will increase the number of justices of the peace in the province. And if we've learned anything today in question period and this week in total, whenever they attempt to increase the numbers of professionals working in Saskatchewan, especially in this case this week — doctors in rural Saskatchewan — they've been magnificent failures. And so I'm not sure that you can trust the Bill that they introduce when they've tried three or four things and had plans that are smouldering on the ground.

When it comes to increasing the numbers of other professions in the province, you have a Health minister in the province of Saskatchewan who says before the election, that health care in rural Saskatchewan, it's in a bad state and they're going to fix it. And then he comes to office and inherits \$2.3 billion from the previous administration and then says that, well we're going to increase the number of doctors in rural Saskatchewan. And you look on his own website and it says that there are now 50 per cent more vacancies on the website than there were when they took office.

It's absolutely a shocking level of hypocrisy. And so when it comes to increasing the numbers of professionals and people in any profession working in Saskatchewan, it's difficult to trust their ability to get that done.

Now it's important to note that there are a very large number of justices of the peace currently working in the province of Saskatchewan, and they do tremendous work. If you ever attempt to navigate through the justice system in Saskatchewan, it can be a complex system. And with the geography that our province has and the population that's spread throughout the province, it would be exceedingly difficult to have a justice system that didn't have justices of the peace — very responsible, learned people — aiding in a wide variety of the processes that take place within the justice system. And so I would like to thank the many people who are currently doing this work in the province of Saskatchewan today.

And so I'll outline at some length just a few of the many processes that they do perform to ensure a positive outcome when it comes to people's interaction with the justice system.

Now there are various roles that they play, and one of them is to administer oaths for criminal charges laid by the police or public. And so if you are in a position where an oath must be made for a criminal charge laid by the police or a member of the public, you can go to a Justice of the Peace who you may have greater access to than a Provincial Court judge.

And it's important for a number of reasons because if you live in a remote region of the province like La Loche or Sandy Bay where court is heard on a weekly basis or biweekly basis, you will have access to timely interaction with the justice system so that if you were been charged or had charges laid, you can see that justice is meted out in a reasonably quick fashion.

Another important role that justices of the peace play within our justice system is to assist in initiating criminal charges, and this is most often done when police lay charges. Another role is to confirm or cancel police-issued processes. Another role which is very important is to review and sign court-issued processes, so they will review and sign a summons. They will review and sign warrants or undertakings that were court issued.

Another role is to review and issue subpoenas that compel witnesses to attend a court, so the role they'll have to play is to review the information and evidence presented. And it's most important because it draws on somebody who has a lot of experience with various issues, and you need somebody who has good and sound judgment, who's very knowledgeable, because they make important choices. And certainly it keeps the system running smoothly.

Now those are just a few of the roles that they play in ensuring that the justice system runs smoothly. Now they also play a role in administering oaths for affidavits, affirmations, and declarations. That's a role that would be used in many places and many cases.

They consider search warrant applications, which plays an important role in society because we are a society that values two things, and one of which is our privacy, but the other is that we wish thorough and appropriate investigations. And so it's

important that we have a justice system that balances both important roles — the important role of the demand for privacy and the desire for privacy versus the society's interest in a thorough and appropriate investigation. And so it's a vital role that justices of the peace play.

Now another demanding role, especially in rural Saskatchewan, is releasing people under conditions after arrest when they're held in custody, and so they have judgments to make. They are sometimes called out in the middle of the night to make these judgments, and so it's demanding in many ways. It calls on you to get up in the middle of the night and travel in order to fulfill your duty. And so it's important because if you live in Sandy Bay and your judge is coming out of Prince Albert, you don't want to have to wait three and a half hours for somebody to get there in order to do these things. So that's another important role that they play.

They also play a role in show-cause or bail hearings. It's yet another area where they handle very difficult issues. Again it's integral to the administration of justice in Saskatchewan and if you need help . . . or anybody who's interacted knows that it's a difficult system sometimes to navigate. And so justices of the peace play an important role in show-cause bail hearings.

Another instance where they play an important role is performing in the absence of Provincial Court judges. And that's absolutely crucial, given Saskatchewan's geography and population demographics, because they essentially will perform some of the duties of a Provincial Court judge in the absence of a judge. And yet again, when you're in a remote part of the province or a rural part of the province where you don't have a judge present, it's an important duty and we thank them for that.

Now they often handle more judicial activities, including accepting pleas and then sentencing after the acceptance of those pleas. So that's an important duty as well. They'll also, as another part of their duties, grant adjournments where a Provincial Court judge is unavailable.

[15:00]

If you step back and take a look at how the justice system is comprised, you'll see that, in that not exhaustive list that I've detailed, the system clearly couldn't function without justices of the peace. And so it is certainly important that we make changes and amend legislation and bring forth consequential amendments that are reflective of the needs of the province when it pertains to judges and Justice of the Peace, to ensure that the system runs smoothly.

Justices of the peace also have a role in traffic tickets, parking tickets, noise violations, and some of the other, what we would consider minor offences. And it's clearly an important role and it would be difficult for the justice system to operate without their input and contribution.

Now as is the case with any Bill, the opposition in Saskatchewan takes its role very seriously. And so we, if you look strictly at the consultative process, what has happened in recent history in Saskatchewan with the Saskatchewan Party government, it's important that you consult with affected people when you're introducing legislation. And so we have questions

certainly about who's been consulted on Bill No. 112 because they have a poor history of consultation on a number of other Bills and issues that directly affect Saskatchewan people.

If you look at what happened with Bill 80, another piece of legislation brought forward by the government, failed to consult with people directly affected by that Bill. We want to ensure that the same hasn't taken place with Bill No. 112.

If you look at the media in the last few weeks and if you chat with people . . . And I talk to many teachers and educational assistants. My brother and mom are directly employed in the education system in the province of Saskatchewan, and so I have occasion to meet with many people that work in the education system in Prince Albert. I've got a number of friends who are teachers, and they're gravely concerned about what's going on with the lack of consultation on educational assistants. In fact there seems to have been a complete lack of consultation. And we want to ensure that consultation takes place on every Bill, including the Bill before us today.

If you look at what has happened with consultation on Bills 5, 6, and 43, it's interesting to note that Bills all directly related to labour issues, there's been no consultation. Certainly in fact it was the opposite. It was something that they said they wouldn't do, and then they did it anyway. And so if you look at Bill No. 112, we want to ensure that there's been some consultation, and we're not sure that there has been.

If you look specifically last fall, they introduced a Bill to save the horses of the Bronson Forest. And what we'd learned, when we did our jobs as the opposition and made calls in that area, we learned that they hadn't consulted with virtually anybody that lives in that area, especially First Nations and Métis people whose traditional territory encompass the Bronson Forest. And so their record on consultation is poor at best, and so we want to ensure that there's been consultation on this Bill.

Another example of lack of consultation is the school boards and the tax situation. They introduced a system where school boards around the province have no access to the tax base. And I suppose that in a perfect world it would be . . . you'd want to allow the school boards in Saskatchewan to be able to make decisions directly for the people who are under their watch. They're elected at the local level to administer the education system in Saskatchewan and so they feel accountable to the people that elected them. And what has happened is that, in spite of the fact that they're elected and they're supposed to be accountable for the education system in Saskatchewan, the government unilaterally made decisions without consulting them and took away their ability to access tax dollars for people in their areas.

And so what you'll see has happened is that where you have decisions being made at a provincial level without consultation directly affecting people that live and work in the province of Saskatchewan, and we want to ensure that that hasn't taken place with respect to Bill No. 112.

Another example, simply: we discussed earlier this week where women's victim services workers in Saskatoon had the complete lack of consultation when they had funding removed for 75 per cent of the employees working in support of victims

of domestic violence in Saskatoon. We had 14 different advocacy groups explain that they hadn't been consulted at all by this government before funding was removed, and that support hasn't been replaced by the government. And there was a complete lack of consultation in that case. And we want to ensure with this Bill that that also hasn't taken place.

If you look at what has happened very recently with our power company, you have to ask yourself who the Saskatchewan Party government consulted before it decided to hire a private company to produce power in Saskatchewan to privatize a large percentage of SaskPower. Now SaskPower's generating capacity will be increased by 300 megawatts, but what happens is the people of Saskatchewan are on the hook for the entirety of the project.

And there's no getting around it. You can try to hide from capital costs as a Crown corporation by doing this type of deal, but what the Saskatchewan Party fails to understand is that when you look at a balance sheet, you have to account for a 20-year contract for power in the same way that you would as capital costs, especially with a guaranteed price for power that they won't release to the public. That we'll never understand. All we know is that the Saskatchewan people are on the hook for the profits of a company that is outside of the province of Saskatchewan when the exact expertise to build and operate natural-gas-powered power plant exists already at SaskPower.

And so we want to ensure that on Bill No. 112 that consultation has taken place in a better manner than it has with Bill 80; Bill 5; Bill 6; Bill 43; with educational assistants; with the Bill, horses of the Bronson Forest; with school boards all over the province of Saskatchewan; with women's . . . victims services workers in Saskatoon; the people of Saskatchewan before privatizing a large part of their power corporation.

And so we feel it's exceedingly important to this Bill to ensure that that's taken place because it's our job to scrutinize legislation that comes before this House, and we take that job very seriously.

Now in closing, I would like to quote from a book that was released in 2008 called *Saskatchewan Politics: Crowding the Centre*. And in that book is a tremendous quote about the legal system in Saskatchewan, and I'd like to put it on the record. On page 95 it says:

Our legal system's prestige — perhaps even its majesty — rests on its transcended quality, existing above, and avoiding corruption by, the exigencies of daily demands and passions. Its constancy is its strength. Its content and its processes have developed slowly over time and are not to be battered by the demands of our current situation. And, yet, it seems that our legal system responds to our needs, including our need to see justice done, so imperfectly. The administration of justice faces no greater challenge than to preserve the rigor and impartiality in the way that law works in our society while subjecting it to the changes that will make it an effective social instrument for all people in their vastly different social contexts and with all their vastly different social needs. Certainly two places where this adaptation must take pace is in having the legal system available to all on a more

equal footing and in the response to social disorder through the administration of criminal justice.

Law, after all, is manifestation of the self-determination ideology that has shaped both our political system and our sense of personal entitlement. Both as individuals and as a political community we can make choices with the confidence that when those choices are expressed in law they will be honoured and that these attempts to shape our future condition will be vindicated. But if law in this way is so closely tied to our public and private integrity it must itself have integrity. This is to say that law — the mechanism of justice — must itself meet the underlying conceptions of justice which are: the right of all to be treated with dignity (with respect for personal capacity and not to be enslaved through poverty, poor health, low status, or dispossession) and the right to equal treatment. Law's challenge is to reflect in its operation the political values that led to its development, values of respect, dignity and equality. These values ground the connection between people in our political society and govern the way we act and develop as a political community. When law is not serving these values, either because it is not available to some or because it is detached from the reconciling and restorative function it is meant to perform, then it has become hollow and sterile, and our political community is vulnerable to the diseases of low commitment, resentment over tyranny and bitterness over being rendered invisible and insignificant. When we worry about inadequacies in the administration of justice we are doing nothing less than worrying about the future of our community.

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 112.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 112, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Carried.

Bill No. 113

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 113 — *The Justices of the Peace Consequential Amendments 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'm pleased to enter into the debate on *The Justices of the Peace Consequential Amendments Act, 2009*. And my colleague previously has spoken to the points contained in the previous Bill. And really what this consequential amendment Act does is it amends several other pieces of legislation that come out of *The Justices of the Peace Act*.

[15:15]

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I'm particularly interested in

understanding is what kind of effect these consequential amendments will have on three important pieces of legislation. One is *The Homesteads Act* which I think is an important piece of legislation that affects women. *The Emergency Protection for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act* which is an Act that is there to support young people that are involved in the sex trade. And the other piece of legislation that I'm particularly interested in is *The Victims of Domestic Violence Act*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we learned this week — well we learned earlier, but we learned this week for sure — that the government has no intention of supporting victims of domestic violence by having on-the-ground support in the city of Saskatoon which is the city I represent. I mean these are four workers that worked through the Ministry of Social Services to support actual victims of domestic violence and their children. They did very important work on the ground. They did work in terms of taking that abused woman and her children to seek emergency shelter, go down to the police station, go to the hospital, in some cases go back into the home to retrieve articles of clothing and school supplies for their children. Very practical on-the-ground programs and supports for victims of domestic abuse.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I found so interesting from the ministers was that this program wasn't available across the province and that they wanted to go the lowest common denominator which is interesting in itself. And all I can say is that when you have a program that's working, that's supportive to women, it seems to me what you might want to do is to move that program to other parts of the province and give other parts of the province access to that program, not simply blow the program up, Mr. Speaker.

And so we're curious to know what kind of impact the government's previous legislation is going to have on *The Victims of Domestic Violence Act* which is a groundbreaking piece of legislation that was introduced by the former minister of Justice, Bob Mitchell. And it was hailed by women's groups and groups involved with the domestic violence issue as a groundbreaking piece of legislation.

And I am worried that with what we saw with the decimation of the program in Saskatoon, that we may see a further erosion of legislation around victims of domestic violence. So we saw the program being blown up in Saskatoon. I think what we need to be assured of by the government is that it does not undermine the premise of *The Victims of Domestic Violence Act*, which was a groundbreaking piece of legislation in the 1990s.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the other groundbreaking piece of legislation was the emergency protection for victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation. And this was the piece of legislation that came out of a legislative committee of the legislature where the former member from Humboldt, Arlene Julé, and one of my former colleagues, Peter Prebble, were involved in taking a real look at what was happening in the province when it came to child sexual abuse and exploitation of children, particularly children involved in the sex trade. And what this particular piece of legislation allowed for was the emergency protection of victims, young victims, young children who were on the street and that they could be taken into care as

a result of what was perceived to be and what was harmful activity, Mr. Speaker.

So we will want to see whether or not this particular piece of legislation, these quote, “consequential amendments” has an impact on that particular piece of legislation, which as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, is groundbreaking and doesn’t undermine that legislation.

And then of course, the other piece of legislation is *The Homesteads Act* which is an important piece of legislation when it comes to matrimonial property rights. And what that piece of legislation says is that a partner cannot do anything to undermine the homestead or the home without the other spouse’s support. And, Mr. Speaker, we think that’s important in terms of certainly women’s rights in the province of Saskatchewan.

So, you know, it’s not unusual for the Government of Saskatchewan to try and sneak in a few funnies and undermine legislation, undermine programs, because this government hasn’t been particularly transparent and accountable. And my colleague earlier spoke about some of the decisions of this government that have not been transparent and certainly haven’t been accountable.

And we even had the Privacy Commissioner earlier this year, who is a legislature officer of this legislature, talking about how he’s finding it very difficult to deal with privacy concerns in our province because he doesn’t have the resources to deal with those concerns at a time when people are becoming more and more concerned about their privacy and more and more concerned about access to information, Mr. Speaker.

As my colleague earlier reported, this is a government that doesn’t exactly consult with people. And there are several examples of this, particularly in my own critic area where it’s becoming more and more obvious that certainly a partnership that we used to have in education — where we had the department, the directors of education, the school trustees, teachers, the school business officials, and the parents through school councils’ association — were at the public policy table and, Mr. Speaker, that’s no longer happening to any kind of degree.

And in fact it doesn’t matter where I have gone as the critic in the last several months, people are talking about what had been a historic partnership in the province is no longer there. You go to school boards, they talk about it. You meet with teachers, and they talk about it. And certainly when you meet with parents, they’re talking about that they’re not at the public policy table to discuss educational policy.

And, Mr. Speaker, we know that the information that used to be available to school boards, teachers, parents, is held very close to the chest by the minister and his officials. And people feel as though there is no longer any kind of transparency. There isn’t any longer any kind of accountability when it comes to public policy in the province of Saskatchewan.

So we need to be very mindful as we look at these pieces of legislation that the government isn’t trying to pull a fast one. We have three very important Bills that are referenced in this

particular consequential amendment Act. And those important Bills are the emergency protection for victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation. We want to make sure that this particular “consequential amendment” does not undermine that legislation.

The Homesteads Act is an important piece of legislation that certainly protects women and men and their children. And we also have another piece of legislation, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Act*, which was groundbreaking legislation in the 1990s. And we want to make sure that that particular piece of legislation is not undermined. So, Mr. Speaker, with those few comments on this particular Bill, I would move that we adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 113, *The Justices of the Peace Consequential Amendments Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 115

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 115 — *The Queen’s Bench Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a delight and honour to enter into the series of second round of debates on a variety of Bills. And I’m talking today on Bill No. 115 of *An Act to amend The Queen’s Bench Act, 1998, to make certain consequential amendments and to repeal The Laws Declaratory Act*.

And quite often people think these Bills are relatively straightforward and they should just be accepted, and obviously the good work of the government has been done. But sometimes it’s not done.

And I remember last year, particularly when I stopped to speak about the SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] Bill about identification. And little did we know — I was talking a bit about ID [identification] and we continue to raise the issue about ID issues — but little did we know that we uncovered, by talking about it, that the Privacy Commissioner turned on the TV and heard about this Bill being moved forward that he was supposed to be consulted on and he wasn’t being consulted. And that next day, the Bill was actually split, and then eventually the part that was controversial was lost. So it’s important that we have these kind of debates and discussion.

And I know, not as a practising lawyer or even a lawyer at all, this is kind of an interesting Bill for me because it seems like a catch-all Bill. That’s what my colleague, the member from Regina Lakeview, called it. He was referring to the fact that it’s

five different parts sort of rolled in all together and they don't seem to have any connection or rhyme or reason.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you might even call the Minister of Justice to order and say, this has got to have some reference. This has got to have some focus. These are five different topics. But we say it's a consequential Act and that's okay because sometimes you have to do that kind of thing. There's little pieces that have to be rolled together and it would be too small to have five different Acts. We'd be here all day.

We are going to be here all day though because there are some questions I have to ask about this particular Bill. And I think it is very interesting that sometimes it's somebody who has not been schooled in the law in a formal way but schooled here in the past few years as a legislator, as we take a look and we talk and we ask questions. And I'm finding more and more that's our role, is to ask pointed questions by our experiences — and I'll talk more about that — some of the experiences that we've had.

There's some very interesting questions that arise out of this piece. So there's five different pieces in this Bill. And I'll review first from what the minister says. And of course the minister . . . And I know how this goes, being a former minister. The minister's remarks are rather concise and to the point because they can be used later. If there's any interpretation that has to be done in terms of the Act, his comments or her comments are very important because they could end up as part of a lawsuit or a court proceedings, and we have to make sure that the minister's remarks are right on the mark. They can't be freewheeling.

But I do have some questions because quite often they open up a bit of a Pandora's box, and we want to know, so why did he say that, or why did she say that? And so today I do have some questions and some comments about that. And again as I said, the member from Regina Lakeview actually was very helpful in illuminating some of the different points that we have before us today.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I said, he talks about five specific amendments as I referred to the minister's remarks. One of course talks about right off the bat the agreements, making sure there's some consistency in the enforcement of monetary penalties and cost awards in terms of the international trade panels. And apparently this has been brought forward. There's been some commitment made by the provinces to pass legislation so this can be consistent right across the nation. And on one hand we say that consistency is very important but again this is where flags go up.

A lot of questions because here again the TILMA [Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement] questions arise, and we don't know, we don't know what are the implications. What are the full implications about this? We saw this as one of the key broken promises that came out of the campaign. The government, the Sask Party at the time campaigned that they would not go into TILMA, and then they did a complete turnaround and we're heading down that road.

Of course, it's been very secretive. We're not sure exactly what all the details are. And quite often we find out the details after

the fact, not when we should be consulting the public as we did in June of '07 when we had some very public consultations about TILMA. And we had a full understanding of where the people were and how they stood on that. Here we have buried within an Act dealing with consequential amendments some aspect of that. And people I'm sure will have some questions and we will during the committee hearings on that Bill.

So what is this all about? Of course the track record here of doing things after the fact as opposed to before the fact is really an issue that we have some concerns about. So I will refer further to that when I get into my main body of my comments, but I do have to say that right off the bat I do have some flags around that area.

[15:30]

The other one that comes right off the bat is the talking about how it affects *The North-West Territories Act* in establishing that they . . . And I do want to say that that's a very interesting issue because here, in terms of the declaratory Act and surrounding the historical date of transfer of Rupert's Land to the Hudson's Bay Company of Canada, and therefore when did we become a territory, and I understand that was in 1870 — July 15th, 1870. And then the impact of us becoming a province and all the different pieces of legislation that follows.

Now I have to say right off the bat, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm reminded of living in an old house. And you know where certain things are in your old house, right, because they've never been moved. You know that's where they are. You can picture them. I have to say if we're changing things from way back then to modernize it, who's actually looking that far back?

Now there's two things: either it's we always look back there in some trivial matter because that's just the way of doing business — the lawyers need to do business. Fair enough. They must have refined that process that it's no big deal because we are now in 2010, some 105 years after we've become a province. And if that's the issue of just refining something that's a process we do every day, and I don't know because we haven't got that information. How many people actually look back there? Do we really want to change things now? Is it really a necessary change?

Or on the other hand, maybe it's something very consequential because we know when we look back on past records, particularly when we're dealing with establishing human rights or in the First Nations around what was happening about treaty rights, that type of thing, it's very important not to mess with original documents. Don't put our interpretation of what happened in 1870 or 1905 or 1670 — best to leave the original records alone so you can have the original interpretations.

So I do have to ask, is this a trivial matter or is this a very significant matter? And we don't seem to have an indication from the minister in his comments that the impact of this. We may think it's a trivial matter, you know, and I go back to my old house metaphor that it may be not a significant matter to move something. But if you've ever lived in an old house or renovated something in an old house, you do anything to an old house, it seems to be affecting the whole system. So it's an important thing. Is this really important to be doing? And so I

do have some questions about that.

And I do want to say that I appreciated the comments that my colleague from Regina Lakeview made on this, talking about the history of Saskatchewan as we go back via the North-West Territories to Hudson Bay land, to Rupert's Land, and prior to that. It's very important that we understand all the things that happened along the way as we became a province but also what happened to the First Nations during that time, and the Métis Nation — and particularly this year as we celebrate the Year of the Métis. This is very important that we recognize the impact and how we handle our old laws and statutes.

The other question I have here and it seems like one that's relatively straightforward, the whole issue of marriage. The commitment, the promise to marry, the breach of promise to marry, and that would be a relatively straightforward thing. It seems that the minister has cited two reasons for us not to or to remove that or to change that one because there might be a constitutional challenge run as probable cause for that. But, you know, I always have to worry about that. I know that quite often that's cited as a reason when really we have to have more than just the words "probable cause." Like what is it that we see that causes it to be in that, turn that case probable? Because I know lawyers can sometimes throw that up and it's not really all that probable.

There's a lot of things that are probably happening out there. But you know, what really is the cause for the Ministry of Justice to raise a flag on that one this month? Is there things that are happening across Canada that caused it to be of significance? And so I have some real questions about that.

And the other one, and I'd like to know more about this. The minister doesn't go long into this discussion, but he talks about and I quote, it "... does not reflect current societal views and expectations of persons intending to marry." Now I'm not sure on what he bases that. And now I don't have anything more to add to that except for more questions because I think there are questions out there. As we live in our global society, what we view as expectations around commitments to marriage is not quite the same around the world and we're living more and more in a global community, a global village, many people would say.

So we have to be careful again in how we change our laws. Is it something we're being premature? Is it something that's necessary to do? What are the effects of changing something that we don't ... The unintended consequences, I think is the word that I'm looking for. What are the unintended consequences of changing that? And I want to come back and talk about that in a minute.

But I do want to say right off the bat that really, if I'm going to focus on three pieces, that I have concerns, and I think that we're going to ... And I know there are five, and so the other two pieces I think that other people will go into length. I don't have a lot of background on that. And I think that right now the three that I would really like to choose to talk more about and spend my time wisely on is talking about the TILMA impact, the TILMA effect — and I think this is something that we really need to explore. The declaratory Act I'd like to talk a little bit at length at. And I'd like to talk a little bit at length around the

whole provision concerning the marriage, the promise of marriage.

And not that I have any solutions to those, but I do have to tell you that they're flags. They're flags particularly around TILMA. And what does that mean? And I don't see how this government is being transparent and accountable and how they're rolling out their approach to these trade agreements that are starting out in Western Canada with BC [British Columbia] and Alberta.

And, you know, my colleague from Meewasin and I were at a pensions discussion on Monday, a very important discussion about pensions and how they're impacting seniors across Saskatchewan, and the impact that's having when you get these common agreements. And of course the panellists said there that often the concern is raised that you're racing to the bottom of the barrel, that when you agree to a standard across a certain area, that you are really going for the bottom of the barrel.

And so here we don't see a commitment from this government that we are not going to be reducing the penalties, that we are not going to make it easier for the participants and whatever, the people who are participating in the trade, to make it easier to take advantage of Saskatchewan law. We don't want to see that. We think our laws and their penalties are fair now. We don't think that they're overly burdensome.

I know that the Premier has been on record of going to think that, especially in occupational health and safety. He said that there was way too much red tape. I don't have the quote right in front of me, but he did say that when he talked about occupational health and safety. And we see that is when it's hugely, hugely important — occupational health and safety.

So we don't want to see our regulations, our standards, reduced via people taking advantage of our standards by knowing that the penalties are actually laxer than they ever were before. We don't want to get the word out that Saskatchewan's regulations you can thumb your nose at because penalties are not there, you know.

We think that's an issue. We think it's important that they be strong, they continue to be strong. And if anything, we should see these penalties across Canada to be strengthened because this is an important thing, particularly when you come to occupational health and safety, when you come to investment regulations, when people are investing or businesses enter into the province.

I think of tourism. Tourism is one that where we see people who often during the winter months take advantage of really good deals and hope to go south on a very good vacation, and what happens? Something has happened with the vendor and people are out of luck ... [inaudible interjection] ... I'm glad I've got an audience over here. Very important. My words aren't lost.

But I think this is very important. I do get kind of dry thinking about the problems that may arise by particularly ill-thought-out pieces of legislation which we have seen before. And we have seen legislation come back and split in two and all of a sudden they morph into two or three pieces of legislation. Sometimes

they get dropped the very next day. But I do have some questions about this.

In TILMA we saw various promises being broken. TILMA was one that we knew . . . we had a lot of suspicion that was going to bite the dust pretty quickly after the government came to power, that the days of when the Premier had promised that TILMA would not go forward, that in fact it would go forward. And we wouldn't know an awful lot about it until after the fact.

And so here we see pieces of that surfacing without a lot of information. And as I said earlier, the minister choosing his words very carefully didn't give us an awful lot to go on except that other provinces were going to follow. But other than that, we don't know. Is this a race to the bottom? How is the consistency going to be fair across Canada so that the citizens in each province can be rest assured that they're not giving something up?

And as I said, you know, on Monday talking about pensions, we saw people talking and worried about the race to the bottom. So it's a real fear. It's a very real fear that people are concerned about.

So TILMA's out there. TILMA is a reality that this government has to face. And people are going to be concerned because this is the aspect of TILMA that they were worried about — the penalties, the actual enforcement when the rubber hits the road. And here we're seeing the rubber getting close to the road, but it's our job to ask those questions.

Now the other one, as I said, the declaratory Act. And I find this interesting because you know before we get into this Bill, or we got into this Bill, I never heard of this before. And it may be just a small thing, but I do worry about, as I said, if this is of significance. And we don't know whether this is a trivial matter or a significant matter, and for many people who rely on original records, this could be of significant nature.

And I have some questions. And of course at some point, I hope that the minister can assure us that this has no impact on people who use original sources for particular interpretations, whether they be human rights or treaty rights or those kind of things that were established in those periods of time, that that's what they would be going back to look for.

And I used my old house metaphor and I think that really is the case. I just, I guess I'm a little nervous because why this would come forward after 105 years, especially in our technology of computers. And the way that I'm sure lawyers and their clerks do their work, they must be pretty efficient of finding out the old records.

And so that's why I say is this really a necessary piece? Or is it closing off a door, that boy, we'd be really sorry that we do. And in fact the unintended consequences that we actually have to do more work because we've set one set of systems that seems to be right, but really if you want to dig deeper, you have to go back to the original records anyways. So I think that I have some questions, and as a non-lawyer, I don't know the implications of all that. But I do have some very real questions about, about this for sure.

The other piece that I wanted to go to back again that I want to talk about was this commitment to marry and all of that. And as I said earlier, I really enjoyed reading the remarks. And I thought they were very illuminating by my colleague, the member from Regina Lakeview. He gave us a good, I think, good history lesson about this, talking about the engagement ring, the big engagement ring, and who would pay for the engagement ring if somebody was stood up. And many of us I don't think can relate to that. Hopefully we can't totally relate. We've heard stories. We've heard stories. And that was one that comes to mind and you think, so what happens when that kind of thing happens? But you know one thing that really makes me think about this in this world these days, and I said earlier, thinking about the global nature of our communities and our world views on different norms of marriage and that type of thing.

[15:45]

And I think about different things that have happened over the course of history, like the lost children, the children who came over from England. And we're just settling out those issues. And of course the issue in Haiti where we have children being fast-tracked into Canada and the implications of that.

And I was just reading a book this week, *Last Night in Twisted River* by John Irving, talking about the Kennedy fathers. Now I don't know how many people here know what a Kennedy father is. A Kennedy father was a young man who was married during the Vietnam era. And the commitment was, the exemption from the draft, was that if you're in a marriage and your wife was pregnant, you were exempt from the draft. And so there were a lot of people who got into those relationships. And the mother became pregnant and then shortly after, the marriage broke down. And they are now referred to the fathers, the Kennedy fathers. And the children, I don't know if they have a name. But I thought that was an interesting story. I didn't know about that. But just sort of a mindset that there are people out there who are . . . That's what they're called, Kennedy fathers.

And of course we see that in many cases around the world where you avoid war by marrying into another country. And you get into the country and you're okay. And then quite often what happens further down the road is the marriage dissolves, for a variety of reasons. Not likely, and most of it is because there wasn't a strong bond that we're used to in our marriages right now.

So I have a question about this — and I don't know what the right answer is — is what are the implications around that kind of thing with this Act about breach of promise of marriage? And what's the implication of that? So I don't know what the answer is to that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I wonder if the Minister of Justice has his people thinking about the kind of things that are happening around promises of marriage and what that has to do with around immigration and that kind of thing.

And the other one that really comes to mind too — and again not first-hand experience with this, but hearing stories — is the implication around the Internet. Quite often we hear stories and we base our legislation on our past history. And as I said, I appreciate the stories from my legislative colleague, but I'm thinking about into the future. What is the implication around

the Internet? Because we see more and more relationships being built around the Internet and actually via the Internet around the world. And what's the implication of that? And we see much of our legislation — in fact, I know this government has passed legislation — dealing with the Internet, the implications of the Internet in terms of credit, in terms of warranties and that type of thing.

What is the implication for marriage in law around promises made via the Internet for people who are in Saskatchewan, outside the province, maybe even outside the country, maybe somewhere else? Has the government considered that? And I really think that's something that really needs to be looked at because we are living in a brand new century, you know.

We talk about this century, you know, the age of the Internet. It goes without saying that that should be one of our screens that we think about when we're testing our legislation because it's not the old, it's definitely not the old days. And clearly I have sympathies for whoever's jilted. I think that's the old term, or left at the altar. That's a tragic thing when that happens. But now we just say people have to sort of buck up and get on with the rest of your life.

But clearly now, in terms of immigration, in terms of some of the things that are happening around the world, that's just not good enough, and particularly if there are ways that people are being taken advantage of. And somehow people seem to be able to work that into it, to make a buck, to help facilitate these relationships. And there's a whole implication, is there a third party part to this process in terms of breach of promise of marriage? Now maybe there is; I don't know. Maybe that's in another Act, and if that's the case, I'd be very happy to hear that because that would be good news that that has been taken into consideration.

But because of the limited amount that the minister shared with us, I was concerned about that because that's the first thing that came to mind for me. And I do have some concerns that when we think about marriage and we think of the implications of marriages going badly for a variety of reasons, it's unfortunate with us. We want to make sure that our laws are there to support the people who have been taken advantage of, and that it's just not an oversight and not oversight because we just didn't think of it. This is a time where we think of these things and we really push at the limits of the legislation and say, can we make this better? This is a time to make it better.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I'm really saying here when I look at some of these pieces, I look at . . . You know, it's funny. We look at that old piece, the declaratory Act, and I'm saying, is it really necessary to do this? I'd like to know more about that. Is it necessary? And I throw out the old house thing again you know, or just a simple phrase, if it ain't broke, why fix it? Why do we leave that? But more information would be great, you know.

I just hate to see us limit people who need the protection on some very major pieces of legislation, either it's human rights or treaties or all of that kind of stuff. And I guess it just brings to mind, I mean, have we consulted with those groups who would be using that kind of legislation? Or if it's trivial and people do it every day, maybe they have a system that makes it

work every day really well. Why do we do that?

I've talked a little bit about the marriage piece, and I won't say much more about that except for I do hope Justice is looking at that because we will have questions. I will have questions during committee about that, and they should be ready in terms of have they thought of the Internet? What about that type of thing? And have they thought about those? Because there still are arranged marriages. There still are arranged marriages. Maybe not between families and not as my colleague had earlier talked about between families and assets and that type of thing. But for other types of benefits, i.e., getting into countries, getting those kind of benefits, what is the implication for that?

And of course I do want to end just on the whole question about TILMA. This TILMA thing was one that really is a major issue for us in terms of the credibility of this government. We saw that there were numerous broken promises as I said, whether it's greenhouse gas promise. And we have credibility . . . The minister suffers a lot of credibility issues around that. And this government suffers a lot of credibility issues around the TILMA issues. And we're seeing it bubble up through here, and we'll see it bubble up in different Acts over the next while as they seek to standardize our trading environments.

And of course we think that's a good way. It's a good thing if it's done well and it's done appropriately and there's appropriate consultation with people and everybody's on board. We think it's very inappropriate when it's done in the dark of night, and this seems to be fitting in that category when we see different professional pieces of legislation coming forward and people haven't been consulted.

I think about the teachers, the changes that happened there. They're concerned about their standards of professional training. Not a lot of consultation, if any, involved in that. And so why we would have confidence that there has been at this? We hear of this kind of thing after the fact, not before.

And so with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be taking my seat pretty soon. And so I would move to adjourn reading on this, adjourn debate on this Bill. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 115, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 119

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 119** — *The Ticket Sales Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm extremely pleased this afternoon to enter into debate on this

very important piece of legislation. Over the next few hours I hope to take the opportunity to talk about the importance of this Bill to the people of the province of Saskatchewan and to help the minister with some of the shortfalls in this particular piece of legislation, so that when he has the opportunity to re-examine it and when we bring forward potential changes at a later date, that he'll understand why we're bringing forward those potential changes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by saying I think the intent of the Bill everyone agrees with. The intent of the Bill is to fix a problem, a problem that we saw most recently when a number of large concerts in the province of Saskatchewan where Saskatchewan people didn't get access to tickets to those events. And, Mr. Speaker, I think we all share the values or view that we in fact should have a system that's fair and honest and allows people to have access to tickets to events in the province of Saskatchewan. I think that's a commonly held view by all 58 members of the legislature, Mr. Speaker.

We however though can approach this from a number of different directions on how you actually would fix this particular piece of legislation, this particular problem, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what we saw as a problem was events in the province of Saskatchewan, tickets going on sale for those events, and many of the tickets never actually being for sale within the province of Saskatchewan. Because simultaneously with those tickets going on sale online, the companies that were actually responsible for selling tickets were buying large amounts of those tickets or setting aside large amounts of those tickets for resale at a later date at a higher price.

So only a small portion of the actual tickets to the venue or to the event in Saskatchewan were available to consumers at the time the tickets were made available to the public. So many Saskatchewan residents didn't have an opportunity to purchase the ticket, even if they were sitting right by their computer, had the order form all filled out and just had to hit enter, and they hit it the precise moment that the sales of the tickets began. Many Saskatchewan residents still were not afforded tickets, to find out the next day that tickets that they would have liked to purchase were in fact available on the Internet by a secondary seller, a company that was actually owned by the primary selling company, at a much higher price. So Saskatchewan residents could in fact buy a ticket at twice the price or maybe two and a half times the price, one and a half times the price of the face value of the ticket.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that raised the concern of many Saskatchewan people. So what we had is a situation where a company was making an additional profit through what might be seen as a loophole in the law — not having to follow the same rules that they would expect others to follow, and definitely not the rules that the people of the province of Saskatchewan would expect them to actually follow.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen that many times before. We've seen it in many aspects in our lives. We've seen it in legislation passed in the House before where we thought legislation would do one thing, and it does another.

We saw it last year in a budget, Mr. Speaker, when we were told that we were going to have a balanced budget and \$1.9 billion in potash revenue. In fact we have actually today the reality, a negative number, Mr. Speaker. The province of Saskatchewan, believe it or not, is writing a cheque for \$204 million to the potash companies.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think one year ago in this Assembly when hundreds of people were sitting here listening to a budget, did they think that they'd be writing a cheque, the government would write a cheque with their money back to the potash companies for \$204 million? I don't think anybody of the 6 to 800 people that were in this Assembly listening to the budget believed that one year later that their government would be writing a cheque for \$204 million to the potash companies.

So, Mr. Speaker, many times when things may be put forward with good intent, the end result isn't what the intent of what was being put forward was. And, Mr. Speaker, and we need to learn from these things, and we need to ensure that laws are put in place so people don't abuse their rights, don't abuse the opportunity to take advantage of others. Mr. Speaker, we've seen many of those types of circumstances over the years. But our responsibility as legislators is to ensure that those types of practices are stopped and that the concerns and needs of the people of the province of Saskatchewan are brought forward in a meaningful way and that changes are made to fix the problems as the people of this province see them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think we all want to inherently believe that when something's brought forward by any minister of the government, that it's brought forward with the best of intent and that it should be in fact represent, should represent what was brought forward.

[16:00]

And I think that's the same type of concern that people would have when they were buying tickets from a seller of tickets. And they would be buying these tickets and offering to purchase tickets with the intent that those tickets in fact would be available at face value, and that they actually would have the opportunity to buy those tickets when they came for sale on the Internet. Or when you went to the local Ticketmaster, that in fact you'd be able to buy that ticket and you'd be able to see . . . to purchase that ticket for the event and that there wouldn't be blocks of tickets withheld only to be sold at later dates at higher prices.

Similarly when people come to this Assembly and hear a budget, they expect that budget to represent the reality of what the circumstances are going to be.

Mr. Speaker, they also would believe that the actions of those who were undertaking these steps — whether it be the ticket sellers, Mr. Speaker, or the company which buys the tickets, in many cases through automated processes — would be fair and honest in their endeavours. Mr. Speaker, that would be very similar to any actions that would be expected by anybody in a business transaction.

You would expect that if something's advertised, you'd actually have the opportunity to purchase that item at the advertised

price. That would be a normal expectation — that if you see an ad in the paper that says you can buy something for 99.99, that if you went to purchase that, you could actually buy it for 99.99. Mr. Speaker, I'd say that's very normal. I think that that's what the citizens of our province would want.

They would also expect that if you purchase something, you have to pay for it. I would think that'd be a real normal, real life expectation — that if you purchased something, you order something, you pay for it. And I think most citizens would think that that, and everybody in this Assembly would think that's the way that real business is done. You order something, you pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, I think those same expectations need to be held by the citizens of Saskatchewan about our own actions, Mr. Speaker. If we order something, we should pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, it's been brought to my attention by a number of my constituents that there are circumstances when members don't pay for things that they ordered. And I think that's quite serious.

I had a constituent visit me a few weeks ago and talk about the fact that during a period of time that a sitting member of this legislature signed for some \$19,000 in alcohol that was delivered to this building, today that bill's still unpaid. It's never been paid for. I think, as we would expect, the citizens of the province would expect that they would have to pay for something if they ordered it. I think it should be the same, Mr. Speaker, for members of this Assembly if they order something.

Now the good thing about this, Mr. Speaker, this particular situation, the bill's still unpaid; the individual could still pay it. He has the opportunity if he wants to step forward and he can pay that \$19,000 bill, Mr. Speaker. And I think the people of Saskatchewan and I think the citizens of this province would expect that. I think the citizens of the province would expect an individual who ordered \$19,000 in alcohol to actually pay for it. Mr. Speaker, I think today that the good thing about this is we still have an opportunity for that to occur. That individual is still a sitting member of this Assembly, has the opportunity to pay if he so chooses.

The Deputy Speaker: — I would ask the member opposite to talk about the Bill, not to be drawing members, sitting members, into a debate on a Bill.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was indicating on *The Ticket Sales Act*, if you were to buy a ticket, you expect to pay for it. So if you order something you would expect that you're going to have to pay for that ticket, or you would expect not to consume or not to go to the event or not to consume what you purchased, to return it if you don't intend to pay for it. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that same expectation should be even enhanced in those of us who serve in public office, those of us who have a responsibility to the public.

I have concerned constituents about a situation. I think that it is only appropriate that the member from Swift Current actually pay that \$19,000 to the people of the province of Saskatchewan. He has admitted to being, that he accepted . . . [inaudible] . . . he ordered that, and he learned from it. I think the only final

step now is to pay it back. The people of the province of Saskatchewan, I think, should be entitled to payment for that \$19,000, Mr. Speaker, and I think many Saskatchewan people believe it should be paid.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to now talk a little bit about another aspect of this particular Bill. This Bill talks about secondary sellers not being able to be in direct corporate connection to the primary seller — talking about that you can't be a secondary seller of tickets to an event if in fact you are in any way connected to the primary seller. So that the primary company couldn't own a secondary company that sold tickets, or a primary company couldn't hold even shares or any portion of ownership in a secondary company that would actually sell the tickets at a higher price.

Well I think that that makes logical sense. If you're trying to ensure that no individual or nobody has priority access to tickets or the ability to interfere with fairness in the sale of tickets, in the distribution of tickets so that all Saskatchewan people, or all people for that matter, have access to it, that connection should be a concern.

Mr. Speaker, in life I think that there are always concerns about influence of one person over another, or the ability of an individual or company to influence another that needs to be taken into consideration. And those types of concerns and considerations are important. They are important not only in an aspect like this particular Bill, the selling of tickets, but in life in general.

There should be an expectation of the general public and the people of Saskatchewan that the regulations and laws of the jurisdiction or province, government, federal government should in fact be there to safeguard the well-being of Saskatchewan citizens. And ensure that they don't allow people to be taken advantage of as a result of rules, or as a result of legislation, regulations that are in place. So it's a very good step to ensure that the primary seller and the secondary seller of tickets in this Act cannot be one and the same.

But, Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation doesn't fix the problems that exist with the resale of tickets, Mr. Speaker. And as a result, I think there are many companies that have concerns about this piece of legislation. I think those concerns need to be addressed.

I think, like many other pieces of legislation that we've heard about, many Saskatchewan companies have come forward and said they weren't consulted. This piece of legislation was brought forward without consultation. And, Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a pattern forming here. At one point, I thought that the only people who didn't get consulted were ordinary working people in the province, because we heard Bills 5 and 6, no consultations. We heard Bill 43, no consultations; Bill 80, no consultations. So I thought perhaps the government was very selective in their consultations.

What we're finding out: no, they're not selective in their consultations. They simply don't do any. It's not that they don't just consult with some groups. They don't consult with anybody. So, Mr. Speaker, what's the quality of legislation that is brought forward if you don't consult with anybody, if you

don't talk to the people in the industries that are responsible?

Well I can tell you what happens. Bill after Bill after Bill, people come and talk to the opposition and say it doesn't cut it. It's not good enough. It doesn't fix the problem. It creates new problems. And why are they saying that? Because they never had an opportunity to have any say prior to the Bill being drafted, prior to the Bill being introduced, prior to us having to get up in the House and say it doesn't work, Mr. Speaker. And I think that's exactly the problem with the fiscal mismanagement in the province.

Last year a budget was put together. Who was consulted? Obviously not the bureaucrats. Obviously not the people who have to deliver the programs. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? We're hearing that widely now, that we're going into a budget that will be delivered in this House on March 24th that there's no plan to. There's no pattern; there's no system of looking at what should be done for appropriate reasons. It's going to cause chaos. The word chaos is used a lot.

Mr. Speaker, it's like last time, the last budget, Mr. Speaker, a year ago. We stood in this House and told the government and the people of Saskatchewan that their prediction of \$1.9 billion on potash was laughable. And what did the Minister of Energy and Resources tell us? Absolutely. He said it should be \$3 billion, not \$1.9 billion. Now look, I understand. I understand. I don't expect a lot from the Minister of Energy and Resources. I honestly don't because anybody that's going to tell me that they can raise \$3 billion on potash revenues and resources to the province of Saskatchewan when the price of potash is already tanking.

And we know that sales are going down. Everybody else is saying it. The government can't seem to get the message from the companies, from the countries that buy potash. It's really unfortunate. It's not bad enough to be out the \$1.9 billion, but to have the minister responsible stand up and say it should be \$3 billion, it really does go to, can you actually expect to be able to take his predictions or his numbers on anything, on anything.

Mr. Speaker, we had the opportunity to — the very day of the budget — to say those numbers just didn't work. And the people of Saskatchewan heard that. They heard the Finance critic talking about that budget was built on a house of sand. You know, the base was sand. It was shifting every day. The predictions were absolutely out to lunch, Mr. Speaker. But we've seen that pattern before.

Now we hear later from various sources that the Premier, in the middle of a football game, phones and changes the numbers in order to balance his budget. You know, is that true or isn't it true? Perhaps. Does it really matter? It doesn't really matter how it changed. The fact is the numbers were wrong; the Premier intervened. So the Premier is directly responsible for what happened. But does that surprise me or does it surprise the people of Saskatchewan? I say no because those who know, know that the Premier in his own life and his own business life has not had a great deal of success.

The Deputy Speaker: — For the last five minutes I've heard hardly anything about — in fact nothing — on the Bill. I would ask the member to return to the Bill we're discussing.

Why is the member from Athabasca on his feet?

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, to ask leave to introduce a guest.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has asked leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery is a famous guy from northern Saskatchewan. His name is Austin Laliberte. And Austin is here visiting us. And Austin is here doing some work and is joining us in the Assembly today. And I want to point out that Austin is here working for his family, his two wonderful kids and his wife.

But Austin is related to two very important, famous people. One of them is his brother, Devin. And Devin is a well-known athlete throughout northern Saskatchewan. And the other person is actually a bit more famous than his brother Devin. And he is uncle to the great Mieka Belanger who is my granddaughter. And this is her uncle, so he has two famous people in his family that he can call very special — his brother Devin, and of course his niece Mieka, who is also my granddaughter.

And, Mr. Speaker, I've said it a lot of times in the Assembly, Mieka and Brodey and Nixon are very special grandkids. But we're very pleased to have Mieka's uncle here today. And I ask all members to welcome Austin to the Assembly. Thank you.

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

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 119 — *The Ticket Sales Act* (continued)

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. After that short introduction I would just like to get back to talking about Bill No. 119, *The Ticket Sales Act*, Mr. Speaker.

And as I started to indicate earlier that this Act, although I think the intent is the appropriate intent, its outcome will not result in fixing the problem the people of Saskatchewan had. And it will also create other problems for Saskatchewan businesses that didn't exist before. And why did that occur and why is this legislation not addressing the problem in a manner which best fits the needs of the people of the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker?

That's because of the lack of consultation. I had the opportunity to meet with some of the businesses that deal with tourism and tours in the province of Saskatchewan, both to events like musical concerts and sports events and, Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation makes it difficult for those people to compete and for their businesses to thrive in the province of

Saskatchewan. Now it's an unintended consequence of what this legislation as it is brought forward is intended to do. I don't believe the government intended to create that problem, but they have. And they have created that problem by not consulting with the industry itself as they developed this legislation.

[16:15]

So, Mr. Speaker, this legislation as it is currently drafted — although with, I would argue and said from the very beginning, an admirable intent; an intent I think all 58 members of this legislature would in fact enforce its outcome — its outcome is not what was intended. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that the unintended consequences that we see in this legislation are a concern because a group of businesses in this province that have had the opportunity to develop and grow over a number of years, that have served Saskatchewan people well, will in fact, will in fact have difficulty maintaining the ability to be profitable businesses as a result of this legislation.

Now I can tell you I don't believe that that was the intent of the government. I just think it's one of the things that were never thought through, not understood, and as a result of not having those consultations. I happen to know that those business people have also met with the government, and I think that perhaps the minister also understands that there are some unintended consequences in the development of this legislation, not having looked at it from all the angles, not having done the consultations prior to putting in the legislation.

Let's hope that the minister, if he has been consulted, has learned from this, will actually bring forward changes that will fix the problem. I don't know if he will. You know, a confident minister would. A confident minister would want to bring forward legislation that dealt with the real problem and in fact didn't hurt Saskatchewan businesses. I'm hoping that's the case. We will have a great deal of opportunity moving forward to see whether or not the minister in fact will bring forward amendments to this legislation to make it meet the needs of those Saskatchewan businesses.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I continue my remarks, I'd like to deal with the issue about, you know, the unintended consequences are often the oversight of not looking at things more carefully and not taking the time to actually examine things thoroughly. Now last year's budget, we understand it wasn't properly examined. We understand the interference by the Premier. But it didn't surprise many people here that we're aware of the fact that his own personal business life has also seen him have significant shortfalls, Mr. Speaker.

At one point, with the assistance of \$150,000 provincial government money, he opened and brought the Country Music Hall of Fame to Saskatchewan, putting forward a business plan saying that it would be profitable, Mr. Speaker. In very short time he was bankrupt. The Country Music Hall of Fame went to Alberta. It's pretty sad when you can't sell country music in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, you can't sell country music in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And he couldn't sell any tickets to it. That's the problem. He couldn't sell tickets. And, Mr. Speaker, he even was talking about 34,000 people a year visiting, and I think he had some 3,000 people

visit. Not a very good . . . couldn't sell many tickets so when that occurred, Mr. Speaker, he would have liked to have a ticket sales Act that made people buy tickets, I think.

Mr. Speaker, so there's always unintended consequences and the fact that those unintended consequences cost people and businesses money are always a concern, always a concern, Mr. Speaker. So we need to examine this Bill in detail to firmly look at the concerns and do due diligence on behalf of those companies in Saskatchewan that are concerned about the shortcomings of this Bill. And we need to fully understand what their views are and why they have those views prior to passing this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

And there are considerable, considerable concerns by tourism operators and companies in Saskatchewan that in fact buy tickets and resell them. But they sell them as part of a package to events, whether they're concerts or sporting events, Grey Cups when they're held here, and other major sporting events, Mr. Speaker. And they've had the opportunity to operate these businesses for many years and all of a sudden we're changing the rules to negatively impact them. But what's most important, we didn't talk to them. We didn't talk to them. And you know when most mistakes are made in life is when you think you know all the answers, when you think you know how to do everything, when you think you know better than everybody else and you don't talk to anybody.

So on this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, again we saw no consultation. And day after day we hear from people around the province to say that they're not consulted on many, many pieces of legislation brought forward by the government. So, Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to bring these issues forward. And when those unintended consequences come forward, Mr. Speaker, it's incumbent upon a government to act, Mr. Speaker. And it's incumbent upon a government to take responsibility for those unintended consequences. Today we have a fiscal mess in this province like we have not had in more than two decades. And I'm going to call it a fiscal mess. We went from \$2.3 billion in the bank to a over a \$1 billion deficit in two and a half years.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate that it's not a revenue problem, it's an expenditure problem. Because in 2007, the budget was \$7.8 billion. Last year it was well over 10 billion. When you take the potash out. Mr. Speaker, that's a mess. And how did we get in that mess? Reckless spending. Reckless spending — spending beyond your means. Wishing things to reality without the foundation on which to build the building, Mr. Speaker. And that's what we've seen in the last two years as budgets have been put forward.

Mr. Speaker, we have the government pay off \$2 billion in debt in the General Revenue Fund, and then borrow more money than that in the Crown corporations, telling us they paid down the debt by 40 per cent when even they know that's wrong because they're just talking about the General Revenue Fund. They're not talking about the total debt. The total debt includes both the General Revenue Fund and what's in the Crown corporations. So if you take from one hand and put it in the other, it's not a paydown. That's mismanagement.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member is wandering away from

the intent of the Bill again. I will ask him to return to Bill No. 119, *The Ticket Sales Act*.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the point I was making was about consultation on this Bill and consultation on the bigger financial picture results in the same things, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, going back to the Bill itself.

We have seen companies come forward and say there's been no consultation. I know they've met with us, and they've asked for us to co-operate with the government in making changes. They believe that the government will do the honourable thing and make the right changes. Well I haven't heard from the minister responsible — as the Opposition House Leader — the minister responsible, Minister of Justice that he intends to make changes to the Bill to make it appropriate to fix the problems that have been indicated by the industry.

By the way, the changes they're bringing forward that they would like to see continue to fix the intent of the problem so that Saskatchewan people have first access to tickets, Mr. Speaker. In fact the solution they brought forward is simpler and easier and better. And better, quite frankly, when you sit down and look at it.

Mr. Speaker, we hope the minister will learn from those consultations and move forward and bring to us when this Bill reaches committee. And in fact it'll reach committee much sooner if the minister would give us indications that in fact he is going to be responsive to the needs of Saskatchewan people and in fact make the appropriate changes.

Mr. Speaker, consultation, consultation, consultation — it's such an important thing. And, Mr. Speaker, it is even more important, more important when the degree of risk, the degree of uncertainty is added. And, Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated before, it's even more important. The larger the decision, the more consequence to the province and to the people of the province, the greater the consultation there should be, and the greater, the greater consultation with informed people it should be.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen numerous examples over the last couple of years where the government's failed to do appropriate consultation. And in doing so, the people of the province of Saskatchewan are paying a price. Mr. Speaker, we're seeing decisions today where the people of the province of Saskatchewan weren't consulted, decisions like investing in Northland Power, Mr. Speaker, hundreds of millions of dollars of investment.

Now they're saying the investment's from the private sector. Yes, they're putting up the capital but, Mr. Speaker, the consumers, the people of Saskatchewan, are paying for it because they're going to be paying exorbitant power prices in order to pay for that capital, Mr. Speaker. They're taking the risk because Saskatchewan taxpayers are taking the risk if there is an increase in actual cost of natural gas going into the production of that power. The risk isn't with the company. The risk rests with the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And we're privatizing our Crown corporations. And when, when were the people of Saskatchewan ever consulted on that?

Because this government said prior, prior to winning the 2007 election, they wouldn't privatize Crown corporations. And, Mr. Speaker, they're doing it. They're doing it by stealth because they don't have the courage that the former premier of Saskatchewan, Grant Devine, had to put the issue before the people of Saskatchewan and be defeated as a result of it.

Nor did they have the courage of their former leader, Elwin Hermanson, who in the middle of an election said, I'd do it. And it cost him an election. But you know what? Mr. Hermanson had a great deal of courage and integrity. He put it before the people of Saskatchewan and took the defeat that the people of Saskatchewan gave him as a result. Mr. Speaker, it's important to be transparent, honest, and forthright with what you're going to do. And, Mr. Speaker, that's what consultations are about. Now there's been no consultations on the Northland Power deal; none with the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Now about 7 per cent of the power generation in Saskatchewan is going to be privatized to a company from Ontario with the profits going out of the province. An Ontario company will make the profits — Ontario of all places. Profits going to Ontario. Why can't SaskPower do that?

Why can't SaskPower do this? Only because the government in power ideologically believes this should be done by a private company. SaskPower does the very same thing. Lo and behold, we can do it well. We do it in many projects. For years and years SaskPower has generated power through natural gas generation. Why aren't we doing it here? Because we have a Premier that believes the government shouldn't be in business.

Now this is privatization of our Crown corporations by stealth. It is removing the right of people to have a choice because you told the people of Saskatchewan that you wouldn't do it, and now you're doing it. You didn't consult. You did not consult with the people of the province of Saskatchewan. And it should be shameful, shameful actually.

And, Mr. Speaker, all people want is to be consulted and allowed to have their say, be part of the decision-making process. Mr. Speaker, as we go on to talk about Bill 119, *The Ticket Sales Act*, and its implications on people, it is very important that we have consultations. And we know, as an example, several businesses have met with the Minister of Justice. They have brought forward their concerns and brought alternatives to improve the Bill.

Now we're wondering to see whether or not the minister will act upon those consultations and improve the Bill, bring forward a new version of the Bill or make some amendments, because it is amendable in its current form, to meet the needs of those businesses in Saskatchewan. We believe Saskatchewan businesses should be considered when we're putting forward legislation for Saskatchewan people.

I don't know about the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party, but I do know my leader believes that business needs to thrive, flourish, and grow in the province of Saskatchewan. I know the Leader of the New Democratic Party believes that it's through a strong economy with three pillars that you move forward as a province. And those three pillars include strong businesses:

businesses that have the opportunity to grow; businesses that have an opportunity to make profit. It's businesses that employ the people of Saskatchewan.

But he also believes very strongly in strong rights for unions and working people so that the wealth generated by a company is shared so that the people of the province of Saskatchewan get ahead. And he also believes in strong government with strong legislation and regulation to ensure that we have strong fiscal management moving forward, to ensure that the businesses that invest capital in Saskatchewan know what the rules are and that they are protected in that investment and that they can in fact have some certainty of what future that investment will have in this province.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, the current government has seen fit to keep in place the majority of the rules and regulations and legislation brought forward by the previous government in the oil and natural gas sector. In fact he's kept them all. The rules brought forward, the legislation and regulations put forward by the former government are in place today, and the natural gas and oil industry in Saskatchewan is flourishing. It's doing very, very well.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's not doing nearly as well as the Premier's trying to make the people of Saskatchewan and Canada believe when the other day he said to the people of Saskatchewan that we're going to surpass Alberta in oil production. Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan need to know that currently today Saskatchewan produces about 400,000 barrels a day, and Alberta produces about 2 million barrels a day in oil.

An Hon. Member: — Conventional oil.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, so the Premier in trying to play a word game, trying to play a word game, Mr. Speaker, tries to portray a picture that's not real. So he said, yes. Then one of the members shouts across, he says, conventional oil. But he doesn't explain anything, and he lets the people of Saskatchewan believe that Saskatchewan's actually going to surpass Alberta in oil production.

The reality is today Saskatchewan produces 400,000 barrels and Alberta 2 million barrels a day. But did the Premier, did the Premier put all the facts on the table for the people of Saskatchewan to judge? No, he didn't. So through a sleight of hand or sleight of words, he's trying to leave an impression that is not real about all of a sudden everything is so much better.

The other point that I think is absolutely important to understand is our production hasn't gone up. Our production's been pretty steady over the last number of years. Alberta's production is going down because more and more — in conventional oil — because more and more is coming from the tar sands.

But if you look at true oil production, we're at 400,000 barrels a day in Saskatchewan. They're 2 million barrels a day in Alberta. And he's trying to say they're the same or trying to portray to the people of Saskatchewan that they're the same through a sleight of words, Mr. Speaker.

So that goes a lot to the, goes exactly to the look of what is intended to be done by legislation by the wording you use, by how you put forward your budget, by saying you're paying down the debt by 40 per cent in the General Revenue Fund while increasing your debt in the Crown corporations.

We saw that once. We saw that game before, in the 1980s. We called it Devine economics. Historians talk about the 1980s as the years of Devine economics. They did the same thing. They said they were doing things in the General Revenue Fund, increasing debt in the Crown corporations.

I'll tell you what. Saskatchewan people have seen that game before. Saskatchewan people aren't going to buy that game. To say that you've got 400, that you're going to surpass Alberta in oil production, to say you're going to do this and that, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan, they're not going to buy it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this Bill dealing with the ticket sales is an important Bill because it says it's going to fix the problem. But what it actually does is create several new problems for businesses in Saskatchewan. So it doesn't fix the problem that's intended to be fixed because, in fixing it, it creates new problems, Mr. Speaker. And that's often referred to as unintended consequences. And when there are unintended consequences, it's important to understand them.

So, Mr. Speaker, I've been trying to, over the last 45 minutes or so, talking about unintended consequences and some of the previous unintended consequences that we've had as a result of . . . Perhaps a misuse of words. Perhaps not fully understanding or explaining something. Perhaps trying to sell something in an aspect with only half the picture there, like a debt. As an example, talking about GRF [General Revenue Fund], not talking about total debt.

You know, the government's own mid-year financial report showed a significant increase in overall debt. It did. And their projection showed increases all through to 2013. But, Mr. Speaker, they're out there on . . . There's billboards out there saying they paid the debt down by 40 per cent. Now maybe on a precise day they did that, Mr. Speaker. But today, that would not be an accurate portrayal of the situation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's what this Bill is. It's not quite an accurate portrayal of what is intended to be accomplished by the Bill. And, Mr. Speaker, as a result, Saskatchewan people have brought forward concerns to the minister. And I hope the minister's paying attention to the concerns raised by the business people of Saskatchewan, concerns that have been shared with us as well. We hope the minister will bring forward amendments to deal with those concerns, because those are important, important aspects of moving forward in our province.

Mr. Speaker, we as members of the legislature are responsible to the people of the province. And we should work hard in order to try to bring forward legislation that in fact meets concerns. And when, after we've made a mistake by bringing forward legislation that doesn't meet all those concerns, we should have the courage to say, well we made a mistake, and fix it.

That's all that we're asking of the minister today is to fix some concerns that were brought forward by business owners in the province of Saskatchewan so that in fact the legislation does what he intends to do because I do believe the intent is an admirable one. But it needs to be brought forward and fixed in a manner in which deals with the concerns that have brought forward by different companies that are secondary sellers of tickets in the province that I don't believe he looked at or took into consideration when developing this particular legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it's very, very important to always examine what the consequences are. It's important to know what the outcomes are, Mr. Speaker, and to then, once you do learn new facts, to bring them forward. And that is very, very important. Mr. Speaker, during this particular development of this legislation, there was without doubt many Saskatchewan citizens pushing the government to do something about the fact that they weren't able to buy tickets to events. And for that, I think the government has stepped forward and I actually commend the government for looking at fixing what is not an easy fixed problem because there are several dimensions to the problem.

But in fixing it we need to ensure that Saskatchewan people and Saskatchewan businesses are not hurt in an adverse way by what we do. And, Mr. Speaker, we need to thus make some changes to this Bill in order to ensure that and we need to work together co-operatively to ensure that the people of Saskatchewan's needs are in fact reflected in the outcome.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as we look at this particular piece of legislation, I have a number of definitions here that are of interest.

Well, Mr. Speaker, today many of the tickets to events are sold online. In many cases there is software today that allows companies, without ever having to actually be even at the office to push a button, to buy tickets online, and not just one ticket, but many tickets. In fact there are companies around North America who routinely buy a number of tickets to every major concert event or every major sports event that goes on around the country, and they don't even in many cases sell them all. Or they resell them in some cases, even at lower prices.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this legislation will attempt to regulate and control that. It will attempt to make a greater number of tickets available to Saskatchewan citizens earlier in the process, and at face value — at face value, not at an increased price. That's good.

But, Mr. Speaker, this doesn't deal with some of the traditional problems of tickets and scalpers. As an example, it doesn't prevent somebody from standing outside an arena or standing outside the football stadium or a concert and selling a ticket at two or three times the face value. Mr. Speaker, I think we all need to identify that's nearly impossible to prevent. That's nearly impossible to prevent. But this does deal with companies being able to do the same thing systemically through the development of systems to do just that — sell tickets at an enhanced sale price to the consumers of the province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I'm looking this particular piece of legislation, I still have many concerns. And those concerns come about as a result of the lack of consultation. The apparent

systemic lack of consultation across the broad piece, Mr. Speaker, raises concerns of my colleagues and myself and the people of the province of Saskatchewan. We have heard repeatedly, major changes in the fabric of our province have been brought forward without any consultation. And these changes, Mr. Speaker, are having a profound effect on the people of Saskatchewan. And that effect is not always positive.

And in fact in most cases, Mr. Speaker, there are always, in decisions, those who feel they should be consulted that never have been. Now if there's been an attempt to consult people, that's one thing. But for the primary stakeholders in major changes to not be consulted, Mr. Speaker, that's a very serious concern.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am at a point where I think I'm going to wind down my comments and give my colleague a few minutes before 5 o'clock to share some of her view. Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation. I hope the minister has taken the time to pay attention to some of the changes that we think need to be made. I wish he would take the time to consult with those business people once again and bring forward the appropriate amendments to the legislation.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I will take my seat and give the opportunity of other members to speak. So, Mr. Speaker, I'll adjourn debate on Bill 119 at this time.

The Speaker: — The MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Regina Dewdney has moved adjournment of debate on Bill 119. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? 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 Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise to enter the debate on Bill 121, *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*, which according to the minister, combined with amendments to two other Acts, sets the stage for adoption of a results-based environmental framework for Saskatchewan.

So I want to preface my comments here with the lack of credibility with this government talking about the environment. Well the lack of credibility on many fronts, but particularly when it comes to the environment. For example, we saw in 2007 this government during the election promised to stabilize emissions, greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 and reduce them by 32 per cent by 2020. And just last fall this same government introduced a piece of legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent from 2006 levels by 2020. So two very different things of commitment for one thing and coming out with something very different.

So again on many fronts, but particularly around the

environment, this government has little credibility. This is a government with a Premier who talked about ragging the puck on the environment. This is a government who's promised to protect our environment, but why should we believe them now?

And just a note here with Bill 126, the Bill that I had mentioned earlier, it was a very different approach here. This Bill 121 that we're talking about today very much speaks about best practices from around the world, but Bill 126 tends to shun the best practices and the global approach on reducing greenhouse gases. So again I just want to say this is a government who says they want to protect our environment, but again why should we believe them now?

I just too want to echo my colleagues this afternoon in the discussion of some of the previous Bills that have come up. I would like to echo their concern about consultation and the government's track record on consultation, or more like the lack thereof consultation. The government has said they have consulted and they've committed to ongoing consultation with this Bill 121, but with whom have they consulted? Has it been industry people only, or has it been a broad-based consultation? And are they committed to a broad-based consultation going forward as they plan to implement this?

[16:45]

As my colleagues have mentioned, this government's consultations around Bill 80 and essential services have been one-sided. And is this again the case with Bill No. 121, the environmental measures and protection Act?

We heard the other day from the Minister of Justice that a very valuable program, the domestic violence program, had been cut and then consultations were now taking place, so . . .

An Hon. Member: — In what community?

Ms. Chartier: — That would be in Saskatoon. So again, are all the necessary stakeholders who are impacted by this Bill, have they been involved in the discussions?

So what is Bill 121, the environmental measures and protection Act, promising to do? Well in referring to the Ministry of Environment's *Towards a Results-Based Environmental Regulatory System for Saskatchewan* — this is basically the document summarizing the ministry's response to a report it commissioned — so what is this Bill promising to do? Well:

The results-based environmental model is about a healthy environment, communities and economy.

Our current system of environmental regulation is not supporting sustainable growth. We are focused on processes and not focused on environmental outcomes. The way the Ministry conducts its business means that growth is too often held up in the government system, with the result that costs and timelines can be increased with no incremental benefit to the environment and investment and innovation can be discouraged.

So this is what the ministry says they're working to do:

The Ministry of Environment is working to create a better system and we believe the answer lies in a results-based regulatory model. In the big picture, a results-based model has the Ministry focusing on setting standards and codes for the environmental outcomes which hopefully will be translated into a government wide standard. The private sector is accountable for meeting those standards and finding the most appropriate methods and processes to achieve the outcome.

So this is the basic concept of this Bill. So without a doubt, there's definitely some merit to the proposal and the idea of developing an environment code is a good one.

But there are other examples out there of results-based models or where self-regulation or results-based models haven't always worked. We need only to think back to 2008 and the listeriosis outbreak here in Canada. So we saw self-regulation break down with the death of Canadian citizens and a very insensitive Conservative Saskatchewan cabinet minister talk about death from a thousand cold cuts.

So the environment is an area where outcomes are absolutely critical. When something goes wrong, it can go very wrong and it can have long-term, life-threatening impacts. So we have to be very mindful when it comes to the environment, thinking that those things that do go wrong can be very bad for all of us and have long-term consequences. So in a news release in November when the Environment minister introduced the Act, as she said:

Throughout our consultations, we heard that environmental regulation in Saskatchewan needs to better reflect best practices in protection of the environment and keep up with the pace of economic development.

She goes on to say:

Results-based environmental regulation will allow us to do both by focusing on the use of effective, custom-designed environmental safeguards, rather than one-size-fits-all approaches.

So I completely agree that a cookie-cutter approach usually isn't the best way to do business, but we also need to ensure that people know what we expect of them. So I'm not so sure that this government yet knows what we need to expect of people involved in the industry. Government is asking us to pass this Bill without knowing what the new minimum standards of protection will be.

So who is going to be writing these standards? And how will they be enforced? So this is critical in all of these questions here. Again I hate to harp on consultation, but who is the government going to consult with to develop these standards? This is absolutely critical moving forward.

So industry certainly has the expertise, but others do too. And we all have a stake in this. It's the environment so we need to ensure all stakeholders are involved. So there is merit in the government's proposal to establish a series of baseline objectives that the industry would be required to meet. And a lot depends on how those objectives are set and whether or not

they're rigorous enough to be meaningful in some way.

So how will this all work? Well this is apparently is how it's going to work. So from the ministry's report on the report they commissioned:

Much of the aim of a Results-Based regime is to "decouple" responsibilities for compliance [industry, developers, proponents] and enforcement [so decoupling responsibilities in enforcement by government], by clearly defining the desired environmental outcome and making the operators clearly accountable to provide that result.

The emphasis is on . . . progress toward environmental goals and targets and on enabling firms to maintain compliance.

So how will enforcement work? We don't know that, and this is critical. When you have someone who is degrading the environment, we need to know how they will be held to account. And who will do the enforcement? How will we know or have any sense of whether or not the industry has in fact achieved or not achieved the desired results? So these are all things the government has to sort out in short order, and it doesn't sound like this has been done yet.

So when I first read this Act, actually it reminded me . . . As I said, there is definitely merit in this, but it reminded me of being a teenager. And I just want to clarify here that I was never this kind of teenager. I was the daughter of a police officer and a very responsible, law-abiding youngster. But imagine your parents go away. So this is what Bill 121 reminded me of.

So parents go away and leave the kids alone in the house. The kids have a crazy party and trash the house. They break windows, all kinds of things. But these kids are pretty industrious, and before parents get home from their vacation, the kids have replaced the windows. They've polished up the dog. They've got everything back in order, fixed it up. And parents come home and don't realize at the time that anything ever happened.

So the parents seem to be no wiser. But then we need to know which kid was hospitalized with alcohol poisoning. How has the dog, who was shaved, recovered? But again on the surface the kids have managed to pull it together. But when dad gets the ice bucket out nine months later at Christmas to use for the holiday season, we discover that someone has been sick in the ice bucket. So it's about those times when everything looks good on the surface and all . . .

An Hon. Member: — And this is the land we're talking about.

Ms. Chartier: — This is the land. This is our environment. So we need to know not just what outcomes are but what happens all along the way. So what looks good on the surface, you meet the requirements at the very end, but 10 years down the road, 20 years down the road, we open up that proverbial ice bucket and see that someone has damaged our environment.

So again what looks good on the surface might have long-term consequences. So I'm a little concerned. Again there definitely

is merit in this, but we need to make sure that those baseline standards are established.

The other thing that we can talk about here is that the Clifton report noted that "Saskatchewan does not have . . . [the current] staff capacity or capability to monitor and regulate the current industry and oversee the social license . . ."

It notes, the report notes that the Ministry of Environment is short of certain important skill sets — engineers, hydrogeologists, water quality and air quality specialists, toxicologists, epidemiologists, and risk assessment specialists. So in other words, the Ministry of Environment currently doesn't have the capacity to do the job.

So then the report goes on to suggest that:

. . . the Ministry of Environment should consider developing a long-term "preferred supplier" relationship with a private sector firm who could be kept on retainer to provide these capabilities.

The government in this paper agreed that this was the way to go. So instead of building expertise in government to manage and protect the environment, the government is going to be contracting it out. So in the end, this results-based environment management is privatization by another name . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Not very far.

So in conclusion I just would like to say that this Act going towards a results-based model has merit, but before we can pass this Act, I think the government needs to think about all those previous details to make sure that we . . . about we need to think again about how enforcement works, how the operator is, how the . . . We need to think of how industry will be held accountable. These all need to be in place. To vote on something before we know what it will look like, I think, would be irresponsible.

So what will we do to ensure people are accountable? So I'm just going to actually give you a couple of . . . talk about some of the key recommendations of the Clifton report. So implementation of the results-based regulatory system, this is one of the key recommendations:

Implementation of the Results-Based Regulatory System is a very significant undertaking that will affect most units in the Ministry of Environment. The first step in the implementation should be to develop a comprehensive implementation plan with designated project managers and a dedicated steering committee who can commit to an intensive schedule that will transform the Ministry of Environment to a fully results-based organization within 24 months.

So that's the Clifton, one of the . . . That is first key recommendation from the Clifton report. The ministry's response was in agreement:

The Deputy Minister of the Environment will be held accountable for implementation; this will include appointing an Assistant Deputy Minister to Chair the Implementation Steering Committee with the goal to have

the Results-Based Regulations implemented by the Ministry and the regulated . . . where practicable by March 31, 2011.

So time, time is of the essence here. That's only a year away and I don't see any evidence that we have got all that information here. So I have some concerns around that. Time is of the essence, but again the work has not been, the foundation has not been laid yet. Just one of the second, the second key recommendation from the Clifton report:

[The] Adoption of a results-based regulation will require enhanced compliance assurance capabilities that will consist of a full range of compliance assurance tools ranging from education to technical audits to enforcement. The core of the compliance assurance program will be technical audits of [the] operations selected on the basis of history, past performance and environmental risk assessment.

It is proposed that the Ministry of Environment develop a cadre of qualified certified environmental auditors who would conduct compliance audits on selected permit holders. The basis of selection would be by exception.

So has this been thought through? Has this been done? The ministry response is that they've agreed with this, that they will establish a separate auditing unit that will have the responsibility to establish and implement this process "to objectively evaluate, document and report on the performance of commercial and industrial operations in regards to compliance with environmental laws, regulations and codes."

So again I'm going back to consultation here, but in terms of developing the code to make sure . . . What do we know we are evaluating? Have we set that baseline standard yet? We have not. So it would be again irresponsible to support this Bill without knowing that those things are in place.

Again I want to go back to my house party analogy and the kids in the end being able to clean up the house so it looks good enough, but remembering that there was all kinds of damage done that on the surface can look like it's repairable but there may be long-term outcomes, consequences — that ice bucket that people find 10 years down the road. So I want us to think about that ice bucket and that house party when we think about this Bill.

And again I really, really want to emphasize the importance of consultation. Not only is consultation key for making sure that we have people feeling included and part of the process, but when you connect politicians and bureaucrats to the people on the ground, that's when the best policy outcomes happen. So that's absolutely critical.

And again this government has not shown itself to be incredibly adept in thorough consultations so this is definitely a concern of mine.

Again in review, in review I just want to point out that this government is talking about the protection of the environment. And this has been a government who has not proven themselves to be incredibly committed or one might say somewhat

untrustworthy, where we had a promise in 2007 and something very different surfacing in 2009. So again, how can we be sure we can believe this government now?

And with that, thank you.

The Speaker: — It now being 5 p.m., the hour of adjournment, the Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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