



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

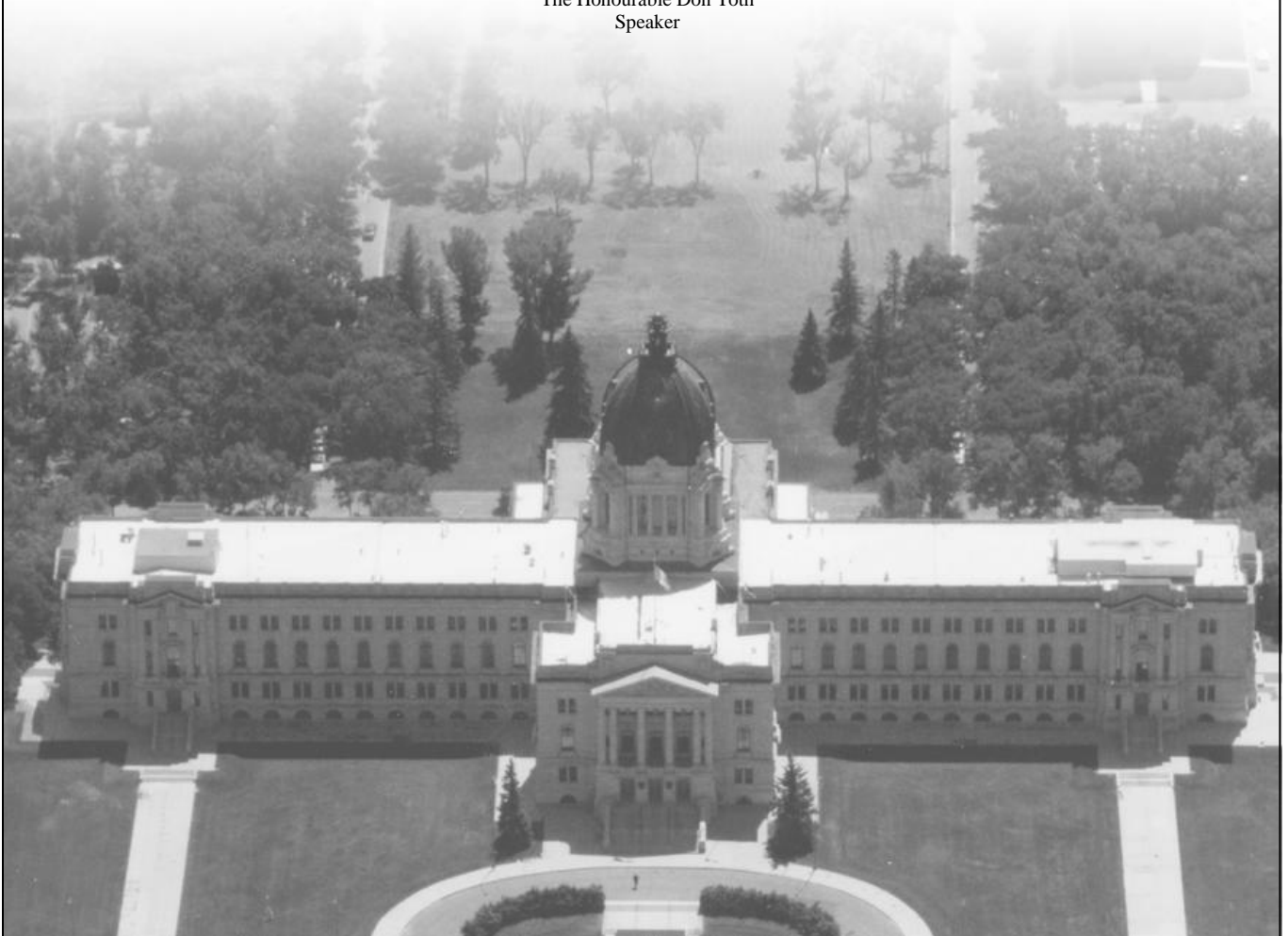
---

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

---

(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

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

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

**EVENING SITTING**

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 127 — *The Assessment Management Agency  
Amendment Act, 2009*  
(continued)**

**The Speaker:** — Being now 7 p.m., debate will resume on Bill No. 127. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just getting started in my long speech, but my colleagues have encouraged me to adjourn debate. So I will do so.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Eastview has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 127. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to accept the adjournment?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

**Bill No. 118**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud that **Bill No. 118 — *The Milk Control Repeal Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Trew:** — I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it's my pleasure tonight to rise and speak to Bill 118, *An Act to repeal The Milk Control Act, 1992*. And it's kind of interesting as I'm doing the research and talking to a few people about the whole dairy industry and the whole industry. It's not just dairy industry but the processing industry, right from, I guess, I go from livestock right through to processing and bottling milk products and then the delivery to stores where most of us wind up getting our milk.

And I kind of . . . It was an interesting reflection to think back to my early time on the farm when we knew where the milk came from because we milked the cows. And I've got to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that top milk was just awesome, especially if you could shake that up and pour it into your glass and drink that. It made 10 per cent or whatever they call it now seem like skim milk. And maybe that set the process for some of us gaining a little bit of meat on the bones.

Mr. Speaker, the Milk Control Board has a long history in Saskatchewan, and it did a good job helping to find the right balance between consumers on the one hand, consumers of bottled milk and cream and, you know, cheese products, that

sort of thing. It protected consumers. But it also did a very important thing in protecting dairy farmers and looking after . . . making sure there was things like an appropriate quota, an appropriate opportunity to deliver their raw milk products, and to make sure that the safety of the herd and then the safety of the milk products was managed appropriately. And I have to say that it was a very effective operation for a great many years, and it served very well.

Times in some ways are changing, and in some ways I have to wonder what the rush is or what the need to repeal the Milk Control Board, *The Milk Control Act*. What's the urgency to repeal it, and what are we replacing it with? And I've read the Act. What's missing is some sense of need to change the board — if I can describe it that way — of *The Milk Control Act*.

From my understanding in the consultation that we've done with people in the industry — and it's a limited consultation, but I believe it's a broader consultation than was done by the government — my understanding from our consultations were simply that very few people were consulted. That's point one: very few people in the industry were consulted, very few of the actors. And secondarily that *The Milk Control Act* had been serving very well for a huge number of years. It's only as late as 2008 that the current board came in and the questions about *The Milk Control Act* started to seriously arise in Saskatchewan.

Now I don't know if this is a function of gathering the control of *The Milk Control Act* into government, you know, so shortly after the change of government, or if there's some other reasons for the consternation or the concerns within that industry at this point.

But the questions are still there, and I guess we've tried through a number of speeches . . . I've read some of the remarks of colleagues that have spoken earlier. They've come at this question, each of us from our own unique perspectives, but we've tried to come at the question and we're not much closer to an answer. I'm suspicious that we may have to go into committee before we'll ever get any of the answers for that, but we're not ready for that. We're not ready for that. What we need to get on the record is our expressions of concern. We want to provide the opportunities for concerned people in the whole milk industry, if I can describe it that way. Individuals and companies can certainly let their feelings be known, and that would be a good thing.

Other provinces have certainly moved towards a marketing board, which is what I think this is about, is moving from the Milk Control Board to a marketing board. But we're not sure that that's entirely what's behind this change in Saskatchewan. We're not sure that if they do go that way, if the government chooses to go that way with the replacement Act, that it's going to in any way strengthen the consumer protection or the protection for dairy farmers. We're not sure that it's going to enhance the whole milk industry in Saskatchewan.

And that's a shame, Mr. Speaker, because we've got . . . certainly we've got lots of land. We've got people that can look after the herds. We've got the arable land to produce whatever the crop is that we want to feed the herd with. I was going to

start going into specific crops, but there's no point in that because one farmer might want more corn, another might want more barley, another might want alfalfa — who knows? The needs vary, and it depends on what's more locally available, I suppose.

But we've certainly got the land. We've got the people. We've got in many cases most of the facilities. Indeed until recently we were producers of milk and milk products. It used to be that there was a dairy in every city of any size.

In fact at one point my father and uncle are proud of telling the story that they were about to take over a dairy in Leader, Saskatchewan when they were young men. And that's a couple or three years ago, maybe significantly more than that ago. Both of them are . . . the numbers that mark their birthdays are getting quite large, and I'm very proud of both my father and my uncle for that.

But having gone from a time of where every farm family had a cow, or virtually every farm family had a cow and milked it and produced for themselves. And virtually every town had a dairy, and they produced the milk and milk products for that town and maybe some of the smaller villages around. And things got looked after that way. Through consolidations, I mean, it just grew and grew and grew.

And I can remember thinking that for example the Swift Current dairy was going to last forever. And while it's been many years since Swift Current had a dairy, I for sure knew that Saskatoon and Regina were going to have the co-op dairies in both of them, and of course they're gone. They're gone. What's left is a colostrum collection facility in Saskatoon, and that's literally the milk product operation that's left in Saskatchewan.

I've talked a bit earlier about the need for consultation. And I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that the people we talked to didn't, weren't aware of others in the industry or themselves being asked by government or government officials about the need for this change in *The Milk Control Act*, this need for repeal.

And it's almost like, you know, the recent budget where we saw the chiropractors being delisted with no consultation, chiropractors being taken right out of coverage to save 10 or \$12 million in a year out of that pocket. But of course in the other pocket, the government's going to spend many millions more.

So we're not sure if *The Milk Control Act* repeal is being done with even less consultation than for instance the chiropractors elimination from their coverage. And I tie the two together only by way of an example respecting consultation and the crying need for meaningful consultation, meaningful engagement of, you know, in the instance of chiropractors, of course with all people that have a view on it, people who use chiropractors and chiropractors themselves, the whole medical community.

In the case of *The Milk Control Act*, we need the consultation to take place between the . . . right from the dairy herd owners, the producers, right through — follow the levels right up to and including consumers. And we should all be given an opportunity to first of all be told what it is that the repeal of *The Milk Control Act* of 1992 is going to . . . how that's going to

enhance life in Saskatchewan, how it's going to help a dairy producer or how it's going to help a consumer or how it's going to help any of us in any way. That should be fairly easy to define. In the absence of that, well then I think any administration, any government administration deserves to hear of the concerns.

So we're trying to raise the concerns around this whole repeal of *The Milk Control Act*. And we know that it's a fairly all-encompassing Act. We know that in part of the Act it says that the new operation, whatever it will be, will get some of the assets of the old Milk Control Board, but any other assets just simply revert to the Crown.

I'm not sure how that is going to work or who's going to gain. Or is this another grab like . . . We heard on the news tonight about SaskTel now having to borrow money because the government chose to take all of its retained earnings from last year and next year into the General Revenue Fund and in a bid to pretend that they're keeping taxes low. And we're just not sure how much of this Act or the SaskTel situation is a shell game.

We're just not sure who's going to benefit and who's not, and it's really a matter of openness, transparency. It's a matter of trust. It's a matter of being able to get the answers, at least get an answer as to why a Bill is being proposed, to get an answer as to why, in my earlier example, why is SaskTel being stripped of its retained earnings for two years when the last time that happened was when Grant Devine was premier. And we all know what happened then, Mr. Speaker.

So we know there's more to this Act than simply the repeal of *The Milk Control Act*. We know there's more to it than that. We think that part of it is the introduction of a marketing board under *The Agri-Food Act*, but again it begs the question, why? What's the gain here? How does this improve anything in the entire industry? How does it make milk products any safer for consumers? How does it make them priced any better? How does it put a dollar more or less into the pockets of the herd owner, the producer? How does it bring the opportunity for more dairy herds into Saskatchewan so we could expand what should be a growing and important industry in the province? This doesn't answer any of those questions, and we really should be focused on the economic development, that is, bring more dairy herds in, bring more dairy farmers to play. When I say to play, I mean into the industry and in Saskatchewan where we can produce the raw milk.

[19:15]

And that seems to me that there would be some additional jobs. And that should be what a government is all about, is the job creation and trying to help us get a better finished result, a better end result. And certainly with milk, I mean there's not much secret to milk. Cows walk around. Cows will eat and drink and they will produce milk. And they do require some care. I don't mean to downplay the herd management or the importance of routine in the daily milking, the importance of sanitation, or all of that. Safety issues — don't mean to downplay that. But cows are pretty darn reliable when it comes to . . . you put some input in the front end, and you'll get milk and fertilizer I guess.

We need some accountability and transparency. When I talked about the transferring of assets and liabilities and contracts and personal property that's being transferred to the new marketing board, we need to be more certain, Mr. Speaker, that it's pretty clear that what gets transferred to the Crown and what goes to the new marketing board entity, and it should be logical and explainable and reasonable what happens. But I'm not sure . . . certainly not in the Bill or the explanatory notes is any of that to be found. And that's why we just are very concerned with what's going on in Bill 118, *An Act to repeal The Milk Control Act, 1992*.

The transparency just isn't always there. We've seen that from the government when chiropractors had a contract negotiated with the government. Contract fully negotiated, the chiropractors signed it, and then they sat on it, the government sat on it for two full months leading to the budget before they told chiropractors, oh we were just kidding. All those months of negotiations, it was just . . . We were just kidding. We had no intention of ever signing a new contract with you. And it was just disingenuous. It was disingenuous at best, and it should never have come to that. The negotiations should not have even started, but at some point early on when the government knew that it was going to delist, de-insure chiropractic coverage, they should have just put an end to the charade and told the chiropractors what was going on.

Our concern, our concern is that, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the transfer of assets and liabilities under this Bill 118, the repeal of *The Milk Control Act*, those assets and liabilities are being transferred to the new entity, and the government is going to keep the rest, whatever the rest means. And we're just not sure what the rest is. We're just not certain what the rest is, just how valuable that is or how justified it is for that grab to take place.

Transparency is not a strength of the government. That's what we're seeing. It has not been a strength, and I think that the people in milk industry deserve better. I think that dairy producers deserve better. I certainly know that my constituents and the people of Saskatchewan deserve better. They deserve much more transparency than there is. They deserve more integrity when it comes to making decisions.

Certainly governing is about making decisions. I know that. I'm not trying to pretend that when you're a government you can be all things to all people. Governing, by its very nature, is about making decisions, and they aren't all popular. That's a given. I know that. I was part of a government that after 16 years there was more than enough people that thought we perhaps hadn't governed as well as we could have, and they passed their judgement. And that's a fair judgement that I accept. I'm just grateful that I can be part of the whole governance operation by serving in opposition in this instance.

Governing is not about simply making the popular choice, but it is about consulting with the people, in this case consulting with people in the dairy industry, consulting with consumers, consulting with people at all levels of the milk industry, if I can describe it that way. But it's about being straight with what your intentions are and why you're doing something. I haven't heard anything about this being an economic development tool or this creating a single job. Now I hope it does. I hope that's

what's behind it and the government just forgot to tell us that, but I'm skeptical. I'm really, really doubtful.

Sometimes I think I was born too far north. I sometimes think I'm from Missouri, you know, the Show-me State. Show me is their motto — show me. And so I sometimes feel like that would be my second home because sometimes I feel like I'm overly skeptical. But the track record of the government is not a good one. It's not a good one on transparency. It's not a good one on saying what it is they're about. And it's not a good one on Bill 118, *An Act to repeal The Milk Control Act of 1992* because we still are uncertain what that's about.

You know, I opened talking about milking cows and, you know, how the whole milk industry has changed, Mr. Speaker, over the years. But it's interesting. I think we've gone arguably too far into the removal of the production facilities, the dairy facilities, if I can describe it that way, because in the last few years there's been a fairly revolutionary notion that started somewhere in the states. I'm not sure exactly where, but they urge that as we try and look after our planet, that we get involved in a 100-mile Diet. And in its simplest form, it means that virtually all of the things that we need can be found within 100 miles of where we live.

So within that 100-mile radius you can find all of the meat you need. You can find all of the vegetables you need. I still am struggling with how I can find all of the oranges and bananas that I need within 100 miles of Regina. But I back up a couple of sentences. With very few exceptions, you can get virtually everything within 100 miles. And I'm not sure that we're doing anything to try and meet this new coming reality with the repeal of *The Milk Control Act of 1992*.

I know that we've done some consulting. We've done some discussing. We've asked some questions of some of the players in the industry, not all of them. I won't pretend that we've, in a short period of time, had the ability to talk to all of the players. We do encourage anyone that has thoughts on that to contact us. We'll try and reflect that in our speeches, in our expressions of joy with legislation or our expressions of concern with legislation. And we try to reflect it all.

If the calls came in saying, oh you know, forget it, *The Milk Control Act*, repeal of *The Milk Control Act, 1992* is a great thing, I mean if that was clearly the perception of people in the dairy industry, that would be what we would be reflecting here in our speeches. But that's not, it's just not the reality, Mr. Speaker. It's not what we're hearing.

Now any time there's changes in legislation like this, there's questions surrounding those changes. I've tried to point out what some of those questions are, but by no means am I trying to pretend that that's the total list of what those questions are.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what more I could say about this particular Bill. We take it very seriously. We're trying to express some concerns. And I'm hoping that the minister and/or his officials are at least paying attention to the speeches because I hope that some of the questions that I've raised tonight and that some of my colleagues have raised in previous speeches on this particular Bill, I hope that the minister will be prepared to answer some of these questions, all of the questions, when we

get into the committee dealing with Bill 118.

It would be, it would be a delight to hear in that committee that this repeal is going to lead to thousands more jobs in Saskatchewan — or even 100, you know, a couple hundred; 100 more jobs, even a handful — just to know the direction that the repeal of *The Milk Control Act* is going to do. We clearly have recently a growing population. We clearly, to sustain that, need more jobs. And where better to get some jobs than in an area where we enjoy some real honest advantages? We've got, you know, acres and acres and acres and acres, sections of grassland. We've got a cattle industry that's in big trouble, to put it mildly. I was talking with a former cattle producer over the weekend who suggested to me that, as soon as cattle prices strengthen, we're going to see an even bigger exodus of people producing livestock for beef. Well that will open up even more rangeland for dairy cattle or more land where we can produce barley and corn and whatever we want to feed the dairy herd.

Mr. Speaker, the opportunities are there. We've got, I guess I'm clearly saying we've got some areas where we're in some difficulty in the farming sector. And it's, I mean, having grown up on a farm, I know it goes up and it goes down. And some years you wonder why you'd ever dream of doing anything other than farm or ranch or be a dairy producer. That's some years. But there's an awful lot of years in between where, you know, exactly why . . . You wonder what you're doing because the grasshoppers come or the drought comes or, you know, the market's down or the government does something you don't like. And that's just the reality of farming in Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, I've made my comments on Bill 118, *An Act to repeal The Milk Control Act, 1992*. And my understanding is that we've gotten on the record our concerns — our concerns with the lack of consultation that's been done throughout the industry, our concerns with the lack of transparency by the Sask Party government, our concerns with what this Bill is purporting to do and what it is just silent on. We've got lots of concerns. We've got lots of questions. We hope that some of the answers are acceptable. We hope that some of the answers are in fact positive for Saskatchewan's economy, for Saskatchewan's dairy producers, for the people of Saskatchewan. To get at some of those answers, Mr. Speaker, we're prepared to let this piece of . . . this Bill go to committee. I thank you for your time.

**The Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Agriculture that Bill No. 118, *The Milk Control Repeal Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

[19:30]

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — To the Economy Committee, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The Bill stands referred to the Committee on the Economy.

### Bill No. 101

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

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to join in the debate, the discussion around Bill No. 101, *An Act to Amend the Credit Union Act, 1998*. And this is an interesting piece of legislation before us. On one hand, it seems relatively straightforward, but there are some questions I have and some points that I want to make.

I know many of us, if not all of us, have been visited by delegates from the credit union system to make their points about how they see their role within our communities. And they have such an important role, a vital role in the health and well-being of our communities. Really the history of the credit unions, the co-operative movement in Saskatchewan, is one that we can all be very, very proud of. And they have shown real leadership, thoughtful leadership in how to make our communities as strong as they can be. They've taken the opportunity to show real leadership, both in financial management, in helping families, individuals, corporations, small businesses, public sector institutions such as schools and health care co-ops, as strong as they can be.

But they've also realized that they have a bigger responsibility, a much bigger social responsibility, and they've gladly taken to that. I can tell you about in our own community, TCU Place and Credit Union place are just examples. But they do so much more than that, and whether it's supporting local community organizations, big and small, they're there. And so it is with an interest that I stand today and add a few comments about this amendment to *The Credit Union Act, 1998*.

And I do want to take a moment to just recognize my colleague, the member from Regina Lakeview, who gave an outstanding speech back in November about this. And I've been reviewing this, and I may make some comments . . . [inaudible] . . . actually cite him. Because we know we've been through quite a time in terms of the economic storms. You know, people say it's a downturn, but they know it's been much more than that. Fortunately in Canada because of how we feel our regulations, our financial regulations are so, so important, we've been able to handle the economic crisis the world has seen in a much more resilient manner. And clearly the credit union movement, the credit union leaders have really shown us how to prepare for that. And it's a good-news story on so many fronts.

But they are looking and they keep a watchful eye on how they can do their job better, how can they serve their members better. Their members of course are our neighbours, and so when they serve them well, we're all being served well because that's our community.

So I want to just take a few moments and talk a bit about the Bill itself, some of the things. And I won't go quite as thoroughly through it as the member from Regina Lakeview, and I feel in many ways I should review or just read his speech into the House because he was so thorough. And of course with his background, it really is much appreciated, and I know when we do get into committee that we will have lots of questions based on some of the concerns that he brings to the table. Clearly he's well-read on the issue and has some thoughts, and so I hope that I can do that with at least some points to consider.

You know, it was interesting today, Mr. Speaker, on my way to the legislature this morning I stopped in at the office where our condo is administered, and I had to talk to the people about some caretaking stuff. And I saw the sign on the door, no cash will be accepted. No cash will be accepted. I thought, well that's okay, you know. I don't know, you know, when the last time I actually got a paycheque in cash. It's all been, now it's electronically deposited. So all these things are done in such a different world.

Well there was a couple in the office, senior citizens, and the gentleman was making a comment about how at one point everything was in cash. In fact you would not accept a cheque. And I remember, in fact, I remember a couple of unions — Equity, the actors' union, would not accept paycheques. They would only accept cash. And so this is the point the gentleman was making about how we certainly are in a different time because now we don't even think about cash. We think that we have some pocket cash, but we certainly don't want to have a lot of cash in our wallets or our purses. And we certainly wouldn't expect to pay our rent in cash, and we certainly wouldn't expect to get our paycheque, our monthly paycheque in a cash envelope.

But at one time that was clearly the way, and it's clearly the way within the memory span of people who are with us. And every once in a while, you see signs like that and you know the financial systems are changing. And of course they are changing, and we have to keep up with it.

And I think that speaks directly to the third section, section 2 that's being amended when it talks about adding the following clauses after clause (i):

**'capacity'** means, in sections 11 and 102, the ability:

to understand information relevant to making a decision; and

to appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of making or not making a decision.

I think that's an interesting piece to have in the legislation. In many ways it's really having a lot of foresight, but it's kind of an unusual thing to talk about capacity. We often talk about organizations, do they have the capacity or do they not have the

capacity to make the decisions that they're asked to make? And especially when you have credit unions who are dealing with the kind of assets, they have millions and millions of dollars, and certainly they cannot be making bad decisions.

In fact we've seen a situation in just this past year, the government's budget from last year when they were out by \$2 billion. And we wondered about the capacity of that government to make decisions. And so I'm wondering, when I saw this, I saw, oh maybe this is something we should be looking at here in this House, in terms of the government who is taking a look about talking about capacity because we can see . . . Can they appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of making or not making a decision? And we look and we see this government, this Premier making some of the decisions they've put out there, but do they have the capacity, the real capacity that we're asking credit unions, their board of directors to have? So I thought that was very interesting. I thought that was a piece that we can all appreciate an awful lot.

I see that they've taken a lot of amendments and flipped it from being the president of the board of directors or president of the credit union over to being the chairperson, modernizing it a bit more, talking about how that performs the functions of the board, not so much president. And so that's very good to see. I think that's an important change.

Now I won't go through these all necessarily because, as I said, we do plan on doing that in committee, talk about the ones that are very relevant to making sure our credit unions are run in an appropriate, a solid manner that their membership expects and can expect now and into the future. So I won't go through all of these, but I do want to remark on some.

I thought there was an interesting one here about electronic voting. That's section 5, I believe it is, where they're amending section 13. And this will be interesting because it talks about adding the following after clause (c) in section 13(2):

“(c.1) subject to the regulations, if the credit union proposes to permit electronic voting by directors or members, the procedures applicable to that voting; and”.

So clearly they're now talking about electronic voting. That's a new thing, and I suppose it's a good thing.

Clearly the gentleman that I heard this morning talking about cash only, this would be a very new world for him to talk about electronic voting for the person who's looking after his cash. But times do change, and I think that it would be interesting to see what the regulations are for that. Now I'm not sure what's causing this. I'm always interested in the idea around voting because we see a circumstance in our . . . How we engage the public in our own voting. At the provincial level, we're still at the 60-some per cent; 60s, we're in the 60s. I know the federal are higher, but still we're seeing a disengagement by the public when it comes to being engaged in those kind of civic responsibilities of voting.

Now here's a case. I don't know what the voting turnout is for the credit unions, and I would like to have that question posed during the committee meetings, hearings on this. Because I'm

curious to know if their money's involved, do they get more engaged? And clearly they might because you can make a direct line. Here's your money. You've got it deposited. You may want to vote for the director who's going to be your steward, who's looking after your money. I have to say that that applies federally, provincially, and civically as well. It's their money. It's their tax money, so are they actually involved too? So if this helps there, maybe we should all be taking a look at this a little more. I am curious to see how that plays out.

And as well, it does say "by directors or members," so it may be implying that some of the voting at the board level will be done by electronic voting, as opposed to proxies maybe. I'm not sure. So there's a lot of questions about that, but I do think it's a new age. I do think we need to hear more about this. I'm not fundamentally opposed to this. I think I'm very interested in hearing more about it because I think, people, if you have the opportunity to vote and it's your organization, it's your company — we call it a credit union though, a co-op, fundamentally different than many other corporations — but it's yours and so you probably want to take advantage of this. That's very important.

I am also glad to see, Mr. Speaker, section 30, an amendment to that talking about:

"(8) No person who obtains a basic member list, or any supplemental list, shall use a basic member list, or any supplemental list, for any purpose not mentioned in clause (6)(c)".

Now I don't know what clause 6(c) is. I'm hoping when we get into committee we'll have some questions about that too.

I know that privacy is a huge issue. And we've heard questions today about privacy and those challenges, to use lists in the appropriate way for the reason they were developed and not more than that. And hopefully they don't have an opt-in, opt-out clause that you have to opt out if there's a special deal or a special advertisement, a special list to get in. Members can opt in; they're not opting out.

We saw the fiasco a couple of years ago with a cable company who felt you should have to opt out as opposed to opt in, and that was not a great move. But we think that this is appropriate. So we're worried about that. We want to see more about that. But it's good to see the privacy part is there because I think people have confidence and will know that their credit unions are doing the best job that they can do.

So we continue on, and the next section I want to talk about is new section 44. The old one is repealed and the following is substituted. And this is section 8, but referring to section 44 and its restrictions on services in and coercive-tied selling. Now it's not language I use every day, tied selling, so I do find this very interesting. I went right to it.

And I know that when we've been visited by our neighbours to talk about the credit union movement and how we should be doing more, really I think this is where some of their issues really come to land. And really in many ways we may be talking about insurance here. But again it doesn't talk about what it is specifically. So we can only guess because what it

says in the Bill, it says, and I quote:

**44(1)** A credit union shall not provide financial or other products or services that are:

- (a) prohibited by this Act or the regulations; or
- (b) restricted by its articles.

Now what's interesting about this, Mr. Speaker, is in a lot of ways it just makes a lot of sense. If they're prohibited against providing these things, then of course that's pretty straight up. And I do want to thank my colleague from Regina Lakeview who pointed this out.

[19:45]

So it talks about "shall not provide financial or other products." I understand the term other products is a new addition. It wasn't in the old Bill. So we've got this introduced, other products. What do you mean by other products? They may mean insurance. And we're not fundamentally opposed to that, but we want to know. This is not probably the best way. This should be a little bit more clearer. So we'll have questions about that.

And then the next section "prohibited by this Act or the regulations," again seems relatively straightforward. So we're talking about this Act but, Mr. Speaker, we're not talking about the regulations because we know it's cabinet who sets the regulations. It's not the House here. It's not the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. It's not the Legislative Assembly. It's cabinet. And so when you have other products being prohibited by the regulations, it means that there can be some other products that are not prohibited by the regulations. And so what are those other products that are not being prohibited by the regulations? It's kind of an odd way of looking at it, but I think it's the way that we have to look at it.

And we have to say, so what are you really saying here? What are you really saying here? And I think that this is not straightforward. And we'll have questions about that because clearly the legislation, best legislation, is legislation that is straightforward, and you know what you're getting. To say other regulations or services are provided or prohibited by this Act or the regulations, and what you really mean to say is that there are some products or services that will be allowed by the regulations but we'll find out about them down the road in a few months, that's where we get into trouble. That's where we get unintended consequences. And I do think this could've been a little more straightforward. So I do have some questions about that, and I think that clearly that will have to be fleshed out more in committee because we just don't know what that really means, and so that's a big question mark.

Section 102 and some of the other sections are pretty straightforward. They talk about who can be and who meets the requirements as a director, and that's relatively straightforward. And I think that we don't have major concerns . . . I don't have major concerns about that. I can't speak for my colleagues who probably will jump to the floor right away, but I can tell you that it seems to make some sense.

And I hope, I do hope though that there has been some



consultation on this because we know that this government does not have a great track record of consultation, and then after the fact we find out oh we didn't know about that, we didn't know about that. And so this, we are going a bit that there has been . . . but we don't have a lot of trust in this government that they do the appropriate consultation, so we'll have to find out more about that.

Again, when we get into section 440, that's section 16 of the legislation, it talks again . . . And I understand this is the part that really gets to the nuts and bolts when you get to the regulations are set by cabinet. And again there are big question marks about what is all of this because we see bits and pieces here, but we don't really get the full explanation.

And again when we talk about electronic voting by directors and members, do they mean, do they mean the day-to-day business, that we will at some point see electronic meetings, that the voting somehow . . . I know you're dealing with some significant amounts of money. And we want to make sure all directors . . . Because the fact of the matter is Saskatchewan by its geography is such a huge province, but we want to ensure that there's representation from across the province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I've reviewed quickly the work of this Bill, but I do want to say and have a few points and by way of finishing up I do want to make mention of the work. And I think it's only fitting, you know, when we all receive these documents from the Saskatchewan credit unions. And I believe that we all do . . . that clearly we want to put on record how much we do support the credit unions and how, when we see this kind of legislation, it's very important that when they do this kind of work that we take a minute and reflect on that. Because I do think, and just even by the title, growing communities through innovation, social responsibility, financial strength, really speaks to the heart of the matter of what credit unions are about.

As I said earlier, social responsibility. And I can see that in my own riding, Saskatoon Centre, the heart in many ways of Saskatoon if not the province's financial community. And yet the credit unions play such a large role, particularly downtown but also on 20th Street, helping out in so many different ways with the struggles that that particular community, the core communities of Saskatoon face. I think that they do believe in their social responsibility, and I do want to take a moment and thank them.

I do want to take a moment and thank the credit unions for their innovation. I think it's interesting. When we talk about their electronic voting, when we think about the first debit machine in North America, I understand, was down here on south Albert at a credit union. So here you have it: maybe it's not unusual for a credit union system to be thinking about electronic voting when they were thinking decades ago about electronic debit machines. It only comes with the nature of the kind of work that they've had to do right across Canada.

But we see in Saskatchewan challenges we faced. And I talked a bit about the recent economic turmoil the world has faced, but the credit union system in Saskatchewan, Canada was able to withstand it. But they grew up in a time of the '20s and '30s — the '30s particularly — where the economic challenges were

absolutely, absolutely huge, and they had no way other than to make it happen if our communities were to survive and flourish. And they did flourish, and the credit unions can take an awful lot of credit for that.

I just want to take a moment here, you know. And I was just looking at the credit union system, and they compare it to the Canadian credit union system. Of course Saskatchewan has 66. It's amazing. They have 316 locations, but they're serving 282 communities here in Saskatchewan.

One of the stats that I found very interesting though was the number of members that the credit union system has in Saskatchewan — over 500,000, some 525,000 members in Saskatchewan. Where you look at the members across Canada, is some 5 million. So you have well over, well over half of Saskatchewan residents are members of credit unions, and well over 10 per cent of credit union members in Canada live in Saskatchewan. And that's really phenomenal because you think about how we have about 3 per cent of the population, and often it's three or three point something, 3.5 per cent. But we're, you know, batting way above our average there when we're having 10 per cent of the credit union members of Canada live in Saskatchewan. That's huge. That's very significant.

And so I just think that that's a wonderful thing, and it really talks about how it's so important that the credit unions, what kind of work they've . . . clearly they've been appreciated here in this province. They do very, very good work and they have a high level of integrity. And people know when they deal with the credit union system that they're going to be okay, and we know that.

And I can go through the other parts of this booklet. I'm not sure whether I will, but I can tell you that they really want to . . . There are a couple of points actually I do want to make as I look through this, Mr. Speaker. I am impressed by this book. And one that I do think I just want to just glance as I was looking through, I did mean to talk a little bit about this because they did talk about three points.

One was about the insurance delivery. It sounds like this might provide the vehicle, this legislation might provide the vehicle for it, and we'll find out in committee if that's the case. That's very important that it's done well. We hope that we can get some clarity around that.

The other one — and this is, as a teacher I think this is very important that if there are some ways that this government can help out — I see that they talked a lot about financial literacy. And for me in my role as Social Services critic and as a representative of the folks of Saskatoon Centre, financial literacy is so hugely important, and I think that this is something that we should be thinking about. And we'll raise this more.

But we've seen, and they've talked about over the last 10 years there's been some huge changes in the financial market. Now I've talked about the senior who came in and said, everything used to be in cash. But now what we've seen, and this is really true, and if you look at my riding, you will see the increased growth of high-cost, high-risk providers such as payday loans, money marts, and cheque cashing machines. That's huge. We

need to have some way so that this does not become the norm. And unfortunately it seems to be becoming the norm, and I wish there was something we could do. And I think the credit unions here are really bringing this topic to the table and talk about how can we make it safer for young people particularly, or those who are in vulnerable predicaments, so they have the financial literacy to serve themselves well. This is very important.

And the other one of course, as we all know, the easy access to credit. And as we were growing up and as we were going through our earlier years, it wasn't easy to get a credit card, but we now know it's fairly easy and straightforward to get credit cards. And in fact there are people, young people are being encouraged to get credit cards to establish their credit rating. And it seems like quite a gamble though, Mr. Speaker, but that is the way to get your credit rating — through a high-risk system such as a credit card system. There should be a better way. And also we are concerned about the growing rate of bankruptcy. So I do want to point that out.

I think this is very important, that even though it may not be directly related to this, but you know, what's interesting, Mr. Speaker, is right in this Bill it talks about capacity. This Bill has the word capacity in talking about the board of directors, the directors to have the ability to make appropriate decisions. We should make sure that everyone coming out of high schools equally have capacity to make appropriate decisions when it comes to the financial services. Mr. Speaker, that's critical, and I think that's so important.

I do want to take a little bit and just say some of the great things that the credit unions are doing in their commitment to communities. And we know that they make a huge difference in the 282 communities that they are in. And you understand, I understand that their contributions and sponsorships now exceed over \$6 million. That's 6.86 million annually. And then you take their employees who contribute leadership expertise and volunteer time to their communities, and they estimate it to be more than 30,000 hours annually. And if you were to take that at minimum wage, that would be a significant, significant amount of money. And you know, I mean, really when two-thirds of this is direct contributions in kind, donations is also significant, about a quarter. It's really a big, big help.

Now some of their highlights, they've done local sport teams, that type of thing. And of course when we think — and how can we miss this; how can we not talk about this? — the credit unions and how they've helped support the Saskatchewan Roughriders. That's so important. Very important.

But also to the Red Cross, International Red Cross, hugely significant. Yes, and it's important because we think about this. You know, we think about the earthquake in China, the Myanmar cyclone. And I bet, no doubt, they were there in Haiti. And it just goes on and on. So this is so important.

And we also know that they're involved with the First Nations. And I think this is truly an important issue because as we talk about capacity but also the ability to raise funds to do the kind of things that need to be done, credit unions have the resources, have the horses on the ground to make a difference. And they can do that. And so we think this is very important. And of

course in agriculture, they're there all the time, whether it's the Western Canadian Agribition, the Western Canadian Crop Production Show, or the Farm Progress Show.

[20:00]

Well, Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, but I think this is very important. You know, they do things right across the board — education, sport, involved in high school sports. And you can just imagine it. When they're in 282 communities, this is huge. So I do want to thank the credit unions for providing this information. But it's much more than that. It helps us understand some of the things that come before us.

And I think that when they're talking about capacity, I have to take my hat off to them and say thanks for thinking about that because it's right up from the 14-year-old. And now we see a government that has changed labour legislation so you have younger people working all the time, getting paycheques — paycheques. They're probably not getting paid in cash, I bet. These kids who are 15- and 16-year-olds are getting paid. Do they have the capacity to know what to do with their money?

They do get what used to be a living wage. We haven't heard about the minimum wage and we're waiting about that. I think it's important to start hearing more about that because they have the right to make a decent wage, but they need the capacity as well to know what to do with that minimum wage. I think that's what's important.

And I think when they talk about financial literacy, these kids who are coming up, if they have the occupational health and safety training, they have the labour standards training, but do they have the financial literacy training to deal with the money? Because I think that's important. And it all starts there because we're looking at younger people, younger people to work, and we know that it just doesn't come that easily.

And so in fact I'm reminded of Ian and Sylvia's song "Summer Wages" and how you can lose all your money. Those days we hope are long gone because not only do you lose your summer wages; you lose the girl. And hopefully you haven't run up your credit card. Hopefully you haven't run up your credit card the same time you have to move home from Vancouver. Because we don't want to see that happening; we don't want to see that happening. And so when they talk about capacity, that's huge.

I'm looking forward to seeing this more in committee. We have questions about the membership lists. We have a question about this electronic voting. As I said, the credit union system has been a real innovator and we've appreciated that. We've appreciated the good things. They've been able to think outside the boxes because, quite frankly, the banks haven't been able to do that — the banks with their management in Eastern Canada — and we know that the banks many times have not been there for the people of Saskatchewan where the credit unions have been. And so if this helps the credit unions to be there more for us, that's very, very important that we get behind that. And if this is what they're looking for, then we'll go further with it. But we need to know that for sure.

And as I said, I have some questions. And we know when we get into the committee that I'll have some questions about that

one section, new section 44 when it talks about other products or services that are prohibited by this Act or the regulations. Flip it around, it sounds like you're talking about some new products or services that are allowed by regulations because really that's what you're saying. And so it sounds like an opt-in, opt-out type of issue.

So now, Mr. Speaker, in just a few minutes I'll be taking my seat here. But I do think that I do want to say that there is an awful lot in here, an awful lot in here. When we have section 440, that we know will be the enabling legislation for the regulations down the road, that we have some questions. And we want to know what those regulations . . . As much as we can know, because this is why you have regulations. You have cabinet who will be there to make decisions, but we want to know what the parameters are. It's just not a free hand. It's just not a free hand.

Now I want to just take a moment. I know my colleague from Lakeview was just so thorough. He went through an awful lot. He talked about the different parts of the credit union system — whether it's CUETS [Credit Union Electronic Transaction Services] or Celero or Co-operators or Concentra — all of these are key, key parts. CUPS [Credit Union Payment Services]. All of those are there to make sure that the services that are provided to the membership is strong and healthy and complete. They don't want to have too many holes in their services because they see themselves as being so important to their communities.

So I think that with that, I think that we're well on our way to having this moved on. As I said, the restrictions on services and coercive tied selling will be something of discussion. But having said that, Mr. Speaker, I think I'm finished my remarks and I would like to move on Bill No. 101, *An Act to amend The Credit Union Act, 1998* — sorry, yes, also known as *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* — move that to committee.

**The Speaker:** — I take it the Assembly is ready for the question? The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 101, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* be now read a second time.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill stand referred? I recognize the Minister of Highways.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — I designate that Bill No. 101, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**The Speaker:** — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

## Bill No. 122

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

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to weigh in and debate here tonight this evening with respect to Bill 122, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker. It is a Bill that focuses in on the environment, of course an issue, a challenge that goes beyond our borders, goes beyond our jurisdictions, and may be one of the greatest challenges if not the greatest challenge of our century and of our lifetime, Mr. Speaker.

When we're speaking about our environment, we're talking about our watershed, our natural environment, the land which is so fertile here in Saskatchewan and produces a livelihood to so many agricultural producers. Or speaking about our animals and our habitat as it relates to hunting and fishing, Mr. Speaker, and trapping, something that is very fundamental and core to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And we're speaking about our air, something that here in Saskatchewan maybe we've taken for granted, Mr. Speaker.

But we've been privileged and we are privileged to live in the land and with the environment that we have here in Saskatchewan. But we have to be aware of the decisions we're making right now and how they connect to decisions being made at other jurisdictional levels, at other levels of government within not only our neighbouring jurisdictions but in a global context, Mr. Speaker. And we need to make sure that as Saskatchewan always has, Mr. Speaker, that we step up to the plate and punch well above our weight, Mr. Speaker.

And I wish we could say that we're doing that with this piece of legislation, but that's simply not the case, Mr. Speaker. We simply aren't stepping up in the kind of manner that Saskatchewan has in years past on the issues that have meant a lot, not only to our province, but to other jurisdictions. And it's a shame, Mr. Speaker, that we're following on a file and on issues that are so fundamental and core to our well-being, Mr. Speaker.

We have the knowledge within our expert community, within our scientific community, within industry, to address the issues and challenges of climate change, Mr. Speaker, and the Sask Party is simply choosing not to, Mr. Speaker, simply choosing not to. And it's not . . . You know, it certainly reflects that we see legislation here today that was likely derived without consultation, Mr. Speaker, as we've seen in education, as we've seen in health care, as we've seen in labour, as we've seen in the film industry and matter after matter, Mr. Speaker. But we see a government that's not willing to consult, and it's to the detriment, Mr. Speaker, of the people of Saskatchewan in deriving laws that don't meet the challenges of our times, don't meet the needs of our people and of our environment.

And this is a huge shame, something that we challenge the Sask

Party to step up. And they can laugh it up and yuk it up all they want, Mr. Speaker, but we're talking about something pretty critical here, Mr. Speaker, maybe nothing more critical — that being our environment.

Fundamental to this discussion, Mr. Speaker, is the Sask Party's lack of credibility on this file, complete and utter lack of credibility on environmental matters, Mr. Speaker. We see it by the fact we see a government that has remained stagnant and static and offered no leadership for the past two and a half years that they've been in office, Mr. Speaker, and we see it in the legislation that's here today, Mr. Speaker.

There was once, and not long ago, the Sask Party had promised to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010, Mr. Speaker. That was their promise. Let's check, Mr. Speaker. It's 2010 and that simply hasn't happened, and in fact, Mr. Speaker, we haven't even seen a plan in place that's going to be able to make a meaningful difference on this front, Mr. Speaker.

We see a government that when in opposition and when they ran in the election, Mr. Speaker, and they took their election document to the people of Saskatchewan to offer up the commitments that they would follow through with, they were supposed to follow through with, we've seen that broken promise after broken promise after broken promise, Mr. Speaker. And it's a broken trust, Mr. Speaker, that the Sask Party is now dealing with and that residents from across Saskatchewan are recognizing when they equate that the broken promises of the Sask Party manifest themselves with a broken trust with Saskatchewan people, with Saskatchewan institutions, with municipalities, and with organizations that keep Saskatchewan moving forward, Mr. Speaker. And we see in that a broken, broken trust.

Specifically we see the broken promise at it relates to the greenhouse gas emission targets. At point the Sask Party said that they were committed to the NDP [New Democratic Party] plan, Mr. Speaker. The plan that we had put forward, that we put in place, Mr. Speaker, they said that they were committed to it, Mr. Speaker. They come into office, they've been elected on that promise, on that commitment, and they rip it up and break it, Mr. Speaker.

They rip it up just like they did a chiropractic agreement with chiropractors in this province. They ripped it up, Mr. Speaker, just like they did with municipalities and revenue sharing and they ripped up that agreement and broke that promise, Mr. Speaker. They ripped it up, Mr. Speaker, just like they did with the promises and commitment that they made to rural Saskatchewan as it relates to health care, Mr. Speaker, something that's of profound challenge for many, many communities across Saskatchewan, many, many families across Saskatchewan. And they've ripped up this promise and this commitment in the very same manner, Mr. Speaker, and that's a problem.

We see a Premier who spends a lot of his time, Mr. Speaker, outside our borders, and we know that he spends huge money, huge money, taxpayers' money, on making sure that he can get good press in the United States, Mr. Speaker. We think many of those dollars could be focused here in Saskatchewan on the priorities of Saskatchewan people, but nevertheless he spends

much time in the United States, Mr. Speaker, getting the press that he's paid for down there in the United States, Mr. Speaker. And in doing so, we have revelations come out when he's interviewed.

Such is the fact that the Premier's intent to be down in United States at a time where the world is being faced with the challenge of climate change, the global warming, the issues and challenges that come with, Mr. Speaker, and we see our Premier going on to the international stage and suggesting that we should "rag the puck," Mr. Speaker, and of course that meaning take our time on this, basically delay any meaningful action, Mr. Speaker. And we scold the Premier for that, Mr. Speaker, and we scold the Sask Party for ragging the puck on an issue and a matter that's maybe the most important issue to all levels of government and all jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker.

Now here today they're making yet another promise to protect the environment and I guess the question would be, why should we believe them now? Why should we believe them now, Mr. Speaker? You know, we've seen plan after plan as it relates to . . . We're . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Sorry, the health care minister or the Environment minister is heckling here right now, Mr. Speaker, and talking about the ragging-the-puck agenda of the Premier and the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker.

[20:15]

And we're disappointed, and I think that Saskatchewan people are disappointed, and I know that in communities across Saskatchewan, they're disappointed. They're disappointed that the health care minister, or the Health minister, is ragging the puck on issues of doctor shortages and of nursing needs and of surgical wait times, Mr. Speaker. They're disappointed that the Labour minister, Mr. Speaker, the part-time Minister of Labour is ragging the puck, Mr. Speaker, on bringing into compliance, in bringing into compliance with conventions of the United Nations, Mr. Speaker, the ILO [International Labour Organization], a minister who is willing to sit here and be in contravention of rulings at the United Nations. And that's what our part-time Minister of Labour is willing and is comfortable, Mr. Speaker, to do so.

These are issues, Mr. Speaker, that go well beyond our borders, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And, you know, the Minister of Labour is disappointed here because I guess I referred to him as the part-time Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. I think . . . I believe . . . Is that the concern, Minister? I believe that's the concern, Mr. Speaker.

But we would wish he'd even put a part of his time, Mr. Speaker, because it's not even . . . You couldn't even call it half time or quarter time, Mr. Speaker, because he's putting such limited interest into making sure that the labour laws of our province are balanced and in compliance with United Nations conventions, Mr. Speaker. And it's a black eye for this province, Mr. Speaker, to be in contravention. And I urge that minister to put more time into his ministerial portfolios to make sure that he can address that circumstance, Mr. Speaker.

But back to the matter at hand, Mr. Speaker, that being Bill 122, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker, and what we see here is another plan. Another plan. And the

question is, why should we trust them now? It seems to ring hollow, empty rhetoric at this point in time, Mr. Speaker. We see a government that isn't willing to consult when they put forward legislation.

And really, what we know when a government puts forward legislation and hasn't consulted is that they've derived policy in a vacuum based on political and partisan beliefs, Mr. Speaker, and that they haven't engaged the stakeholders within our province for whom they should and within our global community on this matter, Mr. Speaker, for which they should.

We have environmental experts within this province and beyond our borders who should have been engaged on this in this process, Mr. Speaker. We have industry leaders in business who are ready to step up to the table on this front, Mr. Speaker. And we don't see it, Mr. Speaker. It's a shame, Mr. Speaker, to see what we have going on under this government with an abandonment of leadership or any sort of movement or progress on the file as it relates to the environment, Mr. Speaker.

And it's the same kind of broken trust that Saskatchewan people have come to know under the Sask Party government as it relates to health care, Mr. Speaker, or as it relates to financial management, Mr. Speaker. They've come to expect one thing from this government, Mr. Speaker, and that be that promises not be fulfilled. And that's a shame, Mr. Speaker, because it should be the opposite of that, Mr. Speaker.

Any government, whether or not we debate about the actual direction they're going, should be able to commit to a plan and then fulfill that, Mr. Speaker. Debate it in this House and move forward with their agenda.

We have specific aspects of this Bill that are going to require further discussion, consultation, and dialogue. We see some penalties that have been increased for various activities; we see this as likely a positive exercise. However we need to make sure that this is going to bring about the objective that's desired, Mr. Speaker. Because when you're putting together legislation, it's all about the intended consequences but also the unintended consequences, Mr. Speaker. And we have no confidence in this government that doesn't consult on any piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that they've done the due diligence on this file, Mr. Speaker.

The government's proposal to increase penalties for violations of the Act are positive at first blush, Mr. Speaker. Allowing courts to impose financial penalties and requirements that offenders repair or restore environmental damage are also seen as something, I think, that might be a positive step, Mr. Speaker. But the devil's in the details in these sorts of changes, Mr. Speaker. And we need to make sure we fully understand what these changes are, Mr. Speaker, and that they are going to be put forward in an equitable . . . and applied in a fair and equitable fashion, Mr. Speaker — something that this government has proven itself irresponsible with on many fronts, Mr. Speaker.

So that being said, the real role of government is to prevent environmentally harmful activity, Mr. Speaker. And it would appear that the Sask Party's approach, Mr. Speaker, is more about penalties and, sort of after the fact, redress, Mr. Speaker.

And we certainly think that that might have some consequence in bringing about and eliciting the kind of behaviours and best practices that we need to make sure that our environment is put forward as a priority, Mr. Speaker.

But in many ways we see this legislation as simply putting forward mechanisms and structures to respond to damage after the fact, Mr. Speaker, and that certainly isn't proactive in any manner. Certainly it's not putting the environment as a priority and making sure that we're leading on this file.

Further, we look at some of the issues as it relates to the class environmental assessments, Mr. Speaker. And I know that we've looked to a February 2009 report prepared for this government by Clifton and Associates that recommends that the government facilitate class assessments of projects deemed to be similar. The government appears to have accepted this recommendation, Mr. Speaker. And there may be some merit in this idea, Mr. Speaker, but there's a very real danger in the fact that the government's taking an overly broad approach, Mr. Speaker, that won't in the end fulfill or achieve the kind of objectives and goals that we need to achieve, Mr. Speaker. And it's not simply a matter of judging this at the end of the game and saying who won or lost, Mr. Speaker. We all lose, Mr. Speaker, if we don't get this one right, Mr. Speaker, if we don't get the environment right and if we don't get this file right at this point in time.

This very piece speaks to another potential concern with this legislation, with the class environmental assessments, and that could arise from the government's duty to consult, Mr. Speaker, as described by the Supreme Court of Canada, Mr. Speaker, the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations people, Mr. Speaker. And similar to projects approved through a class assessment process, many of them could fall on traditional land, Mr. Speaker, of several different First Nations.

And we simply don't have the confidence in this government that has rejected any opportunity to engage in meaningful duty to consult to date, Mr. Speaker, that things are going to be different with this legislation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we're concerned that we might be going in the opposite direction and that the people of the province will be shortchanged with a hastened process that disregards the duty to consult and that disregards environmental impacts that are absolutely essential for us to be aware of, Mr. Speaker.

And then further . . . and I'm not going to get into this aspect here specifically, Mr. Speaker, but it is an area we're going to be spending huge time focusing in on and that's the fact that this legislation in fact brings about the issue or the movement towards privatization of environmental assessment, Mr. Speaker. And this is something that is a concern, Mr. Speaker. We believe that we need to make sure that government plays the core and vital role that government should, Mr. Speaker, in the oversight and ensuring that our environment is protected. It's a very important role of government. I believe the broad, broad cross-section of Saskatchewan people — in fact I'm certain of that — support that, Mr. Speaker, that government plays a very, very vital and important role on that front, Mr. Speaker.

And we have the issue that's raised within this legislation, that's

being the harmonization of environmental assessments with Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, with the federal government, and to the greatest extent possible. And I know the Sask Party always likes to downplay this, saying that they're trying to eliminate overlap and duplication with federal departments like Fisheries and Oceans. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, that right there sounds very reasonable on the surface, but there is certainly room for a federal role in environmental assessment, Mr. Speaker.

This is particularly the case when you have a provincial government such as this one here today, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party that is more interested in cheerleading — substanceless rhetoric, Mr. Speaker, ragging the puck — then in taking any sort of environmental leadership that the people of Saskatchewan, the businesses of Saskatchewan, the producers of Saskatchewan expect this government to take, Mr. Speaker.

So we see failure to deliver on meaningful environmental action, Mr. Speaker, and we simply see more rhetoric from this government. We see very broad legislation from a government that lacks complete credibility on the environment, Mr. Speaker. No credibility does the Sask Party have on the environment, just the same kind of shattered trust that they have within health care, Mr. Speaker, within financial management, within the challenges as it relates to cost of living, Mr. Speaker. We see a broken trust and it stems from broken promises, Mr. Speaker, and this is very problematic for advancing meaningful legislation and meaningful change on an issue that's vital to the well-being of Saskatchewan people and our neighbours within our globe.

Right now we see broad legislation. Mr. Speaker, the devil's, as you know, the devil would be in the details on legislation like this. We look forward to being able to drill down in committee, Mr. Speaker, to find out what the detail of this legislation actually is. We need to spend significantly more time, Mr. Speaker, with the many, many expert stakeholders within environment, Mr. Speaker, within industry within this province, within our business leaders, Mr. Speaker, making sure that they have full awareness of the implications of this legislation and that in fact it's going to achieve the objectives that we all need to meet, Mr. Speaker, and making sure that we move forward in an environmentally sustainable fashion.

I don't have much promise or hope with the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. We've seen a string of broken promises. We see failures to act on this front, Mr. Speaker. That being said, the opposition New Democrats are going to do what we can at the committee level, Mr. Speaker, to push to consult and to make this legislation understood and to make sure that it's as strong as it can be, Mr. Speaker.

At this point in time I would . . . I know there's many, many more speakers that would like to weigh in to this debate, Mr. Speaker, from this side of the Assembly that are doing much consultations, the diligent consultation that needs to go on, Mr. Speaker, and I should say should go on as legislation is being derived, Mr. Speaker. We know that doesn't happen under the Sask Party, so many of our members are engaged in that kind of consultation right now, Mr. Speaker. Many more speakers would like to weigh in on debate. At this point in time I will adjourn debate for Bill No. 122, *An Act to amend The Environmental Assessment Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 122. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — 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 Prince Albert Northcote.

**Mr. Furber:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my pleasure to get up this evening to speak to Bill 121, *An Act respecting the Management and Protection of the Environment, repealing The Clean Air Act, The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002, The Litter Control Act and The State of the Environment Report Act and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*. It's a short title, obviously an important piece of legislation for a number of reasons — some 57 pages in the Bill itself.

And I think it speaks to a couple of issues. And one is that certainly the largest challenge that we'll face in the next century is where to find energy to meet the demand of upwards of 9 billion people, 6.9 currently living in the world, projected to about 9 billion by 2050, and meeting the demand of the energy required for those people is a huge, a huge challenge for the world. And as part of that challenge is finding energy throughout the world to meet the demand because so much of the energy that we use is coal — there's a new coal plant built in China every week — uranium, fossil fuels of all different kinds, and they all have an impact on the environment.

And truthfully if you look at things like polygen or opportunities with burning waste from crops and forestry, all of it has a huge potential to impact the environment. And so another great challenge of governments everywhere will be to balance growing need, demand for energy, and the protection of the environment. But it's my fundamental belief that you are indeed elected by the people to fulfill the responsibility of protecting the environment, not elected to give away the responsibility to somebody else or to run away from your responsibility to protect the environment, not to get elected and ask somebody else to fulfill the duties that the people of Saskatchewan place upon you to protect the environment.

[20:30]

And the reason I'm emphasizing protect the environment is quite simple. A lot of what this Bill does is give away responsibility to protect the environment to outside agencies. But what happens is, because private corporations answer to their shareholders, they have concerns about the environment. But ultimately they're not responsible for the environment; that should be the government's job. And so in this case, what the government's attempting to do, what they're attempting to do is

give away their responsibility to protect the environment and replace it with a series of changes that will have them reacting to environmental damage.

So there'll be an agency put in place that will not necessarily protect the environment, but levy some sort of fines or impose some sort of sanctions after the fact. And so I think it's exceedingly frustrating that you have a government in Saskatchewan, the Sask Party, who were elected by the people to fulfill certain duties, and I think fundamental to those is protecting the environment. And they're walking away from that responsibility in this case.

And I think the people are frustrated by that, and everybody I talk to certainly is with respect to this issue, and for a number of reasons. Because up until now they've only paid lip service to environmental issues. Certainly they have no credibility when it comes to protecting the environment or doing anything remotely related to the environment. This government promised to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. That was in their platform, in their election platform. It went the way of the dodo, along with the promise to open the mill. This is a government that promised to implement the NDP's greenhouse gas emission reductions and within a short period of time admitted that they wouldn't be able to meet those targets either.

Additionally this is the Sask Party government led by a Premier who says that he wants to "rag the puck" on environmental issues. So what he's choosing to do is instead of showing the courage that it takes to move on environmental issues — to meet, to stabilize the greenhouse gas emissions that they promised in their platform, to implement greenhouse gas emission reductions that the NDP had set — they walked away from that. And so he believes his job is to "rag the puck," and to delay and delay making a decision, or put it off so far in the future that they'll never be able to be held accountable for it. And so I'm not sure that anybody should believe what they say on environmental issues, especially ones as important as these.

Now certainly it would be helpful to know what the environmental code will look like, the proposing legislation here that has no code built into it. And so you're supposed to infer, I suppose, from this document itself what the code is going to look like once it's introduced. But I don't think that's good enough. I think that we need to be able to scrutinize what the environmental code will look like. Certainly it can't be that difficult a task to bring forward legislation that's complete and so that people can measure it before it gets passed. They're asking us to pass *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* without knowing what the minimum standards will be.

When in opposition, they were fond of shouting that targets should be set on every issue. We should set targets. I'm not sure the Premier would agree with the targets on wait-lists, considering in his own riding they've nearly doubled, but they shouted for targets consistently. But with the introduction of this legislation, again we don't know what the minimum targets will be and what the minimum standards will be. We don't know who's going to write the standards. Will it be the government ministry? Will it be industry? Who's going to write the standards? Important questions certainly.

Now another question is going to be, who will they consult to develop the standards? Will it be environmental groups and industry? Will you get them all in the same room and sort of come to some joint conclusion about what they should be? Will they invite only one subset to participate and to formulate what the standards should be?

They also claim that they'll be setting baseline emission requirements for major industrial emitters as part of a so-called air management system. Now I would argue that this is more than a little ironic coming from a government that introduced climate change legislation that contains absolutely no reference to when greenhouse gases would stabilize, no baseline year against which reductions can be measured, and no greenhouse gas reduction targets in the Bill itself.

And so you've got a government that wants to create an environmental management protection Act with again no minimum standards evident, no environmental code, and attempt to set baseline emission requirements for major industrial emitters. Who would qualify as a major industrial emitter? And who decides what body? Who makes up the body? Who decides what the body looks like? All important questions, I think, that should be answered, that are unclear certainly in this legislation.

Now if you talk to the folks in industry about their responsibility for the damage that they cause to the environment, certainly in a modern economy they would agree that for any damage they cause there should be some remediation of some kind. If you look at coal mining that's done in southern Saskatchewan now, they'll strip the soil off the top, they'll mine the coal, extract it, and then put the soil back on so that you can farm the land after. And so they understand that they have a responsibility in this case because they benefit financially from industrial activity that disturbs the environment in some way.

And so certainly you need to consult with industry. You need to find solutions that are manageable. And certainly that was a practice that was . . . That was a principle that was practised by the former government, the NDP government. And just one example that I can provide on that front is legislation that was enacted to ensure that mining companies take responsibility for the cost of decommissioning and environmental reclamation. And that's certainly sort of what I was just discussing.

We also implemented a program for orphan wells as it relates to oil extraction. And the oil companies that I chat with on a weekly basis are proud of the program. And they want to contribute in that way, but they would acknowledge that they are not ultimately responsible for the environment in Saskatchewan. That is the job of elected people. That's the job of a government.

And I believe it's totally unacceptable that a government would try to hand off the responsibility to protect the environment. The role of government, I believe, is to prevent environmental degradation where possible — not provide a judgment after the fact, not to only hand off the responsibility to a private enterprise and try to remediate damage that's been done. It's certainly the responsibility of elected people to manage the environment. And with this Bill, it's an admission of failure.

It's an admission that they're not interested in doing that, in spite of the title.

Additionally their own study would suggest that a Clifton report that was commissioned says, "Saskatchewan doesn't have the current staff capacity or capability to monitor and regulate the current industry and oversee the social licence."

So certainly that implies that there is no capacity within the ministry for management, for oversight, for testing. They are short hydrogeologists, water quality and air quality specialists, toxicologists, epidemiologists, risk assessment specialists. They don't have that capacity. They don't have the people to do the job. And so you will see that instead of being responsible for that part of the economy, which is everything related to the environment, they're not going to have that as part of their budget. They're going to move away from that so it's not a part of ongoing expenditures of government. And so I find that interesting.

Now if you want to talk about some other interesting pieces of Bill 121, it's again simply consultation because again this government fails miserably on consultation on every front. And I could go into it for a good long time with reference to their inability to consult. Certainly Bills 5, 6, and 80 failed to consult. Workers in Saskatoon and organizations in Saskatoon that aid victims of domestic abuse — certainly failed to consult with them before they cut their funding. Municipalities on the 1 per cent of PST [provincial sales tax] — this is an exhaustive list, Mr. Speaker.

They failed to consult properly when they came up with their potash numbers. In fact the Minister of Energy and Resources believed that not only would they take in \$2 billion, as was their projection last budget, that it would be \$3 billion. And so what kind of credibility could he possibly have when they don't take in the \$3 billion that he projected and boasted in this Assembly? They didn't take in the 2 billion that was projected by the Finance minister. They didn't even take in the 10-year average.

In fact we have a situation in Saskatchewan now where we're actually paying resource companies to take resources out of the province — absolutely unheard of. And so obviously it was a massive failure to consult properly on potash numbers.

Duty to consult. They fail to fulfill that obligation in every piece of legislation that comes forward. They fail to consult in forestry in Big River and other places.

We spoke with many First Nations and Métis groups when the Bronson Forest pony Bill was introduced. First Nation students, they failed to consult with them before they yanked funding away from their institutions. Failed to provide leadership on that file and enabled the federal government to yank away their financial commitment, and it's still not replaced. They failed to consult with educational assistants and boards of education. They failed to consult with chiropractors. And as you can see, Mr. Speaker, certainly an exhaustive list of a total and complete failure to consult.

[20:45]

Now it's an exhaustive list, exhausting list, but it's not an

all-inclusive list. Certainly you could go down the list of Bills that have been presented here today, and I would guess that there's a failure to consult on virtually everyone of them. And so we certainly have a good number of questions in relation to Bill 121 that we'll ask. I know that a number of my colleagues would like to speak further to this Bill, so I move to adjourn debate.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

### Bill No. 132

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 132 — *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an interesting Bill No. 132, *An Act to amend the Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, just some opening comments that I'd like to make about this Bill. Mr. Speaker, a little lack of clarity on this Bill, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the amendments that are here because this Bill speaks to amending or repealing a schedule of listing designated lands. It talks about that there will be a new strategic approach to evaluate and manage ecological, social, and economic values on Crown land.

Mr. Speaker, it does not . . . the amendments are not clear as to exactly what the repealing of the schedule, what impact that'll have on designated lands and, Mr. Speaker, further, that all of this is now put into regulations. And, Mr. Speaker, what is of concern is how this would play out. We have here again another example, Mr. Speaker, of what has become quite common to this government, and that is the lack of overall consultation with groups in the province who have a keen interest about wildlife protection and protection of land.

Mr. Speaker, when you talk about being able to change, as significant at what on first look might be here, to change lands that would require legislative change to be brought back to the legislature, now being dealt with by regulations, it is significant if that is in fact what is being prescribed here, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people contacting us and saying that they were not consulted regarding these changes, that they were simply told after the fact with legislation that's being presented. And it is, Mr. Speaker, quite surprising that . . . Well it shouldn't . . . It's really not surprising that this government has taken it upon itself. And this has become a trademark of this government to not consult the people of this province when they bring forward legislation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the whole concept that you would want to



designate lands or make changes just simply by regulations and in cabinet, or whether that even goes as far as to selling the land, is almost undemocratic, Mr. Deputy Speaker, especially when a lot of work has been done around this area in terms of the biologists and scientists in the area who have designated the lands that we have here, designated that land to be on a designated list or that it is critical land. What new criteria? We have no indication here of what criteria would be used by cabinet. It is again sort of a cloak-and-dagger operation behind closed doors dealing with issues that are very dear to the hearts of people of our province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, not only is the designation of lands being changed. And in terms of what we have in the explanatory notes given out to us where it speaks that:

This amendment repeals the Schedule listing designated lands. The province is positioned to adopt a new strategic approach to evaluate and manage ecological . . .

as I read earlier.

Again this new approach includes assessing ecological attributes of all Crown lands. So our questions, I guess some of my questions would be, does this include the Sand Hills? Will we now be looking again at the Sand Hills and to see what should be done? Many people have done a lot of work around this area and it would be very surprising — and in fact I would say in some quarters people would be saying it would be alarming — that this would all again be put in the hands of those folks over there to simply decide this behind closed doors.

So when you couple all the changes, when you put all these together — that in fact now the land may be designated simply by regulation, by Executive Council, and then in fact determinations made to sell that land — this is in fact very disturbing.

I think what is probably the most though is that the number of groups and parties that have indicated to us the lack of consultation around this. And this is very, to me, critical, that we have proper consultation on something that is so important as our designated land. Some of the treasures that we have in this province that we consider very dear to us, people who have worked their entire lives, dedicated their entire lives to managing the ecology, now see this potentially being torn apart and all, everything on the table, with these amendments. The lack of clarity, the lack of consultation regarding this is cause for great concern.

Now we have had a good, I guess, good examples of this. And earlier the member from Rosemont mentioned that the party opposite, particularly some of the members there, have now even drawn the attention of the United Nations for their approach in legislation. We have seen, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have seen times where these folks have had to redo their legislation themselves because it was simply making no sense whatsoever, where they were putting through legislation.

Now they've been told . . . Now we've gained, on a number of occasions actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've gained recognition internationally, whether it be by fundraisers or other things, bringing those kind of recognitions to our province. And

the latest one being the determination by the ILO from the United Nations on some labour, piece of labour legislation, where the United Nations is now telling this government that they in fact have to consult and go back to the drawing board. Because one of the very basic tenets of democracy which people all across the world obviously understand, people who sit at the ILO, experts in the field, people who countries look towards to give good decisions, people who are promoted, designated to these positions all around the world are now telling this government that they have to go back to the drawing board on pieces of labour legislation.

And they simply do not learn anything, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It just sort of . . . over and over again. It was first of all, just simply as I mention here, having to redo certain Bills because they didn't know what they were doing. They simply just didn't know what they were doing. They don't understand what they were doing, and they put those forward. And now they have caught the attention of the international community.

And that's a way to make your mark with the international community, Mr. Deputy Speaker, by saying that now they are saying that they should have consulted. A very basic democratic procedure, something that we take for granted, the United Nations is now saying to that government, you didn't consult and you should start over again. Understand — they have to tell them — understand that you should talk to the people who this impacts on. And that's what we hear about these designated lands: people are contacting us and saying, they didn't do that again. And I say, well I'm not surprised. Maybe you can find somebody on our side that . . . [inaudible] . . . be surprised they haven't done this yet.

But it's become a sad . . . and it's become a trademark of that government, that they do not consult. And I guess for some part I would say, well that's good they don't consult. They're not going to last long over there because when you don't consult, you know what would happen. And I shouldn't really warn them about that. You know, perhaps a little bit of international embarrassment isn't enough, isn't enough to do that. And to stand up in a speech and to say, I think you should listen to the United Nations is . . . They might just laugh it off, and laugh it off they can.

And again as I say, perhaps we've passed the point of attempting to embarrass them in here talking about that or even warning them that they should be concerned about that because it is so plain. It is the thing that we all strive for in a democratic society, in democratic governments, the basis of what our institutions are built on is the consultation, is voting, Mr. Deputy Speaker. All of those things are part of our democracy.

And it is those folks over there who profess when they talk about . . . they profess as they did in the . . . that they're concerned about the environment. They profess that they're concerned about the environment. And over and over again we see that they are not, that they are not concerned about the environment, that they simply retreat and retreat, and they plan how they will retreat from the environment and allow this. And I think this is a further step of, in terms of the way the designation is being done, pulling things back from where it can be debated in the legislature here, debated in society, and pulling back from there, making these decisions behind closed

doors.

So what you get with that minister is kind of a mindset that we will do what we want. We don't have to listen to the international courts. We can just in a flippant way perhaps we can laugh about it or laugh it off and say we don't recognize that. But I think that this is shameful. This is shameful for our province that we have a government that would take this kind of approach and close a deaf ear. And I'm wondering when they laugh about that, I'm wondering when those things . . . If they would, if they would be so brave to . . . At least if they want to back that, if they want to back their labour legislation or this legislation, perhaps this will even get to the international court as well.

Maybe what they should do is actually say what they mean. Because what they do is just like in here, is hide behind closed doors. Now we maybe can hide behind some regulations and take that into Executive Council, make all our decisions there, and the people won't know anything about that.

But why don't they, if they believe what they've done is right, why don't they say, why don't they come forward and say, we believe that the United Nations is wrong. We believe that they don't know what they're doing, and we believe we consulted. And we don't care about the international community telling us that you did not consult, that you should go back, you should be ashamed of what you've done there, and redo this and talk to the people that this impacts on.

But they won't. They don't have . . . They will go ahead and do that behind closed doors. They will slide legislation under and try and get it by people. And they've been caught. They've been caught. And they should be embarrassed and they should not be smiling. And what they should do is if they believe that what they have done is right, is stand up and write to the ILO. If I was them, I would write a letter back to them. And I would say, you're wrong in your decision, if they believe that. If they would, if they would do . . . If they believe . . .

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard):** — Order. I've asked the member to constrain himself and address his comments to the Bill before us please.

[21:00]

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think one of my colleagues, he speaks to credibility. And I think the point I was making was the same point here. There's no consultation. We're again hearing here from people, the same as we heard in labour Bills, that there was no consultation.

And I'm simply saying, and perhaps I shouldn't be warning people here of the government across, that they are on a path of self-destruction. That's what they're on. They're on a path of self-destruction because they would be going behind closed doors and making decisions, and they want to do it all by regulations and orders in council.

But now they've come to the United Nations and . . . who have told them and probably would look at this and say the same thing in Bill 132 — you do not consult. They didn't consult. Because that's what we hear back in phone calls. And so I'm

simply trying to make the point that perhaps they don't have to listen to us. Perhaps they should listen to the international community. But obviously they would sit there smugly and simply laugh it all off because it's a joke to them.

So I would challenge them, if they think it's a joke, that why don't they step forward and say, we think it's a joke? We think your rulings are a joke. We think we don't have to, under Bill 132, we don't have to consult about there either. You can have your phone calls from all the people from the federations or whatever the concern with the wildlife Act because we know we can do this. Because we got elected and so we can do anything we want. And slowly they drift off and they say, because it's not important. Because they think, well, people will, they will support us. They will support us because, you know, when the Premier says he can go to war with unions, then the people will support us on that.

But they don't have, they don't have the backbone to then say, when they've been embarrassed in an international community, to say, we stand behind those Bills. No they don't. They sit back there and it doesn't all matter, just like most of these Bills don't matter. And that's why they've had in their drafting, have had to withdraw Bills and they've had to redo them again, because there's a lack of understanding of what they're doing. It's a total lack of understanding what they're doing.

So, Mr. Speaker, the things that we hear mostly about Bill 132 is the concern that people have that we are redoing and going back and looking at this, which lands we're designating. And what does that mean, they ask us? And why is it that people at this point in time should be asking us what it means when the lands that we're talking about are being taken off a list that it should be clear that they were put on? And why are we going to now do the sale of lands or attempt to say which lands are being designated strictly by regulations? And there is no explanation for that.

And I think the points I make regarding the consultation are simply around that, is that again we have here people bringing forward to us concerns of why were we not consulted. Not just individual people in the province but organizations who are not happy with what is happening here. And they ask are the Sand Hills, are the Sand Hills one of the considerations that will be taken into . . . that they'll be looking at? And who will be looking at this?

Because one of the other things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we're getting into are trust issues. And one of the things that you can tell by a government that's lost its way and not only a Premier that has lost his way, but they start . . . There are trust issues around this, trust issues in terms of can we trust them? Let alone that they have now said, we don't need to do this in a democratic way. Can we trust them to make decisions about our designated lands? Can we trust them? Without just saying, let us do this; we'll do this through regulation and just trust us.

Whatever happened to the legislative oversight on these things? Whatever happened to members and the democratic process that we have in here, of the opportunity for opposition members to carefully go over the Bills? Because all that we have here at the moment is, trust us because we'll do it by regulations. And we have seen where that has landed us on many occasions. And

then it's not only the members who are involved with the organizations that are concerned but the individual biologists and the scientists in this area, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They're also asking, why are we looking at these designated lands?

Because they feel that the critical lands that are listed, over 95 per cent, they're telling us that these are done right, that they feel after all the years that they have spent looking at this that it is done right, so why are we pulling these out? And why are we giving . . . Why is the government wanting the right to decide by regulations what they should sell and setting the price and the rest of it?

So a lot of concerns out there, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The points that I make are, this is a serious issue. This is serious for us all. I know that at many times this falls on deaf ears on the other side, and so be it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But we not only speak to those folks who do not listen, but we are also speaking to the people out in Saskatchewan who care about, who care dearly about these issues and are passionate about them. And they can take one group at a time. They can mismanage the finances. They can cut Dutch elm . . . protection of Dutch elm trees. They can take away the payment for chiropractors. They can do a number of those kind of things.

The surgical centres, they can do that. They can deal with the children's hospital in Saskatoon and make promises about that, and we wonder where that is. And this is starting to stack up, and I don't think I would want to be carrying that knapsack around with the number of rocks that those folks over there are gathering in it. It must be getting a little heavy on that side and now you can tell, day after day, the embarrassment of trying to defend these issues because they're unable to defend them.

And they must be wondering, a lot of them, of how did we get to this? How did we get to this when we got left so much money, and how did we get to this? So instead of doing that, and as people are saying here, where did all the money go? But even further, what have they done and why do they need to go into areas like with Bill 132? Is there not enough, is there not enough work that they now have to go and damage the ecology? Do they not have to now; is there not enough there to do? Have they spent so much money that now they have to go and talk about designated lands and they want to maybe sell these off to make some more money? Is that where we're going to here with this, so that we can sell designated critical lands that have been on the list, that biologists and scientists say are . . . over 95 per cent should be on there. They can't even see the 5 per cent, but they're willing to give them that much and now they're moving into here. Is that where they've now gotten to after all the legislation?

And where has it truly got them? Because people aren't buying the message that they're promoting over there because they know it's a message of destruction. They know it's a message of division, and people are seeing through that. They're seeing the division that they're seeding and they're seeing what they're doing to this province and they're saying they're not that keen on what's happening; they don't like it, and particularly now with the finances.

Now over the Easter break I had a chance to do door knocking and talking to a lot of people out there, and they are in disbelief.

But the one thing we hear, I'll tell you this, is that that party's promoting through billboards and everything and saying, we're reducing the deficit, and they're not reducing the deficit at all. Well that one billboard might have been right for the first hour it was put up; after that it was not true, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Nothing on that billboard was right because in fact the deficit is increasing. The deficit is increasing.

And so now that they spent all the money, now they go around and now they're dealing with the ecology, because now they feel that, well let's get our hands on some of this sensitive land and maybe we can sell it or let's see what we can do with it. And we'll do it all behind closed doors, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because now that they finished with the money, now they're going into areas like Bill 132 on the wildlife habitat.

And without consultation around there, to pretend that they're experts, they're about as expert as when they were passing labour legislation and they had to redo just about every piece that they put forward, because again here they didn't consult. And where's the faith with Bill 132, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, that they are going to look at that and they're going to get it right when we have the very people who were involved in this saying to us this is wrong? This is wrong, and what are they trying to achieve here? Because nobody has talked to us. Nobody has talked to us here.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is it any wonder that we are concerned? When you make your mark at the United Nations . . . and that will be your greatest thing because after the next election that member will be gone. He'll be gone. He won't be there. But they'll remember what he did, and I guess if you want to make your mark with the United Nations, and that way for the future history when people will read about that, well whoop-de-do. Whoop-de-do, I would say to that member. You've really made your mark there. I was in politics for four years and I was recognized by the United Nations. The United Nations is where I was recognized by and I'm sure that the Minister of the Environment has already gotten some international recognition. She's got some international recognition and maybe that wasn't enough. She's bucking for more because she wants to be like her member from Greystone. She wants to say, gee, you know, you got recognition from the United Nations. I only made it into the New York national post. You know, I was close. Close, but the United Nations is a larger building there, so maybe she's trying to get to that level that she also wants her name in the listing there.

So here's what we have then, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have a government that refuses to consult, that snubs their nose at the international community. Snubs their nose at the international community when they tell them that you should consult. Plain and simple, you should consult. You can't get away from that. How did you do this? How did you get something so basic so wrong? So wrong.

They didn't say you should be ashamed, but I'm sure they thought that and they wondered now who is this person here. But it doesn't take them long when they would check and you would say to them, well it was the Premier of that province that said he would go to war with working people and families of that province. So not very hard to make the connections, not very hard to make the connections on that. And perhaps it was

the same Premier who in the 1980s said he lost his way. He lost his way and got caught up with a crew that spent a lot of money. They spent a lot of money.

Much similar here, as they're spending money and then they're going after the habitat. They spent a lot of money but also . . . spent the money but was involved in some deliveries, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It was involved in some deliveries of purchases of alcohol. And that was the claim to fame of that member from Swift Current, and now we're requesting that they would pay some of that money back to the people of Saskatchewan. And that's what we would really like to see on this side.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so that is their history. That is that government's history. Now they will also be known for the lack of consultation, the recognition by the United Nations. It's a record that I'm sure that they, in their quiet moments, even they can't be very happy about, but we leave that to them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to do that.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again if I could review the phone calls that we are receiving, the people that are contacting us, it's amazing that you would think perhaps . . . You know, it shouldn't strike us as that we might not be told what's going on here, but when the very people that this impacts are saying to us, they didn't talk to us about this and what does this mean, now that, that's rather alarming, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you hear those kind of statements — other people saying that. It's not surprising, but it is alarming.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know there is a lot more that I would also like to say on this piece, but I think the points around the consultation that I have made were really the ones that I wanted to make on this piece. I don't pretend to be an expert in this area, but I tell you the passionate discussions, the passionate, the passionate discussions that I've had with people on this, and those people who care deeply about these issues, I'm amazed, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm amazed at the lack, at the lack of due diligence that was done on this piece of legislation.

And I'm really glad that I had the opportunity here to get up and say a few words on this because it is an important issue. And it's unbelievable, unbelievable that around issues like this that we have to have people saying that there were no consultations, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a very sad day for Saskatchewan. It's a very sad day for this very important land, pieces of land, the conservation pieces that we have here.

The lack of rationale for why you would repeal the schedule listing designating lands without discussion around that . . . Perhaps the people there are afraid that they wouldn't be able to get it through. I'm not sure what the reason is. But with that, I would at this time adjourn debate on 132.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard):** — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved adjournment of debate of Bill No. 132, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

[21:15]

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard):** — Carried.

### Bill No. 123

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 123 — *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard):** — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

**Mr. Furber:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'm pleased enter into debate this evening in the Assembly, this time on *An Act to amend the Forest Resources Management Act and to make related amendments to The Parks Act*.

Now in case the members opposite are listening and paying attention, I'm not speaking a foreign language; I'm speaking English in making reference to forestry. Because for them it's something that's become absolutely foreign. And what's happened is a total abandonment of the industry, a total abandonment of forest workers and their families, an abandonment certainly of an industry that is in dire need, quite frankly.

Now if you look at the Sask Party record when it comes to forestry management and forestry generally in Saskatchewan, the best that you can say is it's abysmal. It's absolutely shoddy. They have absolutely no idea when it comes to managing the forest, working with the forestry industry. All that they've done with industry is make disparaging remarks, divide an FMA [forest management agreement] inappropriately that ensures that the industry continues to flounder.

So the track record is absolutely terrible. In fact it's not stuck in neutral; it's going in reverse. And for everything that they've promised — and they made quite a few in the forestry industry and in forestry communities — they've delivered nothing. In fact they've delivered less than nothing, much like a Sask Party potash pledge.

Now in reference to the forestry resources management Act, I think it's appropriate to talk about the Sask Party record as it relates to the forestry industry in the province of Saskatchewan.

Those who know forestry in Saskatchewan will know that about 55 per cent of the province is covered by a forest. The forest of Saskatchewan is roughly equivalent to the size of the country of Germany. And so it's a huge area, and it's important that when you draw up legislation, when you design legislation, that you get it right. Certainly it's important when you work with industry in a manner that would support the industry. You would want to get that right as well.

And so what's the record, you might ask. Well the record simply is this. The member from Batoche was part of a task force that while in opposition travelled throughout the province on the taxpayers' dime and said that they would create a report upon completion of the forestry task force that he headed. No report was issued, although the minister responsible, the member from Kindersley, has claimed that the report was integrated into the party platform. Now if that's true, certainly

some three years later they could produce a report. But they can't and they won't.

And so I find it a little bit strange and perhaps embarrassing for the member from Batoche that they can't produce a report that was commissioned some three years ago, paid for by the taxpayers, and apparently utilized in some form by the Saskatchewan Party. But they can't produce it. And so that's the beginning of their record prior to taking over the government.

They also promised during an election that "a Sask Party government will work with stakeholders in northern communities to strengthen Saskatchewan's forest industry." Well members in those communities would ask, what happened to the promise? What happened to a promise to work with communities and stakeholders to strengthen the industry?

Because I can tell you right now that that's not what they're feeling in Big River. The community of Big River can't believe the disrespect shown to the entire community, a town that has for over 100 years depended largely on forestry for their citizens to make a living. They've had what at one point was the largest saw mill in Confederation, and so certainly they have a tremendous history with the industry. They know how to work in forestry. They know how to compete globally. They understand the industry because there are some third and fourth generation people working in the industry. And all they asked for was to have a proper division of an FMA. That's it. Simple as that. And certainly that didn't happen. And so they would ask certainly what was meant in an election promise that they will work with stakeholders and northern communities to strengthen the industry because they haven't seen any of it, in fact quite the opposite.

They informed me on a visit there late last summer that the minister responsible, the member from Kindersley, had promised to get back to them on a number of issues, and certainly one was with respect to their saw mill, the community saw mill, and the FMA that was to be divided up. And he wouldn't even return a phone call. They said it had been three months and they hadn't gotten a word from him. And so when they say that they're going to work with stakeholders, certainly the folks in Big River wouldn't agree with that.

Now that's just the start of it. When the member from Batoche struck his task force and figured out the part of the platform, I guess, that they would work with stakeholders, what was the first thing they do when they took office? What was the first thing they did? They tore up the deal with Domtar that was struck and suggested that the publicly traded company agreed to a politically motivated deal.

Now the accusations levied against companies in the forestry industry have been egregious. Certainly this is the start of it where they said that Domtar was politically motivated for the deal and for no other reason did they sign it. But they went on to do it with other companies, and certainly I'll speak to that later as part of a chronology of failure.

The next thing that they did, which was extremely frustrating, related to the forest and forestry was they presided over the closure of the Hudson Bay OSB [oriented strand board] mill

and three more mills in the fall of 2008 — two in Meadow Lake and one in La Ronge. The one in La Ronge has since been moved out of the province, and that doesn't represent a loss of GDP [gross domestic product] exclusively. It doesn't represent a hit to the province's economy exclusively, but it also represents the loss of 370 direct jobs. And normally in this industry you can add about 100 per cent more jobs lost in indirect jobs, and so you'll have somewhere in the neighbourhood of 740 direct and indirect jobs lost in that industry in one summer and fall period.

Then they went on to announce the formation of Enterprise Saskatchewan's forestry sector team. Now this happened a year into their mandate in spite of the fact that the Premier himself said at the North Saskatoon Business Association luncheon that within a month of taking office they would have Enterprise Saskatchewan up and running. That was his pledge because he said something very close to the lines of, business people by their very nature aren't patient people. And so they would want to get the Enterprise Saskatchewan up and running as quickly as possible and that they'd do it within a month.

Now knowing full well that forestry was in crisis, a crisis that they certainly exacerbated upon taking office, what did they do? They took a year to create a forestry sector team. And some 8 to 12 months after that, I had a chance to question the minister responsible for that sector team in estimates in this very building. And when I asked him how many times they'd met and how many recommendations they'd provided, the answer was somewhere in the neighbourhood of one or two meetings — I can't remember, but it was unbelievably insignificant — and that they hadn't provided a recommendation.

Now if you understand when you take office that forestry's in a crisis and you admit that, and you have a member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Carlton who says, "A vote for Darryl is a vote for the mill open and people working." He takes out that ad in the *Prince Albert Daily Herald*. He takes out that ad with no intention of fulfilling the pledge. And they understand that forestry's in a crisis, and after two years in office, they've met one or two times and they had no recommendations. Now I would argue that that is an unbelievable failure by the part of this government, and I think that other people would argue the same thing, especially people in La Ronge, Hudson Bay, Prince Albert, and Big River.

And sadly in this chronology of failure, Mr. Speaker, I'm just getting warmed up. I haven't even started to detail all of the failures . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now the member from Martensville shouts from her seat that this isn't relevant. And it's unbelievable to me that she can't understand that Bill 123, *An Act to amend The Forestry Resources Management Act*, has nothing to do with forestry. It's unbelievable but it's not surprising. It's not surprising because this government has absolutely no idea when it comes to forestry in the province of Saskatchewan, and they prove it on a daily basis in this Chamber and the communities in and around Saskatchewan. So she should keep shouting from her seat that forestry has nothing to do with *The Forestry Resources Management Act* but I think she's not credible. And I think a lot of people would agree with me.

The very next thing they would do, Mr. Speaker, after

announcing the formation of Enterprise Saskatchewan's forestry sector team, and meeting once in two years, they renamed the Saskatchewan's forestry centre, ForestFirst. They renamed it and in a year when the government put out over 1,000 press releases, they wouldn't put out a press release on this one. They were so proud of it that they named it ForestFirst. They changed the name and they generated work for people who design letterheads. They generate work for people who make writing pads, because they had to change those, and business cards — but not one job in the forest. They change it and didn't create a single job in the forest of Saskatchewan. And so where does it go from there, Mr. Speaker?

They announced on May 27th of '09 that the value-added business development mandate of ForestFirst would be delegated to FPInnovations that same day that the agroforestry and biomass functions of ForestFirst will be transferred to the Saskatchewan Research Council which will move into the Saskatchewan Forest Centre. So it takes them just a few months to go from changing the forestry centre to ForestFirst to collapsing that into another entity and then essentially firing all the workers. It's got about one-third of the staff or a quarter of the staff that worked there before. And so that's their answer to forest issues in Saskatchewan, is to rename the building and then rename it again and shut it down. Additionally it's interesting to note that there's no information on the current mandate for ForestFirst. You can't find it; they won't provide it. Certainly wouldn't even put out a press release to inform people that the change was being made.

[21:30]

The next thing that they did was to announce a number of allocations and choose to attempt to take credit for the Community Development Trust Fund for communities affected by forest closures. And they wanted to take a bunch of credit for that in spite of the fact that it was all federal money, somewhere close to the neighbourhood of \$36 million, which I would argue should not have been given out by the federal government on a per capita basis. It should have been a reflection of forest in the province where they were designating the funding. So instead, with Saskatchewan's million people, out of a little over \$1 billion, we got \$36 million, in spite of the fact that the forest in Saskatchewan is the size of Germany. So they fail again to consult and to get anything out of the federal government in terms of what we should be allotted for support for an industry.

Now if that's not bad enough, if that's not bad enough, Mr. Speaker, that took place about two years ago. And you know what's happened in this very budget? In this very budget they're holding back \$2.8 million of federal funding that they were given two years ago, and they're using it for who knows what else to fund things because they can't manage the finances of the province of Saskatchewan. They're taking money that was designated for negatively affected forest communities, because of their inaction in the forestry file, in order to fund further inadequacies. So you can see certainly, Mr. Speaker, why the people in the province of Saskatchewan, when it comes to forestry and forestry-related issues, have absolutely no trust when it comes to this government and the decisions that they make.

Now fast-forward a little bit to the last several months and further failures by the Saskatchewan Party government when it comes to the forest and its management in the province of Saskatchewan.

The minister responsible for the forest in Saskatchewan has an opportunity to divide up the forestry management agreement, and he's got an opportunity to provide a small amount of assistance to a community that's got one of the only forest assets left under this government in the province of Saskatchewan by simply doing one thing, and that's allocating the forest management agreement and allocating it so that, as has happened in virtually every other jurisdiction in Canada — or in North America, sorry — where the asset is guaranteed a portion of the FMA. The FMA follows the asset.

And instead of doing that and ensuring that there would be a saw mill at least in the province of Saskatchewan, what do they do? The minister responsible ignores, as I'd mentioned earlier, the town of Big River because that's very close to where the saw mill is located, makes promises to them that he didn't end up keeping, and then has the nerve, because somebody would purchase a forestry asset under this government in the province of Saskatchewan, to say that the person who purchased the asset . . . Well first of all, he said the company that purchased the asset is "a shady company." He said that. But he didn't stop there, Mr. Speaker. The member from Kindersley, the minister responsible, said that the CEO [chief executive officer] of that company is "a shady character."

Now it is absolutely egregious that a member of the executive of the Government of Saskatchewan would call a private citizen a name like that when they are attempting to invest in the province of Saskatchewan. And why did he do it? What's his motivation? Well you'd have to ask him, but certainly I can't understand it. The people of Big River can't understand it. And what is sad is that with him as the minister, the member from Kindersley as the minister, the people of Saskatchewan are the losers.

And all he has to do is provide the most marginal amount of support, just divide an FMA up appropriately. It doesn't cost him anything. It doesn't cost him anything. But instead of dividing the FMA up appropriately, what does he do? He calls into question the character of the CEO of the company. Senseless and ridiculous move as that is, that's what he does. And so you can understand the frustration by the communities all around Saskatchewan over their treatment of forest resources in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now I guess it's a footnote at this point, but certainly worth noting, that shortly after the comments made by the member from Kindersley about the CEO and the company itself, investors and investment bankers made a different judgment on that company. In fact the company raised \$145 million to purchase further assets, and the only idled asset they now own is sitting in Saskatchewan right around Big River awaiting a forestry management agreement allotment.

And so it is . . . As you might note, I didn't plan on going on this long, but when you add it up, the record on forestry management, though not an entirely exhaustive list, is an exhausting list. And it's unfortunate because again the people

who they promised during the election would benefit from them being elected have been ignored, have been ignored. And so it is unfortunate that the people believed them during the election because it's proven that it wasn't warranted. It wasn't warranted. And certainly we think that that'll change in November of 2011. I'm confident of that.

Now specifically with relation to this Bill and some of the notes that they've written on it, the purpose of the Act is to "... promote the sustainable use of forest land for the benefit of current and future generations by balancing the need for economic, social and cultural opportunities with the need to maintain and enhance the health of forest land." Well when you've got such an abysmal record of failure to begin with, who could believe that now they're going to be stewards of the forest? Who would believe that?

The proposed amendments mark a shift, and it's a shift from licences to manage the forest to audits for some activities. Now that shift is a shift for activities posing low environmental risk. And fair enough, there are many practices in the forest that are low environmental risk. But who's going to make that determination, and why isn't that a part of the Bill? And if more audits are done instead of licences provided that force responsibility, then who's going to do the audits? Who's going to pay for them? Is it the Government of Saskatchewan that then pays for the audits? And what are the sanctions in case the audits turn out to find something that is in contravention of the Act? What are the penalties, and who imposes the penalties?

Now certainly this Act calls into question whether the harvesting of the forest, if it's ever done in the province of Saskatchewan again, if it will still be FSC [Forest Stewardship Council] certified — if it's Forestry Stewardship Council certified wood — because it certainly makes a difference if you're in the industry and exporting lumber to another jurisdiction because it adds value to your operation to have that designation on your product. And so it's important. And again when you have a record of abysmal failure such as the Saskatchewan Party government has when it relates to forest issues, can you trust that they will ensure that the FSC designation remains for forest products in the province of Saskatchewan? I would argue that that's not the case. And so as I've delineated in some way what their failures are, and like I said the list is exhausting if not exhaustive. We certainly have a number of folks I think that still want to speak to this Bill. And so at this point I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 123, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 128

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Norris that **Bill No. 128** — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Labour Mobility) Amendment Act, 2009* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure tonight to speak to Bill 128, *An Act to amend certain Statutes to facilitate Labour Mobility*. And I want to start off by saying that we've long supported internal trade, internal mobility in Canada between the various provinces and territories in Canada.

In fact the first agreement was signed in 1995. We had at that stage been ... we were in our fourth year of the first Romanow government. And I remember the then premier speaking to us and saying, for heaven's sake we have free trade with the United States and, it looks like, Mexico. I can't remember when Mexico came in, off the top of my head, into the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement], but we had free trade with the United States at that point. And Roy Romanow said, well why wouldn't we have labour mobility so that workers from Manitoba or Ontario or Saskatchewan or any other province or territory could have reasonable access to Saskatchewan, and conversely our workers would have reasonable access to those other provinces and territories. So I want to say right at the outset that that principle is one that we salute on the opposition side of this legislature.

There are problems with this Bill 128 though, and I see a pattern having developed. The problem with this Bill is one where the government signed the agreement, the internal agreement with other Canadian provinces and territories, before they did any of the consultation with the, oh boy, 37 different groups.

This covers professions including agrologists, architects, assessment appraisers, certified general accountants, chiropractors, regional planners, dentists, dieticians, engineers, geoscientists, professional forester, although I guess that would mostly be out-migration after having heard the speech on forestry. I suspect that the call for professional foresters in Saskatchewan is not growing at the moment. That will change though.

Going back to the list: embalmer, interior designers, land surveyor, lawyers, LPNs [licensed practical nurse], medical laboratory technologists, doctors, radiation technologists, midwives, naturopaths, occupational therapists, ophthalmic dispensers, optometrists, paramedics, pharmacists, physical therapists, podiatrists, psychologists, RNs [registered nurse], psychiatric nurses, registered therapists. It says municipality administrators; I'd always known of them as municipal administrators, but maybe my memory is wrong. Science technologists, social workers, and speech language pathologists. So I think that's roughly 37 different professional organizations that are involved in this piece of legislation, several of whom when we contacted them knew nothing of this agreement.

[21:45]

And it again comes back to the pattern, Mr. Speaker, of a government that decides it wants to do something, does it, and then says, oh gee, maybe we should talk to the people that it affects. Maybe we should talk to the organization that what we're doing affects. And our argument is that that's just backwards. It's got the world upside down. You do much of the

consultation beforehand, get broad agreement where it is you want to go.

Because these organizations, I mean they're chock full of great people, full of people that want the workings of the world, the workings of Saskatchewan, the workings of Canada to work well. They would be trying to make it work better, not worse. So it's not a group that the government should be afraid to talk to, with one for-sure exception: chiropractors are on this list, and I think that the government has managed to make chiropractors the enemy of the Sask Party government. And they did that by . . . it's interesting. In this Bill 128, the government signed an agreement that affects chiropractic. When chiropractors negotiated an agreement with the government, the government refused to sign that agreement with chiropractors.

And I don't know quite how that works, where you can quickly sign an agreement, sign a binding labour mobility amendment Act that is binding on chiropractors without negotiating with them. I don't know how that works. And yet when they do negotiate with the chiropractors, the government refuses to sign that agreement that the chiropractors had signed in good faith. They negotiated in good faith, signed it in good faith.

So we were skeptical on this side. We're wondering about how much consultation has taken place with this Bill 128. And that's the pattern that is most distressing, most disturbing to members of the opposition and to an awful lot of groups around the province. I am not, Mr. Speaker, here saying that this Bill is evil or necessarily even a bad Bill. I am saying that the consultation is following, seems to be from our research, is following the pattern of pass legislation, sign, do what it is that the Sask Party government wants to do, and then talk to people and organizations later and try and smooth things over and make them come on board.

And that wears short after a while with people, particularly good organizations that want to make Saskatchewan work better, want to make a better workplace for their people in their professions, and want to just make it a better place for their families and all of us to live right here in Saskatchewan. And of course most of these people would want to have the ability to move into another jurisdiction if the circumstances were right for themselves and/or their family. Movement interprovincial or even into other territories is probably a good thing on balance.

Much as my heart is right here in Saskatchewan and this is where I choose to make home, the times that I have left Saskatchewan have all been great learning experiences. Whether I left to work for a winter, as I did in British Columbia in 1974-75, or whether it was other travels and other times away from Saskatchewan, it's always good to have that mobility, Mr. Speaker. And that's a mobility that this Bill deals with, and it's probably on balance a decent thing.

One of the things that we fear is that Bill 128, *An Act to amend certain Statutes to facilitate Labour Mobility* is potentially going to be so proscriptive that the organizations that are responsible . . . Let's take the very first one: agrologists. And I have no axe to grind — good, bad, or indifferent. I think there's an awful lot of good agrologists. Well the last funeral I attended was a personal friend who was an agrologist. And that, so not to get hung up on that, but agrologists set standards of people in

their profession. I can't claim to be an agrologist. I don't have the training, I don't have the educational background to be an agrologist. There's lots of things in this world that I can do and that even some of them that I'm actually good at. Being an agrologist is not one of them.

And I think that it's safe to say that agrologists, the organization of agrologists would want to have some control to make sure, to make certain that when an agrologist wants to come and practice agrology in Saskatchewan and hang their shingle out and you know provide, do their agrology services for a fee, the agrologists of Saskatchewan would want to make sure that that agrologist was appropriately trained, that that agrologist had the appropriate background to provide advice or do whatever it is that they were hired to do in Saskatchewan.

And the same could be said for virtually everything else here. I know you go to assessment appraisers. You know, on the one hand we tend to think, well assessing a property should be the same whether you're in Saskatchewan or Manitoba or Alberta. Well, not . . . You scratch the surface a bit, and there is a significant difference in what assessment appraisers, how they approach their job, how they do it, between Alberta and Saskatchewan.

How do I know this? I have a brother-in-law who's a property appraiser in Alberta, and Todd has been doing that for longer than either of us want to remember. I guess he's, safe to say well over 20 years now, and he's nearing the height of his professional career. But there's a difference, and not simply that in Saskatchewan we tend, municipalities tend to hire the property assessors and maintain them on payroll; not exclusively, but we tend to do that. And in Alberta it's simply done privately; private companies do it. They've moved that way some years back. And there's some differences, of course, some twists and turns in how they do their assessment.

You take, well, regional planners. It just strikes me, Mr. Speaker, that if I had a regional planner from the Greater Metro area of Toronto or Vancouver coming to Saskatoon or Regina or P.A. or Moose Jaw or any of the other cities or regions of Saskatchewan, some of the challenges that those regional planners would be facing would be hugely different. And it wouldn't surprise me if the regional planners association of Saskatchewan would want to know that any new regional planners that came to Saskatchewan had the appropriate training. And maybe it's only a three-day or a three-week orientation and then they're off and running, but then they are off and running, and they're productive and capable of being immediately productive regional planners.

You look at all of the different organizations here. I mean, I'm just at the very top, the third line out of, I don't know, a dozen or more lines of these professionals. And the point I'm making is that it shouldn't ought to be, this Bill should not allow a race to the bottom. It shouldn't just allow me to claim I'm a regional planner or I'm an agrologist or I'm a chiropractor or I'm any one of these other professions.

And I realize I may have oversimplified that, and I apologize to anyone who has a professional certification, either from Saskatchewan or any other province, because I quite conveniently ignored that they have a professional designation.



They've earned the right to call themselves — I'll stick with regional planners — they will have earned that right in another province and/or earned it here. And I haven't earned it here or anywhere else, so by that count alone, I couldn't call myself a regional planner or any of the other professional organizations that are included in this Bill 128. I don't belong to any of the 27 groups, although I'd like to. Almost all of these hold a great deal of interest to me, Mr. Speaker. One that struck me as I'm reading is the very last one on the list, and it's that of speech language pathologist.

And I thought of a trip I made to St. John's, Newfoundland. And I was in a situation where I was standing by a public pay phone, and I was listening to three teenagers, boys, talking on the phone. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I might as well have been on Mars because I didn't understand a single word that they said. And it wasn't just that they were teenagers. They had such a thick Newfoundland accent that I just could not grasp it, could not follow it. And it sort of . . . I think it would be interesting if you could get a speech language pathologist that spoke in that trying to teach someone here speech language pathology. It would be an interesting situation.

Never mind if somebody from Quebec came because I know at least if it's someone who speaks French, we have a significant and proud francophone population, including my daughter-in-law who's a francophone teacher here in Saskatchewan. And I'm very proud of Kaeli and the teaching that she does. I'm very proud of her all the way around. She's just a wonderful person.

So there's just all kinds of things going on in this labour mobility Bill that we don't want . . . We want to welcome people from other provinces, other territories. We want to have them have reasonable access to job situations, to hopefully permanent job situations here in Saskatchewan. But we do not want this to be a race to the bottom. We don't want it where this would allow, for example, some unscrupulous employer to lower their health and safety standards or lower their benefit package just because there's some part of Canada that is economically depressed and they know they could hire people from there and pay them less than they would pay people from Saskatchewan. So you know, that kind of a race to the bottom serves no one well. It's just wrong by every count, full stop, period.

[22:00]

And we don't want Bill 128 to facilitate that kind of wrong-headedness, wrong thinking. We want Bill 128 to be a Bill that genuinely helps mobility, that helps these professional organizations to maintain professional standards that are appropriate to Saskatchewan without being unduly restrictive. Because we shouldn't, we shouldn't ought to say, oh no, because you — to be a little bit flippant, use my example — because you have an accent from the east coast, you can't work here. That isn't what I was trying to say, and it certainly isn't anything, Mr. Speaker, that we would want to say. And I don't want to leave that mistaken impression.

But I do want to be crystal clear that what we would welcome at every turn is good professional people that meet the required minimum standards that are set out by the professional

regulatory organizations in Saskatchewan, so that if I'm sending a grandchild or my kids are sending one of my grandchildren to a speech language pathologist, that they would get appropriate care. If we need the services of a medical laboratory technologist, that we've got those appropriate services. The whole list, Mr. Speaker, is one that we would want to make sure that we had the appropriate training that was suitable for Saskatchewan, perhaps even a little component of it that acknowledges some of the differences in Saskatchewan people and people from other places.

We tend to be a very welcoming and a very friendly and a very trusting people. And it's something I pride myself in being, and I can't change it. I can't seem to get that beat out of me. I like people. I genuinely like people. And I trust people, sometimes trust them too much, but I trust people. And it just comes from my upbringing on a co-op farm in rural Saskatchewan. And I argue, Mr. Speaker, it's served me well. And I want this Bill 128 to serve me and all Saskatchewan people well. And I don't want it to be an undue hindrance to others. But we do need to make sure that the consultation has been done. We need to make sure that this doesn't become a race to the bottom in terms of working standards. We need to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that with Bill 128, you know, we've got . . . This is *An Act to amend certain Statutes to facilitate Labour Mobility*. This is something that the Sask Party government is saying is good.

But it's the same government that said in 1997, in the last election campaign, that New Democrats in government were mismanaging, were mismanaging rural Saskatchewan and that there was too many vacancies, too many doctor vacancies in rural Saskatchewan. Well you know, Mr. Speaker, the history, the record shows that the number of vacancies, doctor vacancies in rural Saskatchewan is up over 50 per cent since the Sask Party formed government — more than a 50 per cent increase in vacancies in rural Saskatchewan.

So it becomes a bit of a trust issue when you have a government, the Sask Party, that says Bill 128, *An Act to amend certain Statutes to facilitate Labour Mobility*, is a good Bill. We want to believe it. But when they say it's a good Bill, and it's the same government that said, we'll fix the rural doctor shortage; we'll make sure that we take care of this situation where we have rural health facilities close because they don't have doctors on rotation, doctors available — and yet the vacancies have increased more than 50 per cent. It's a matter of public record on the Ministry of Health's record. You can look it up on the Internet. It's where we get our numbers on this matter from. The walk doesn't match the talk when it comes to the Sask Party government.

So we have concerns about this Bill and every other Bill. We have concerns around consultation that hasn't taken place. We have questions about the potential for some unscrupulous employers. And we want, Mr. Speaker, to be sure before we move to harmonize all the qualifications, we want to ensure that it's a good thing rather than, as I said before, that race to the bottom. We are very supportive of agreements that enhance the ability of trade interprovincially and intra-territorially — in other words, all in Canada. It's just counter to our thinking on the opposition side to even conceive that we would want to stop that. We welcome workers from other provinces. We welcome the opportunity for our workers to go to other provinces. This is

always a good thing.

But we don't want it if it means that I'm sending my sons or daughter or my grandchildren to another province to a lower working standard than they would enjoy here, a lower particularly health and safety standard. I have less concern about the financial standard, because as you know, you can either take a job or you can not take a job within certain parameters. Nobody much forces you to get stuck in a dead end, low-paying job if you've got . . . I mean you've got to have a reasonable education, and there's got to be some things going for you, but for the most part we strive to upgrade our job situation.

I know when I left high school, I worked at a couple of minimum wage jobs. I think I've managed to get away from that. The first, well I won't say the first break, but the best break I had was when I chose to work for Sask Wheat Pool in the farm service division. And the pay was low, but there was opportunities and I was able to utilize those opportunities. We want that for our Saskatchewan workforce, whether they're our children or our grandchildren or our neighbour's kids. That's the sort of thing that we want, Mr. Speaker, and the more we can enhance the quality of work, the better off we all are.

So, Mr. Speaker, I've been dealing with Bill 128 which, as I pointed out, deals with some 37 different groups, you know, and interestingly including doctors.

Now I'm not sure what the College of Physicians and Surgeons have to say about this legislation. I'm not sure that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan would say that we have much legal right to dictate the medical standards of a doctor coming in. They've protected that right of the College of Physicians and Surgeons to license and control the doctors that can practise and what they can practise because . . . Well we had an example today. There was questions in question period about the gynecological oncologist that has just quit her practice here in Regina, which reduces us 50 per cent in Regina from two to one. And there's still two in Saskatoon, but in the entire province we're down by 25 per cent right now, and it looks like it's heading lower.

But the College of Physicians and Surgeons wouldn't allow a GP [general practitioner] to claim that they had expertise in that area. You have to establish your credentials, that you have the training and the ability to be a very specialized doctor and enter into gynecological oncology.

So clearly we would need, Mr. Speaker, we would clearly need to make sure that in this legislation that the professional organizations that are responsible for these different professions still have the ability to have the legitimate requirements, the legitimate requirements for training that there is. So that's really what we want.

Mr. Speaker, quite clearly we have questions. I've raised quite a number of them over the last 20 minutes or so, and we have many, many more questions. But I'm getting a sense that these questions we have potential to answer in committee, so I move that this Bill go to committee. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the

question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Advanced Education and Labour that Bill No. 128, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Labour Mobility) Amendment Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — To Human Services Committee, Mr. Deputy Chair.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

### Bill No. 131

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 131 — *The Conservation Easements Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise in this debate and participate this evening on Bill 131, *The Conservation Easements Amendment Act*. As would seem to be the case with this government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it on the surface would appear to be a fairly straightforward proposition. But once you get into it, it raises a number of questions, chief among them relating to consultation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And again in terms of the primary purpose of the Bill being the enactment of a process to create Crown conservation easements, how that relates to the land titles registry, how that, you know, there's a subsequent amendment to the taxation Act, it's something that on this side of the House we look at this and think, okay, fair enough. If this is about improving the conservation tools at the disposal of the government in terms of protecting valuable habitat, that's one thing. If it's something that gets eroded in the regulations, if it's something that we find out that one of the chief partners in legislation like this, such as for example First Nations who have a duty to be consulted, if we find out that they have not been consulted in this, Mr. Speaker, that would obviously detract from the value of this legislation.

When I look at this legislation, one of the things I think about is how this would affect something like the Old Man on His Back conservation area. And certainly in this House over the years we've had different discussions about the Old Man on His

Back. In the introductory remarks by the minister, she had referenced the work of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and how this will improve the ability of them to do their work. So I wonder in terms of, you know, Old Man on His Back, the great conservation project down in the Frenchman Valley off in the fair riding of Cypress Hills. I know the member for Cypress Hills is quite, has followed this development quite closely over the years to the point of quoting, I seem to recall him quoting Sharon Butala's work in this Assembly. Or perhaps I'm mixing him up with the member from Lakeview, but I know he's paid homage to Peter and Sharon Butala and the role they've played in the development of this valuable conservancy effort.

[22:15]

And well he should, and as we all should, in terms of the generosity of those individuals, and not just the Butalas, in terms of amassing this tremendous piece of nature, this tremendous piece of native prairie, this tremendous bit of habitat where bison have been reintroduced and seem to be thundering along quite nicely. I'm getting a conformational shake of the head from the member from Cypress Hills. I don't know if he's been out there riding herd on them of late, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but we'll take him as indication that they're doing okay.

So in terms of this piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if it will improve the ability of an organization like the Nature Conservancy of Canada to do their work as it relates to something like Old Man on His Back, we think that's fine. If it expands the definition of what is protected habitats to include things that hadn't previously been anticipated in the legislation but are important nonetheless — such as things that are not quite flora or fauna or animals or plants, but how this affects certain lichens or fungi, things not previously anticipated in the legislation, but of which the environmental significance has become increasingly clear — if it will move to protect those things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, then again we think that could be positive.

In terms of how this relates to the land titles registry and the work of the Information Services Corporation, again there's an evolution that takes place in some of these, some of the types, the categories of land holdings over the years. So again that we make those appropriate changes to the work of the land titles registry, that is important.

In terms of the process by which a conservation easement may be entered into or terminated, it's important that that is very clear. And again there's a good start on that in the legislation, Mr. Speaker. The penalties for violations of conservation easement are laid out in the legislation. And those includes fines of up to \$100,000 plus \$100,000 per day for individuals in violation of the Act, and corporations can be fined up to \$500,000 plus \$500,000 per day if found to be in violation of the Act. So again those, on the face of them, appear to be fairly stiff penalties in consequence of violation. We'd be interested to know more of what the existing regime was and whether or not that has been actually applied to anyone. You know, has that made a difference to date?

And in terms of the changes in this legislation around . . . Certainly there is a role for modernizing and keeping the

terminology up to the times. Certainly there's room for recognizing the developments that have been made in what is environmentally significant, what's important to habitat as per the observation around things that aren't strictly animals or plants but are important to the flora and fauna nonetheless of a unique natural habitat, and again in terms of how is there a way to streamline this process and to make it more responsive to an undertaking such as that which was provided for at Old Man on His Back.

This was a project that went from the mid-'90s and, you know, certainly previous, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but for which the planning and the coordination of efforts really got under way in earnest in 1997. Certainly the Nature Conservancy played a critical role in helping to marshal the groups, coordinate the efforts, but there was a great involvement on the part of Environment and Resource Management from Saskatchewan and interested stakeholders in the area. And again there's an example of something that I think worked and worked fairly well, that worked to live up to the conservation that is invoked in the title of this legislation and in the intent of this legislation and again in terms of what we understand to be habitat that is worth protecting in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

One of the earlier speeches referencing forestry resources touched upon the fact that 55 per cent of the province is covered in forest, a land mass larger than the land involved in the state of Germany. But of course we know, just by looking at our flag, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that that green of the forest is complemented by the gold of the prairie. And in terms of when you think of the city of Regina and the fact that most of the trees in this particular environment were planted by hand, and the fact that hereabouts in the Regina region what used to be native prairie has of course been impacted by human population and by industrial activity, and it's of course been altered through the time. Certainly the beautiful Dutch elms that we have in the city of Regina and throughout southern Saskatchewan generally, they're worthy of protection.

And in terms of the measures of this government in the past few days around the budget, again in this legislation they're proclaiming the importance of conservation on the one hand, but in terms of the budget and making smart decisions — long-range decisions, decisions that you can see past the end of their nose — we're seeing something where it's been downloaded to the municipalities. This is a program that's been in existence for 20 years, and yet they see fit to do in the Dutch elm prevention program. Now of course they think there's going to be a savings of \$500,000 off the top, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but what price will be a full-scale infestation of Dutch elm disease in the city of Regina, because of course there won't be the preventative work being done on a province-wide basis?

Now that preventative work, it was important. It only bears to reason that if you stop it at the border, it doesn't wind up in Regina. If you stop it before it gets full-blown, you don't have to chop down all the trees.

But again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the . . . I think of my home neighbourhood in North Central. One of the most beautiful natural features of that neighbourhood, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the wonderful green canopy of Dutch elms that we in the neighbourhood love so well in the summer. And you think

about the beauty of Wascana Park and the fact of Dutch elms being very much a part of that wondrous habitat.

Again if you've got a government that proclaims the value of conservation on the one hand and then guts the budgets that make meaningful protections of that habitat on the other, it's hard not to look at that and say, okay we've got legislation that says they're going to do one thing, but how is this really going to play out, Mr. Deputy Speaker? So we have a lot of questions like that.

Again it's a conservation effort put forward that comes from a government that promised to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 and did not. I stood in the 2007 election in a debate with the now Minister of the Environment where in response to a question from the floor, she reiterated her party's platform very vigorously, that this was a solid plank in their party's platform. And of course we found out just how solid that plank was not, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they would abandon it so quickly.

It reminds me of a talk that I'd seen given by Tom Flanagan where he talked about the federal Conservative approach to the environment, where, you know, they needed to have something to say so they threw a few different measures into the platform, but really they just needed a light in the window so they could say they had something to say about the environment. And I guess the haste with which the members opposite discarded their commitment to the greenhouse gas reductions by 2010, again I think that speaks to the same kind of approach of their federal cousins as talked about by Tom Flanagan.

This is a government that has been ragging the puck on addressing climate change. And when again they come forward with an environmental measure, you'll forgive us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we're somewhat less than believers on this side in terms of the ability of that government to say one thing and then live up to it in their deeds and actions, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

One last thing I want to touch on is we'll be very interested to know how this legislation impacts First Nations, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We know that duty to consult, the final regulations from the members opposite should be coming down any day now. But we also know that the past two-plus years of their involvement with First Nations on things as basic as consultation, as basic as respectful relations, it's been fairly checkered over there, Mr. Speaker. And in terms of the work that the Department of the Environment has done in coordination with First Nations, that in particular raises a whole number of questions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we'll be getting into in the days and weeks ahead in the remainder of this session.

But we know that there's, you know, nothing probably more fundamental than land use when it comes to the basis of treaty rights in terms of hunting, gathering, and fishing, those fundamental treaty rights. And in terms of what this legislation does to it, we note that there's nothing in this legislation along the lines of a non-derogation clause. In terms of the duty to consult and accommodate, there's nothing in terms of a non-derogation clause around the treaty rights and the impact of this legislation on that, those treaty rights that are protected by section 35 of the Constitution of Canada.

And again, in terms of the ability of the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations to be the lead agency on First Nations and Métis issues in this cabinet, you'll forgive us again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we're less than confident in his ability to do that job, let alone different other ministers over there in the way that they interact with the First Nations and Métis.

So there have been attempts over the years, there have been protocols, there have been partnerships developed whereby, to use one example, First Nations have come together with the provincial government to work in a joint, coordinated fashion on environmental issues. And we know that in recent days, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the members opposite have done some . . . have taken progress that has been made and walked it backwards for decades, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So when they come forward with something like this where it doesn't . . . Where we've had no mention from the minister in terms of how it impacts First Nations, how it impacts Métis people, how it impacts those Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the Constitution, how it lives up to this government's duty to consult and accommodate. Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we look at their records and we look at something like this and we think, well, very interesting. You know, could they spell it out in black and white what they've done? And if they can't, why not, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Because again they've got a responsibility under the law, under Supreme Court rulings to discharge that responsibility. And we await the proof of that activity with great interest, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Time of adjournment having been reached, this House now stands adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 22:30.]

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### EVENING SITTING

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

<b>Bill No. 127 — <i>The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
<b>Junor</b> .....	4731
<b>Bill No. 118 — <i>The Milk Control Repeal Act</i></b>	
<b>Trew</b> .....	4731
<b>Harpauer (referral to committee)</b> .....	4734
<b>Bill No. 101 — <i>The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)</i></b>	
<b>Forbes</b> .....	4734
<b>Reiter (referral to committee)</b> .....	4739
<b>Bill No. 122 — <i>The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
<b>Wotherspoon</b> .....	4739
<b>Bill No. 121 — <i>The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2009</i></b>	
<b>Furber</b> .....	4742
<b>Bill No. 132 — <i>The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
<b>Iwanchuk</b> .....	4744
<b>Bill No. 123 — <i>The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
<b>Furber</b> .....	4748
<b>Bill No. 128 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Labour Mobility) Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
<b>Trew</b> .....	4751
<b>Harpauer (referral to committee)</b> .....	4754
<b>Bill No. 131 — <i>The Conservation Easements Amendment Act, 2009</i></b>	
<b>McCall</b> .....	4754

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Hon. Rod Gantfoer**  
Minister of Finance

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Hon. Don McMorris**  
Minister of Health

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

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

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

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