



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

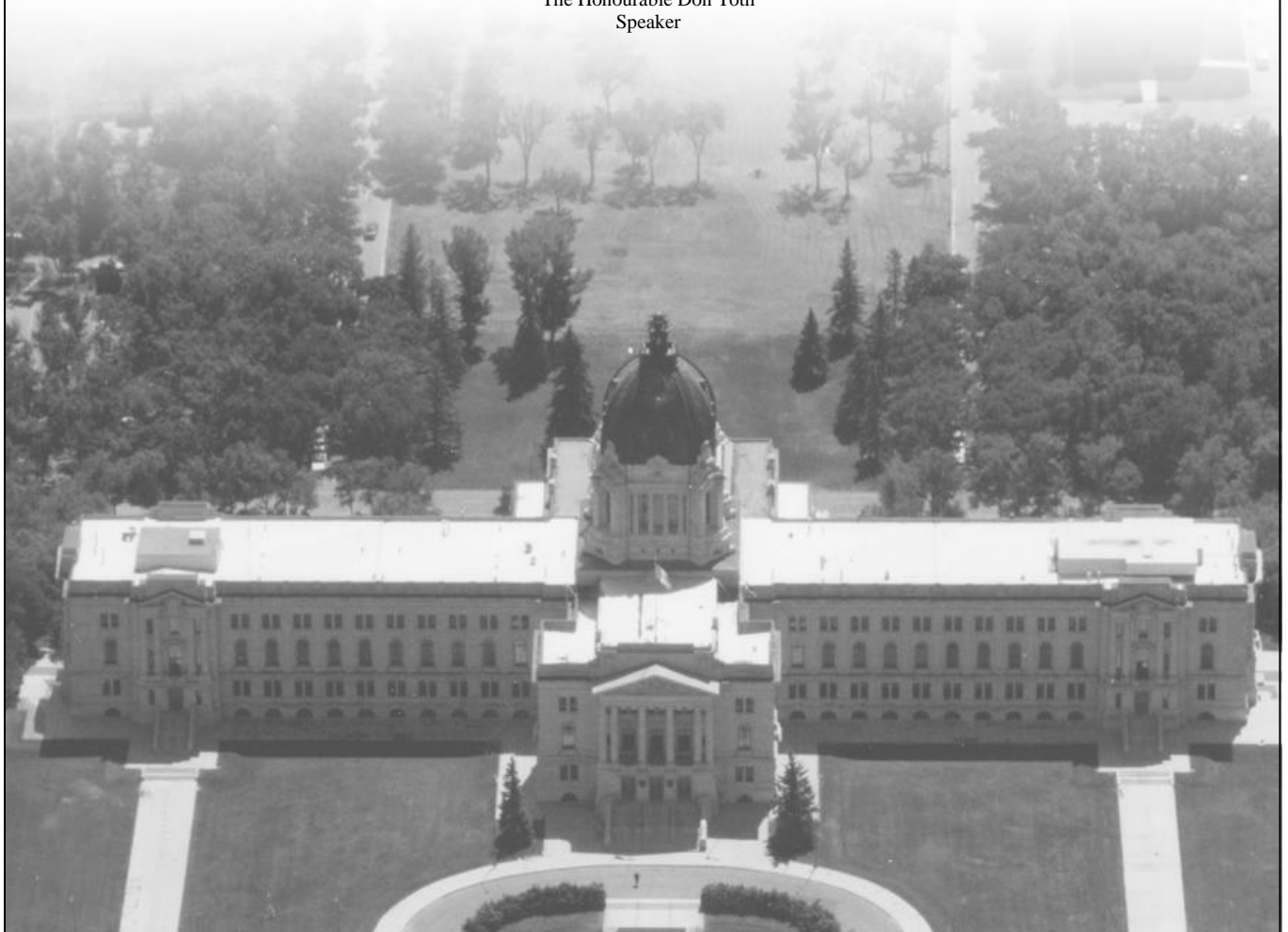
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it gives me great pleasure to introduce 57 grade 5 and 6 students from l'École Française de Saskatoon. This school is in my constituency. And actually I grew up a block away from this school, and my parents still live there.

And I'd like to introduce to you also their two teachers: Jennifer Chevrier, who I understand is a former youth parliamentarian — so I'm always happy to hear when teachers have a strong interest in politics — and Janelle Yasinski.

And the chaperones who are here today are Martha Smith-Norris, Carina Org-Scutchings, Jennifer Falkowsky who's been a long-time . . . Jennifer and I have known each other since our girls were born actually, 12 years ago; Taylor Dubiel and Barb McCullough, who I had the pleasure of sitting on the school's parent board together.

I also actually have one very special introduction. My own daughter, Hennessey Chartier-Ford is in grade 6 and normally doesn't like having attention pointed out to her. But I have to do it. I can see I'm getting the evil eye from her right now. Hennessey, can you give us all a little wave? So I'd like us all to welcome them to their legislature today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Greystone, the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite. It's my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the honourable Assembly a group of inspiring young people assembled in the gallery today. And they're from grades 5 and 6 from the Saskatoon French School.

Monsieur le Président, je vous présent à vous et par votre entremise aux autres membres de l'Assemblée législative les classes de 5e et 6e année de l'École Française de Saskatoon, et je souhaite la bienvenue à leurs enseignantes, Mme. Yasinski et Mme. Chevrier, et aux parents qui ont pu les joindre.

De plus, je vous présent mon épouse, Dr. Martha Smith-Norris, et ma merveilleuse fille, Jacqueline. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly the grade 5 and 6 classes from l'École Française de Saskatoon, and I welcome their teachers, Ms. Yasinski and Ms. Chevrier, and the parents who were able to join them.

Also, I would like to introduce my wife, Dr. Martha Smith-Norris, and my marvellous daughter, Jacqueline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

I ask all members to indulge me and welcome all of them to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't claim a family connection to the group of students in the east gallery, but I would like to say hello to a very special constituent. And that's Nadia Ristau, who is in the group. And Nadia is a constituent of Saskatoon Massey Place, and not surprisingly lives with her parents. And her grandparents also live in Saskatoon Massey Place, and they're a great family, do a lot of really important work in our community. So I just wanted to say a special hello to Nadia, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming her to the Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier, the member from Canora-Pelly.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce two people. They're seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll introduce the gentleman first. Trevor Roadhouse probably needs no introduction to many people in Regina, as he's been a long-time resident of Regina and now is a successful entrepreneur with a business of his own here in Regina.

But the young lady accompanying him is Aleana Young. Aleana is from Montreal, is a graduate student in Montreal, and this is her first visit to Saskatchewan. And I know that she'll have a chance to see the national program of the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] barracks and the training that will go on there. And I'm sure she'll enjoy that visit this afternoon here in Regina. So I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming Trevor and Aleana Young — for the first time, Aleana, to the province. And I hope you enjoy your stay.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of concerned citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the safety of our highways. This particular petition applies to Highway No. 10 from Fort Qu'Appelle to the junction of No. 1. The petition states that this highway is a major thoroughfare for year-round tourist destinations, as well as this highway serves three major inland grain terminals and is also a major artery of commerce to the northeastern part of Saskatchewan. And the prayer goes as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to construct passing lanes on Highway No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of Highway 1 in order to improve the safety

of Saskatchewan's motoring public.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And this petition is signed by the good folks from Fort Qu'Appelle, Regina, and Indian Head, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition in support of maintaining educational assistants in the province of Saskatchewan. As members will know, in November of 2009 the Ministry of Education revealed a document that proposes to replace a large number of educational assistants with a much smaller number of professionals. And people in rural Saskatchewan don't see this as being very practical because they don't have access to these professionals on a regular basis and believe it's no substitute for the loss of in-class support. The prayer reads as follows:

Cause the government to provide funding for the required number of educational assistants to provide special needs students with the support they need and maintain the positive learning environment for all Saskatchewan students.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people from Gull Lake, Webb, Maple Creek, Regina, Balcarres, and Fort Qu'Appelle. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of a new long-term care facility in La Ronge. With a waiting list of almost one full year for our seniors, it is appalling. I will read the prayer:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

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

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

consumer price index.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition with respect to expanding the graduate retention program. The petition is being circulated by students and citizens around Saskatchewan because the Saskatchewan Party government amended the retention program specifically to exclude master's and Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] graduates and graduates from outside the province of Saskatchewan. The prayer reads:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by folks from the city of Regina and Beaubier. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present yet another petition on the Sask Party's lack of action with respect to climate change:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

To cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, acknowledge and recognize that climate change is occurring and the impacts of climate change are escalating and worsening;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to undertake immediate actions to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, actions which will serve to protect Saskatchewan people from the significant costs to our economy, global security, and the quality of life which climate change threatens to bring about, and to also protect Saskatchewan people from longer and more frequent droughts, reduced river flows as the glaciers which feed our rivers shrink, erratic rainfall with more frequent and more serious flooding, and loss of at least the southern part of Saskatchewan's valuable boreal forest which is treasured by so many in our province;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, begin the process of creating meaningful, significant, comprehensive, and broad-based strategy including enacting substantial and meaningful legislation and substantial and meaningful regulations, to meet the commitment solemnly pledged repeatedly in

October and November of 2007 during the last provincial election by the Premier, the current member from Swift Current, who at the time of the last provincial election when he made this serious and significant commitment was serving as the leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, to reduce our province's greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent from the levels of greenhouse gas emissions which our province produced in the year 2007 and to meet said 32 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the year of Our Lord 2020, 10 years from now or one short decade away;

And in so doing, to cause the Premier to instruct his Minister of Environment, the current member from Martensville, to recognize the importance of honouring the Premier's solemnly pledged commitment and to set about the important task of developing a substantial and meaningful plan to seek a reduction of our province's levels of greenhouse gas emissions rather than continuing to evade all responsibility in her duties to actually address this critically important issue which will directly affect our province's economy and the quality of life for all our residents;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, reject the intensity-based reduction targets which the provincial Sask Party government has shamefully followed the federal Conservative government in adopting, in favour of absolute reduction targets, and to immediately enact said absolute reduction targets in the new management and reduction of greenhouse gases Act;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, reverse its ill-advised decision to cut all funding to the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative and to recognize that the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative is a valuable and much-needed organization in that generates practical options to help Saskatchewan adapt to current and future impacts of climate change and fosters the development of new professionals in the emerging science of climate change impacts and adaptation;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, restore the full amount of funding which it recently cut to the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative.

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

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition in support of the withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Speaker, it's a well-known fact that the existing construction industry labour relations Act, 1992 has provided a stable environment for labour relations in the construction industry in the province. The results of this are a benefit to the entire province in terms of quality of work, safe construction work sites, and these benefit all the people of the province. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its ill-conceived Bill 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009*, which dismantles the proud history of the building trades in this province, creates instability in the labour market, and impacts the quality of training required of workers before entering the workforce.

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

The petitions are signed by residents of Rouleau, Estevan, Moose Jaw, and Regina. I so submit.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise to present a petition in support of eliminating poverty in Saskatchewan. The petitioners note that freedom from poverty is an enshrined human right by the United Nations, and that all citizens are entitled to social and economic security.

Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

That the honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to act as quickly as possible to develop an effective and sustainable poverty elimination strategy for the benefit of all Saskatchewan citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of the city of North Battleford and the towns of Wilkie and Cut Knife. I so present.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition signed by residents of Saskatchewan concerned about this government's lack of regard for the human rights of the people of Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads:

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

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

Today the petition is signed by residents of Regina and Saskatoon. I so submit.

[10:15]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across

Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive \$1 billion deficits and the massive debt growth within our province under the Sask Party. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly condemn the Sask Party government for its damaging financial mismanagement since taking office, a reckless fiscal record that is denying Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses the responsible and trustworthy fiscal management that they so deserve.

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

These petitions are signed by concerned citizens of La Ronge, Mr. Speaker. I so submit.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet again today to present a petition in support of the Saskatchewan film and television industry. And this petition is signed by concerned residents who don't understand why this government has let the film and television industry languish the last two years and now why they've kicked it to the curb with the closure of SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network]. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to make changes to the film employment tax credit that will allow the Saskatchewan film industry to be more competitive with other provinces, to reverse its decision to shut down Saskatchewan Communications Network, and to work with the industry to reverse the decline in film production.

I so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Before we move to statements by members, I want to respond to a point of order raised yesterday by the Government House Leader, who raised a point of order regarding the remarks made by the member from Regina Walsh Acres yesterday during members' statements. I reviewed the record and I find that the point is well taken and the comments are out of order. I'll address it in a minute.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — We'll go to Regina Elphinstone-Centre, please.

Poltava Ensemble Reunion

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It was my distinct pleasure to attend the reunion of the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance on April 11th at the Turvey Centre here in Regina. The Poltava Ensemble has a long and storied history in this province, dating back to the formation of a children's string orchestra in 1922 in the heritage community of

Regina here. In the 88 years since that humble beginning, the Poltava Ensemble has enthralled thousands of spectators with their rousing music and impressive Ukrainian dance routines, both around the world or as a perennial highlight of Regina's Mosaic festival.

The reunion featured a gala dinner and fashion show, a screening of Poltava highlights from years past, and plenty of dancing. Though I did not participate in the perogy eating contest nor in the kolomeyka, I would like to assure everyone in the Assembly and in the Poltava Ensemble that I'll do my best to be better prepared for the next reunion.

This wonderful event would not have been possible without the hard work of Lyle Knobbe and the rest of the reunion committee. Gathering Poltava alumni from all parts of the globe is no small feat, and I would like to thank them very much for their hard work. I'd also like to thank the Poltava Ensemble community for making such an important contribution to the cultural fabric of Saskatchewan and the life of Saskatchewan. This province is more rich and diverse because of the Poltava Ensemble. Dyakuyu, Mr. Speaker.

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

Emergency Telecommunicators Week

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to bring to the attention of the members that the week of April 11th to 17th has been proclaimed Emergency Telecommunicators Week in Saskatchewan. This is a national event sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, APCO, to honour the professionals who help provide emergency assistance to people in our country.

Mr. Speaker, these people save lives every day in Saskatchewan by responding to emergency telephone calls, dispatching emergency personnel, and helping people in emergencies to stay calm and confident that help is on the way. Who are these people? They are the 911 operators and other emergency service dispatchers from police, fire, and emergency medical services who handle emergency calls all over the province.

Today it is my great pleasure to inform the House that Saskatchewan's Telecommunicator of the Year is Luana Hiebert with MD Communications in Saskatoon. Luana will represent Saskatchewan at a national event later this year. In addition I'm also pleased to tell the members gathered that the Excellence in Teamwork Award was presented to two dispatchers from the Prince Albert Police Service who worked on my platoon in the past, Randi Miller and Bonnie Logue. Both awards were presented at the eighth annual Emergency Telecommunicators Banquet in Moose Jaw on April 14th, last night.

I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating Saskatchewan's emergency communications professionals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

National Poetry Month

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, last night I had the pleasure of attending at Government House hosted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Saskatchewan Writers Guild when there's a celebration of April as National Poetry Month. And we were treated to some very interesting use of words by our Poet Laureate, Robert Currie, Mari-Lou Rowley from Saskatoon, and also Dr. Kathleen Wall, a poet here in Regina. And I think all of the people there appreciated the fine skill of the poets as they told stories, created images.

And, Mr. Speaker, there was one image in a poem that Robert Currie read last night — and I can't read the whole thing; I don't have enough time — but I want to provide this image. "Roger Maris in 1961," it's called. It's a baseball poem and it's about the time when Roger Maris was going to beat Babe Ruth's record. And he had been on a drought, hadn't hardly got a hit for quite a while.

The next day, angry with them and with himself,
tight, vibrating, a rubber band about to break,
he digs in at the plate, hears a honking noise,
looks up and sees hundreds, hundreds
of Canada geese, the sky alive above the stadium.
He steps out of the box to stare. The umpire
straightens, calls time out, and stands
with Roger, looking up, the two of them
lost in lines of geese, endless flowing vees,
long dark necks pointing south, their broad wings
lifting, light as air as if above
a silent slough somewhere far in North Dakota.
When the last goose has vanished in the still Detroit sky,
Roger steps to the plate, swings at the next pitch,
lifts it high into the cool autumn air,
the fifty-seventh homer of his record year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Cycling Trip to Raise Funds for Children's Hospital

Ms. Schriemer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are some people in this world who devote their lives to helping others. Wayne Dyck is one of these people and I'm proud to share his story with the members here today. Wayne was a teacher and administrator in the Saskatoon public school system for 32 years and retired five years ago. He was a coach and volunteer for many years and was awarded the 2002 Citizen of the Year Award for his contributions.

Wayne is a cancer survivor and has done numerous talks about his journey with cancer. While undergoing treatment, Wayne felt that something could be done to help sick children become more comfortable during their treatment. The children's hospital became Wayne's cause. And so began the Coast-to-Coast for Kids.

In May, Wayne will be embarking on a cross-Canada cycling trip to raise funds for the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan with funds being primarily used for pediatric

oncology. He leaves Victoria on May 3rd, 2010, and plans to arrive in St. John's on July 4th. Wayne's vision is this:

I ride for those who can't, whose lives have been interrupted by challenges beyond their control, who have given us moments to treasure and have enriched our lives.
I ride because I can.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing Wayne Dyck for his contribution to the Saskatchewan children and families and wish him a safe journey. Thank you.

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

Women's Legal Education and Action Fund Celebrates 25 Years

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the Deputy Leader, the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow, and I had the great pleasure of attending the 25th anniversary celebration of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund at Government House.

The Hon. Dr. Gordon Barnhart hosted the reception for this proud occasion and commented on the good work that has been achieved over the years to promote women's issues and the issues of social justice. The guest speaker at the event was a dynamic woman, Patricia Paradis, who was a former Chair of LEAF [Women's Legal Education and Action Fund] and currently chairs LEAF's 25th anniversary celebrations committee.

This celebration coincides with the 25th anniversary of the coming into force of section 15, which is the equality provision under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. To quote Ms. Paradis, "Because of LEAF, the legal equality landscape looks very different than it did 25 years ago."

Mr. Speaker, so much has been achieved, but there's still so much that must be done to make equality rights real. It is a shame, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women did not attend the event, nor did any of his colleagues — not even the women in the Sask Party caucus. This is not surprising since the government cut \$41,000 from the Status of Women office in this budget, an office that's already holding on by a thread.

The Sask Party government's lack of respect for women's equality, women's health issues, women's safety, and for the 25,000 health care workers in this province, most of whom are female, is obvious. What isn't obvious, Mr. Speaker, is why.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

New Printing Plant to Open in Estevan

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the booming economy in Estevan will now benefit the rest of the Prairies. Last week it was announced by Glacier Media Inc. that they will be building a brand new 22,000-square-foot printing plant. Yes, Mr. Speaker, while newspapers all over the world are closing up shop, *The Globe and Mail* is setting up its Prairie

printing and distribution centre right in my hometown of Estevan.

This announcement is very significant for my constituency as not only will it benefit *The Globe and Mail* readership, but also all our small town Saskatchewan newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, Peter Ng, the operations director of Glacier Media's Prairie newspaper group stated, and I quote:

At a time when most media companies are contracting, Glacier is providing capital to expand. Excluding the big cities, Estevan Web will be the latest and best printing plant in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. We will print 45 community newspapers and more than 65 titles ranging from Lloydminster, Alberta across to Thompson, Manitoba and down to the United States. They'll all be printed in Estevan.

Mr. Speaker, this exciting new project will add 30 full-time jobs in the wonderful city of Estevan. This project is just another example of how people across the country are seeing Saskatchewan as a land of opportunity. Thank you.

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

Words and Actions

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, this is a Premier who talks the talk, but doesn't walk the walk. He says Saskatchewan first, then sends his own investment dollars out of the country. He claims to care about the environment, then boasts of ragging the puck on climate change. He doesn't believe in picking winners and losers, but chases forestry and film industry out of Saskatchewan, then creates Investment Saskatchewan.

He says our province's democracy is better off when that contest is vibrant, but meddles with the choice of the Chief Electoral Officer and hides from questions about his role in the PC [Progressive Conservative] trust fund scandal. He promises to put patients first, then doubles surgical wait-lists, lets doctors vacancies increase, cuts chiropractic care, and intentionally puts patients' privacy and health at risk.

He points the finger at FNUC [First Nations University of Canada] for mismanagement, ignoring the three pointing back at himself for the worst financial management in the province's history.

That's right, Mr. Speaker. The Premier's budget provides some of the clearest examples of his habit of saying one thing and doing another. He says his budget is balanced, but he's running a \$622 million deficit and adding billions to the public debt. He says it's forward-looking, but it's full of short-sighted cuts to money-saving programs. He even has the nerve to say it's good for rural Saskatchewan, but millions in cuts to agriculture and highways hit rural communities the hardest.

Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, this is a Premier who talks the talk, but does not walk the walk. People are going to get ready to send him on a very long and lonely walk, November 2011. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Unparliamentary Language

The Speaker: — I will now speak to the point of order I was going to address earlier. Yesterday the Government House Leader raised a point of order regarding the remarks made by the member from Regina Walsh Acres during member statements.

I've reviewed the record, and I find that the point is well taken and the comments are out of order. And I ask the member for Regina Walsh Acres to withdraw her remarks and apologize to the Assembly. The member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my remarks and I apologize to the House.

The Speaker: — I thank the member.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Kidney Transplants

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are three nephrologists and three vascular surgeons ready to work in Saskatoon — the same complement of health professionals as when the kidney transplant program was up and running, and running well according to the medical program director, Dr. Shoker.

Mr. Speaker, the minister needs to pay attention, as he is responsible for his department and their actions or their inactions. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why not continue to do the transplants now while working on a long-term strategy so patients like Dion Poochay can get the immediate transplant they need to live?

[10:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the situation in Saskatoon regarding kidney transplants is not the situation we want to have. It is deeply concerning when we see that people are waiting. And as I said yesterday, I met with Sandi in my office after, I believe, questions on Tuesday. You know, our heart and sympathy goes out to that family. We want to have this program operating, up and running as soon as we possibly can, Mr. Speaker.

There are some issues though with the way the program was structured in the past. The vascular surgeons are in agreement with that, that the way the program was structured in the past is not the way it should be structured in the future. That's why we're working with the health region and the specialists in that area to make sure that when we bring in new specialists, which we're working on, that the program will be long-lasting, that it will be secure, Mr. Speaker.

I set a very aggressive date, I think, to the health region to say we want to have this up and running within the next three to four months.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the minister says he's working at getting the program up and running. He set an aggressive date last year in July that it would open right away. Well nothing has happened.

This morning, Dr. Shoker, the medical director of the program and a transplant nephrologist, said he gave the name of one surgeon from out of the province and the name of a local surgeon who would be capable of doing transplants. He gave them to the Health department, and he even offered to phone them personally. And he was told to mind his own business.

Mr. Speaker, how is this building a team? And it speaks to the disrespect that this minister and this government has for anybody working, in health in particular, but anybody working, period.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: have these surgeons been contacted? And if not, why not?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we have been working with the specialists in Saskatoon. We want to make sure that this program is up and running. In the meantime, we have been talking to Edmonton that has been taking some of our transplant patients. We're working on increasing that capacity in the short-term. We're also working with Edmonton to look at taking high-risk patients, Mr. Speaker, so that our citizens are taken care of.

That is a short-term solution. That isn't the long-term solution. What we want to see is a program up and running in our province that is secure, that is long-lasting, Mr. Speaker. And as I said earlier, that we're looking . . . I've set an aggressive target of three to four months to have the program up and running, Mr. Speaker.

We have a couple of specialists on line that we think may be coming, that that timeline may be shorter. But we'll have to see until those professionals are here and we ensure a long program, long-lasting program, Mr. Speaker. But again we have been working hard to make sure that this program can be up and running.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, it's a sad commentary that the minister only started working hard when Sandi Poochay came and made him do it.

Mr. Speaker, according to Dr. Shoker the program has not resumed operation because "The transplant program is paying the price for failed negotiations." This would be between the Sask Party government and vascular surgeons around fee

structures and workloads.

The minister's abysmal failure to negotiate is seen throughout the health system. He tore up an agreement with chiropractors. He's delaying negotiations with the doctors. He has obstructed negotiations with over 25,000 health care professionals. Mr. Speaker, why is the minister putting people's lives at risk due to his inability to negotiate, and will he finally take responsibility for the health issues of this province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, much of what was in that question I will not even comment on because it was completely untrue. But what I will comment on is there are negotiations in the process, Mr. Speaker, negotiations between the Ministry of Health and the surgical team as well as some side negotiations as well, Mr. Speaker, with other health care professionals. Mr. Speaker, we want to make sure that those negotiations proceed as quickly as possible.

But we have been working. The critic would say that we just started when the family came to the Assembly. That is not true, Mr. Speaker. We have been negotiating with Edmonton to take our patients and to increase the capacity over the last number of months, Mr. Speaker, as well as looking at how can we make this program secure into the future. And that is why the vascular surgeons themselves will say that the way the program was structured before is not sustainable. We need to look at a different model and that's what we have been doing, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the minister needs to remember that people's lives are at risk. The life of Dion Poochay, a 36-year-old father of four is at risk. And believe me, more people are phoning and coming forward daily to tell their story about how this is affecting them and their lives. The minister needs to listen to them and act for them.

The program is not resuming operation only because of the minister's failure to negotiate workloads and fee structures. It's an even bigger money issue. The Sask Party government has failed to properly fund the health system and people are suffering. The Sask Party's financial mismanagement is putting people's lives at risk as health districts, they cut programs to make up for a lack of funding and deficits.

Mr. Speaker, does the minister have anything more to offer the Poochay and other families coming forward? Something better than empty words and perhaps a form letter asking for a financial donation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said in my earlier answer, that when I hear the stories of people waiting for, in this particular situation, a kidney transplant, it is deeply concerning to our government. And we certainly want to make sure that those services are provided in the province and we're working towards that.

But I will tell this Assembly and you, Mr. Speaker, that wait times and people waiting for surgery isn't just a situation that's happened in the past week or past few weeks. But the wait times under that government were the worst in Canada, Mr. Speaker, some of the worst in Canada. Our government has put a surgical care initiative in place that will start addressing some of those long waits that we have seen under the former government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are working on the surgical care initiative. We have found . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I would ask the minister to complete his . . . Order. I'd ask the minister to complete his comments.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we have a surgical care initiative that is met with great anticipation. And actually a lot of positive feedback on the surgical care initiative as we move forward, Mr. Speaker because we know wait times are an issue and the kidney transplant is one example. There are many examples that our government will be addressing.

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

Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. Does the Government of Saskatchewan intend to dissolve the Human Rights Tribunal?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we're having negotiations with the Chief Commissioner at the Human Rights Commission, and we're looking at options that will make the process fair and equitable. And we will work forward, we will go forward with those discussions and with those negotiations, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quennell: — My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is the government has expressed its intent to dissolve the tribunal. The Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal gives people who can't afford a lawyer and go to court an affordable way to defend their basic human rights. These are people who may have been denied housing, employment, access to public services because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, or the fact that they're on public assistance. And it gives people who think they are treated unfairly by the Human Rights Commission a recourse for a fair hearing.

To the minister: does the government intend to force Saskatchewan people to spend thousands of dollars to defend their human rights and to hire a lawyer to do so in court.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and value the comments made by the member opposite. We have received a recommendation from the Chief Commissioner that the Human Rights Tribunal matters could better be dealt with in the Court of Queen's Bench. It's a recommendation that has come from the Human Rights Commission, Mr. Speaker.

I can advise the Assembly that we value and appreciate the very good work done by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of Saskatchewan citizens. This is a recommendation that's come forward, and it is a recommendation that in fact may have some merit.

There are criticisms, Mr. Speaker, that the Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal may be seen as too close to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. We are looking for ways to try and improve the optics and improve the situation where citizens will go before the tribunal, and it's a matter that we will consider, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I expect this is the Chief Electoral Officer all over again, and members opposite don't like some of the decisions that have come out of the tribunal, and that's what the minister's concerned about.

This provincial government seems to be determined to off-load its responsibilities onto others. Property owners are carrying the ball for the government's broken promises on revenue sharing and cuts to various programs. Kidney transplant patients are told to shop around for surgery because the government needs more time to come up with a plan. But forcing people to go to the court to defend their basic human rights is a new low.

To the minister: why are people facing discrimination being forced to pay the price for this government's incompetence and mismanagement?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the Human Rights Tribunal has done very good work. I'd like to point out to the members opposite when there was a government change, there was no changes to membership or makeup of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission or the Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal. The members that sit on those boards and panels continue to sit, and they continue to enjoy the confidence of this government, Mr. Speaker. Those people do very good work, very competent work, very professional work.

Mr. Speaker, I want the members of this Assembly and I want the public of this province to know that when we deal with matters affecting fundamental rights of the citizens of our province, we will take, we will take advice carefully from the Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission. And we will look at ways that we can best deal with the rights of those citizens to make sure that they are well protected, well cared for. And we will continue to do that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Legal Issues and Changes to Legislation

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, *The Trustee Act* falls under the responsibility of the Department of Justice. Changes have been made to *The Trustee Act* around conflict of interest and were brought forward by the minister. Can the Minister of Justice explain what these changes are, who asked for them, and why they were proposed to start with?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the changes that were made to *The Trustee Act* and various pieces of legislation that have come forward came forward as a matter of routine housekeeping, usually, Mr. Speaker, at the request of officials from within the ministry. I want to advise the members opposite and the Assembly that there was no political interference with that process. It was routine changes, Mr. Speaker, that were made as a result of streamlining our legislation and making our legislation consistent with the legislation that takes place in other provinces.

Mr. Speaker, we are a government that has been proactive in looking at pieces of legislation, and we will continue to be proactive in updating and moving the legislation of this province forward. Mr. Speaker, we want to ensure that our province has up-to-date, current, competent legislation, and we will continue that process.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the changes involved in *The Trustee Act* included changes to the conflict of interest provisions within *The Trustee Act*, Mr. Speaker. Did these changes and the passing of these changes in any way interfere with a case that's before the courts? That's a question that we should all be concerned about. Were they made at a time when it would even be perceived to interfere with issues before the court?

We ask that the minister agree to review the changes and report to the House if any of the changes would have any impact on the case before the courts.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there is no way that I or any other member of this Assembly ought comment on a matter that is before the court. Mr. Speaker, to comment or debate or in any way engage in discussion regarding a matter that is currently before the court is totally inappropriate. It will not be done by members on this side of the House. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage members on that side of the House to respect the judicial process and not interfere with it.

Mr. Speaker, there is no intention on the part of this legislature to interfere with or in any way fetter the rights of our courts to deal with matters that are before them. We do not do that type of thing, Mr. Speaker. It is not done. It is not being contemplated, Mr. Speaker, in any way, period.

[10:45]

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, my question was about the legislation and asking the minister to review the legislation and report back to the Assembly if any of the changes may have affected the outcome of a court case. But, Mr. Speaker, before proposing the changes to *The Trustee Act*, did the minister receive a legal opinion that said this will not interfere with the PC trust court case before the courts? And if he did, will he make that opinion public today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the members opposite and the citizens of this province that the changes to *The Trustee Act* were as a result of a Law Reform Commission report. Mr. Speaker, that document is in fact a public document, and I would be pleased to make it available to the members opposite and the citizens of this province.

That's the source of the changes, Mr. Speaker. These were routine updating changes. We will continue to make changes of that nature as our province moves forward. This will in fact . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. It's becoming a little difficult for the Speaker to even hear the minister, who is right below him, responding to the questions. The minister may complete his response.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the Law Reform Commission produces reports. They compare information with what takes place in other jurisdictions. The officials that work in the Ministry of Justice in the legislative drafting compare documents with other jurisdictions, both in Canada and elsewhere. In this case, this was like many other pieces of legislation, Mr. Speaker. And the fact, the simple fact of the matter is, we will continue to move legislation forward where it is appropriate to do so.

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

Consultation with First Nations and Métis People

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, on budget day this government cut funding to the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations]/Ministry of Environment partnership, destroying the work of a bilateral task force that provided expert advice on how best to manage Saskatchewan's environmental resources. To the minister: why?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, there was a partnership agreement with funding attached to it. It paid for staff within FSIN. As part of this budget process, we looked at the core responsibilities of my ministry. Staffing FSIN is not one of the core responsibilities.

But, Mr. Speaker, the additional assistance to First Nations in this province is unprecedented. I would put our record against

the opposition's record any time. Mr. Speaker, there remains in Environment \$2.8 million for First Nations initiatives, including a worker program through the fire protection branch. There's \$3 million new money through FNMR [First Nations and Métis Relations] for economic development opportunities, and that's in addition to the \$3 million in the consultation fund housed within FNMR, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Morin: — Well, Mr. Speaker, here's what the FSIN had to say about the minister who feels there's a great reputation. According to FSIN Vice-chief Lyle Whitefish:

The telephone call on March 24, 2010 advising that your ministry will no longer provide funding illustrates insensitivity and a lack of appreciation of First Nations people in Saskatchewan. We see it as a clear indication that the Ministry of Environment has no regard for the inherent and treaty rights of First Nations people in Saskatchewan and that First Nations people in Saskatchewan are to be further excluded from participating in the protection of the environment.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how will she replace this 16-year agreement and how will she ensure the First Nations people are consulted on the management of renewable resources?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, as the opposition will know, when it comes to the duty to consult, the Ministry of Environment is the most affected ministry as we are the first step in development because of environmental assessment processes and that sort of thing.

And, Mr. Speaker, our ministry has consulted with First Nations on every file that requires us to consult with First Nations. We will continue to do that, Mr. Speaker. It is not only our duty, but it is a responsibility of this government to make sure that First Nations are engaged, not only in the protection of the environment in our province, Mr. Speaker, but in the economic opportunities that our province can supply.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, they are almost three years into their term and they're only taking first steps now, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, even if this minister doesn't understand her duty to properly manage the renewable resources in our province or her duty to consult with First Nations and Métis people, even she should be able to understand her duty to honour legally binding agreements.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement clearly spells out that this agreement can only be terminated with 60 days written notice to the other party. If the Sask Party won't honour the terms of this legally binding agreement, how can Saskatchewan people trust the Sask Party to honour any agreement?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations, and any other ministry that is involved in the situations that require engagement with First Nations and Métis in this province, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to do that. We have consulted First Nations and Métis on every aspect of my ministry when it affects their treaty rights — hunting, fishing, and trapping, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. There's a handful of members, opposition members, who are interfering with the minister's opportunity to respond. I'd ask them to join the other opposition members who are paying attention. The Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the Environment critic for the NDP [New Democratic Party] implied in her question that we have not fulfilled our duty to consult. That is absolutely not true and we will, the Ministry of Environment will continue to engage First Nations.

Mr. Speaker, just as an example, on the fisheries management plan that is being worked on within my ministry, a total of \$250,000 has been spent in order to make sure that First Nations and Métis are engaged in this process, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to quote from a letter to Minister of Environment by Lyle Whitefish who's the Vice-chief of the FSIN. And he says this, Mr. Speaker:

I must express serious concern that you did not provide due consideration and respect to my office by contacting me personally to discuss the situation prior to such a decision being made.

Mr. Speaker, so how can this minister stand there and say that she's consulting the First Nations and Métis people of Saskatchewan when clearly it is quite the opposite according to the vice-chief of the FSIN.

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated, the Ministry of Environment will continue to engage First Nations and Métis in development projects on issues that affect their treaty rights. It is our duty, and we will continue to do that, Mr. Speaker.

There is a \$3 million consultation fund through FNMR which will work to engage First Nations and Métis to make sure that they are involved in and have the available information on these projects as they go forward, Mr. Speaker. As I said, in this budget, through FNMR there is an additional \$3 million for economic development opportunities for First Nations and

Métis, Mr. Speaker, which is unprecedented.

We live in one of the best provinces in the world. There are opportunities for everyone, Mr. Speaker. And we want to make sure that First Nations and Métis people are involved in the opportunities that Saskatchewan has to present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government likes to profess about the members of the NDP having had 16 years of government, and that might be an opposition to what they feel. But here's what Lyle Whitefish from the FSIN says about that previous relationship: "My previous experience in working with three provincial ministers and ministries has been very different than what has occurred in this situation."

Mr. Speaker, that's about the previous relationship with the NDP under the 16-year agreement that was in place. Mr. Speaker, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Since this government was elected, we've seen nothing but insensitivity, disrespect, and broken promises for the First Nations and Métis people of Saskatchewan. As Vice-chief Whitefish says, "The message you are sending to First Nations leadership is that the ministry would prefer an adversarial approach on dealing with matters between First Nations and the provincial Crown."

Why did the Sask Party government break their campaign promise to strengthen the relationship with First Nations people?

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, as I have stated, we will continue to engage First Nations in the consultation process. We will continue to engage First Nations and Métis on economic development issues that exist within our province, Mr. Speaker. And as far as consultation goes, I believe that members of the opposition were praising the Minister of Municipal Affairs just last night on his consultation process on *The Northern Municipalities Act*.

And, Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite want to talk about consultation, perhaps they could tell us how much consultation happened with the 1,100 people who were signed up for NDP memberships in Meadow Lake.

The Speaker: — Order. Order.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 97, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask, I would ask members . . . Order. I would ask members to come to order so that the Speaker can hear exactly where we are in committee. I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to come to order and allow proceedings to move forward without interference. When shall the Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 97, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009* and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture that Bill No. 97, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 118, *The Milk Control Repeal Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of

Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 118, *The Milk Control Repeal Act* and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. The minister may proceed to move third reading. The Minister of Agriculture.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 118 — *The Milk Control Repeal Act*

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture that Bill No. 118, *The Milk Control Repeal Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 108, *The Cities Amendment Act, 2009* with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in committee? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill and its amendments be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Municipal Affairs has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 108 . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. *The Cities Amendment Act, 2009* and that the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

[11:00]

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read the first time? I recognize the minister.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 108 — *The Cities Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. It has been moved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — The minister may move to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 108 — *The Cities Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs that Bill No. 108, *The Cities Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 109, *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2009* with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 109, *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2009* and that the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read the first time? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 109 — *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading. The Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 109 — *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs that Bill No. 109, *The*

Municipalities Amendment Act, 2009 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 110, *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2009* with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs has requested leave to waive the consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 110, *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2009* and that the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read the first time? I recognize the minister.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 110 — *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs that the amendments be now read the first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading. I recognize the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 110 — *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs that Bill No. 110, *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2009* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly . . . Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 111, *The Northern Municipalities Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 111, *The Northern Municipalities Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* and that the Bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 111 — *The Northern Municipalities Consequential Amendments Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Northern Municipalities Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs that Bill No. 111, *The Northern Municipalities Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,438 through 1,458.

The Speaker: — Questions 1,438 through 1,458 are tabled.

PRIVATE BILLS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 904 — *The Orange Benevolent Society Amendment Act, 2010*

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm certainly pleased to be able to sponsor this private Bill No. 904, Mr. Speaker, a Bill amending the Orange Benevolent Society's Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thought what I would do is perhaps explain a bit of the process that's required for amendment to this Act. The Orange Benevolent Society is a community-based organization that has been in operation for many years, and it has been incorporated by an Act of this legislature. And so in order for this Act to be amended, the amendments need to be done by this House, Mr. Speaker. And I'm certainly pleased to be able to sponsor the Bill on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, the Orange Benevolent Society is, as I said, a community-based organization that was founded back in the early part of the last century in the early 1920s. There was a need to look after children whose families were destitute and could not look after them themselves. So the Orange lodges set up the Orange Benevolent Society and opened some homes for those children.

These children were not without parents, the majority of them. It's just that the parents . . . In those days there was very large families, and especially during the 1930s, there was many destitute families. And as a last resort, they approached the Orange Benevolent Society to look after some of those children. And over their history, Mr. Speaker, they looked after, I believe, it's over 1,000 children in their homes, Mr. Speaker.

They were centred in Indian Head where they had built some houses to look after the children. In I believe it was 1944 a Mr. Downing donated some land, a section of land outside of Indian Head, and a home was constructed there for boys and in a farm setting, Mr. Speaker. And there was a lot of good work done by this society. They also had other homes in the town of Indian Head.

And it should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that this society operated through its own source of funds through primarily donations and those sorts of things. They never received any government money to conduct their activities, Mr. Speaker. And I think we should, you know, that's something that is noteworthy and should be recognized.

As time moved on, the mode of operation and the emphasize of their operation changed. There was less and less need for them to look after those children because there was other organizations and families able to look after them, so the focus of their activity shifted somewhat, where in 1999 they built a seniors home and are providing services to seniors. And then in the year 2000, the home at the farm was closed because, as I said, there was no need, no longer a need for those type of services. And in 2006, Mr. Speaker, the society set up two new programs. They're called the Orange Benevolent Society scholarship award and the Orange Benevolent Society medical assistance grant.

And, Mr. Speaker, with their somewhat change of emphasis, there's a need to amend their Act, Mr. Speaker, and that's the purposes of Bill 904. And primarily, Mr. Speaker, the amendments that are contained in Bill 904 centre on two areas. One is to amend the way the society can acquire and hold property. Under the old Act, there was some pretty limiting restrictions because it was set up under a statute in 1927, and so it needs to be modernized so that it enables the society to function in a more efficient manner, Mr. Speaker.

And the second amendment that's contained in the Bill is to direct the distribution of assets. If at some time the society decides to dissolve itself, the amendment directs that the assets of the society upon dissolution would go towards organizations that deal with youth and families. Mr. Speaker, I think a very credible amendment. I believe there's no intention to dissolve, but in the eventuality that they may need to dissolve or decide to dissolve, there would be provision as to the direction of their assets, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move that Bill 904, The Orange Benevolent Society of Saskatchewan amendment Act be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill 904, The Orange Benevolent Society of Saskatchewan amendment Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it's unusual for another member to speak on a private member's motion, but I wanted to thank the hon. member for Last Mountain-Touchwood for doing such a thorough job on behalf of the Orange Benevolent Society. He explained this Bill and the changes very eloquently and very, I believe, accurately. And I've seldom seen such a good job of a Bill explanation. Of course I will be supportive of this particular private member's Bill. And I want to congratulate the member and congratulate the Orange Benevolent Society for selecting the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood to bring it forward. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is Bill No. 904, the Orange Benevolent Society of Saskatchewan Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — Pursuant to Rule 100, this Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave, to move to a motion to go to government business.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved a motion with leave . . . asked for leave to go to government business. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

MOTIONS

Government Orders

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That the Assembly move to government orders and debate the following Bills in the following order: item no. 9, Bill No. 112, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009*; item no. 11, Bill No. 115, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*; item no. 22, Bill No. 127, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009*; item no. 26, Bill No. 134, *The Opticians Act*; item no. 24, Bill No.

135, *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act, 2009*; item no. 6, Bill No. 105, *The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2009*; item no. 7, Bill No. 106, *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act*; item no. 5, Bill No. 107, *The Weed Control Act*; item no. 10, Bill No. 114, *The Small Claims Amendment Act, 2009*.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the government House Leader:

That by leave the Assembly move to government orders and debate the following Bills in the following order: item no. 9, Bill No. 112, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009*; item no. 11, Bill No. 115, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*; item no. 22, Bill No. 127, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009*; item no. 26, Bill No. 134, *The Opticians Act*; item no. 24, Bill No. 135, *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act, 2009*; item no. 6, Bill No. 105, *The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2009*; item no. 7, Bill No. 106, *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act*; item no. 5, Bill No. 107, *The Weed Control Act*; and item no. 10, Bill No. 114, *The Small Claims Amendment Act, 2009*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

[11:15]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 112

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

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased this afternoon to stand and enter into debate on this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments to Bill 112 do a number of things, but most significantly they extend the age of retirement from age 65 to age 70 for justices of the peace. I think this is a progressive move in the circumstances which we face in the province, Mr. Speaker, that many of our justices of the peace are individuals who have spent many years in the professional community and have earned the honour of those in their communities, Mr. Speaker, and often do this after they've

completed a career and are acting in the best interest of the people they serve in their communities, Mr. Speaker.

So to extend from age 65 to 70 allows that experience and knowledge that these very important people in our communities have obtained as justices of the peace and previous to that in their professions, Mr. Speaker, to serve their communities longer, to share that wisdom and knowledge and advice with those in the community who they represent.

Mr. Speaker, I happen to know personally a couple of justices who, because of the restriction of age 65, had to retire who would have preferred to remain a little longer in the role, Mr. Speaker, because justices of the peace feel very strongly that they are contributing in a major way to the well-being of their communities. And they are, Mr. Speaker. I think it is fair to say that members on both sides of the House would think that the justices of the peace are contributing in a meaningful way to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, just so that individuals who may be watching have some sense of what justices of the peace do, they administer oaths on behalf of . . . for criminal charges, pardon me, laid by the police in . . . for the public, Mr. Speaker. They confirm or cancelling police-issued processes and they . . . things like promises to appear, appearance notices, or recognizance, Mr. Speaker. And most importantly these are the individuals who are available to police 24 hours a day in smaller communities to review issues that are before the police and determine whether or not the individual should in fact be returned to the community or remanded into custody until they can go before a judge, Mr. Speaker.

These individuals play a very important part in our community, Mr. Speaker. These are people who have earned the trust of their communities, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, these individuals generally have several years of professional experience in the profession before being undertaken to acceptance as a Justice of the Peace, generally have lived in the communities in which they are Justice of the Peace most of their lives, Mr. Speaker, and represent those communities and the individuals in the communities on issues that are before the police and before the courts.

Now, Mr. Speaker, trust is a very important thing. For a community to value the services of a Justice of the Peace, they need to be able to trust that individual. Mr. Speaker, trust is something that we as citizens in our community and our society value greatly. And, Mr. Speaker, trust is something that we should all endeavour to obtain from those who we represent and from the community in which we live.

Mr. Speaker, I see some irony in the Bill before us and the situation we face based on the budget that's before the House. Mr. Speaker, as justices of the peace work so hard to obtain the trust of the people of the province of Saskatchewan, so should governments work just as hard to obtain the trust of the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we have a budget before us today in this legislature that, quite frankly, has broken that trust. And if you break the trust, Mr. Speaker, of the people, then you can no longer in good faith represent those people in a meaningful

way. And just as a Justice of the Peace in Bill 112, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*, work hard to keep the trust of the people of Saskatchewan, it should be incumbent upon governments to work just as hard to keep the trust of the people.

Today, Mr. Speaker, many people are asking questions of us, members of the Assembly but in particular of the government. Why today are people not getting kidney transplants in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? Why are people not getting those much needed medical services, Mr. Speaker? And should the people any longer have trust in that those services can and will be delivered by the government, Mr. Speaker? Now as we know, justices of the peace have . . . they work hard to keep the trust of the people. Governments must also work hard to keep the trust of the people.

Mr. Speaker, today many families in the province who have loved ones who need kidney transplant surgery, Mr. Speaker, don't trust the government to deliver that service any more. They simply don't. The transplant surgery program for kidneys in the province of Saskatchewan has been shut down. And those families no longer trust the government to look after the best interest of their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, any family who experiences a child or a spouse or a parent that's in dire need of a medical procedure and can't get it, if that person is in fact dying, Mr. Speaker, it is probably the most significant, significant situation that you face in a lifetime. But yet today in Saskatchewan, many families have lost that trust in their government.

So, Mr. Speaker, trust is important. As we expect there to be trust with the justices of peace in our province, as we trust others to look after our best interests as they are either elected or appointed to do so, Mr. Speaker, that trust is a bonding between the community and the individual and the respect of that individual for the rights of those in the community which they represent.

Mr. Speaker, that trust is absolutely important. If you're in a situation in your life where you don't have the ability yourself to deal with a problem, that you must rely upon somebody else, that you must have some faith in somebody else to help you deal with the situation before you, and, Mr. Speaker, in those circumstances, trust is perhaps most important of all, most important of all feelings you can have, Mr. Speaker, or not have.

It's a similar situation if you are dealing with somebody who has impacted your life in a criminal situation and you're afraid that that person might come back to your home, Mr. Speaker. You have to trust that that Justice of the Peace is going to analyze that information very carefully and protect your best interest. Mr. Speaker, we believe justices of the peace work very, very hard to represent and to protect the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, people should expect no less of their government.

Today there are several families in the province of Saskatchewan who have a loved one waiting for kidney transplant surgery, Mr. Speaker. They no longer trust that their government will act in their best interests, that their government will respond to meet the needs of their loved one. Today at least

one individual is wondering whether or not their loved one's going to be with them much longer. And, Mr. Speaker, that's because that individual isn't getting that kidney transplant surgery that they need.

Mr. Speaker, there are several other serious situations that people of Saskatchewan have to examine in regards to trust, as they do with their justices of the peace if they are appointed on behalf of themselves and their communities to represent their best interests.

One of them, Mr. Speaker, quite frankly, is one that astounds most people in the province. We have today a government releasing health information to foundations to raise money for capital for hospitals and for equipment in hospitals that used to be funded by government. They have to raise the money today because the government's not properly funding and resourcing health services in our province, Mr. Speaker.

But today people are most concerned about the release of their private information that they've been in the hospital, that they've had treatment, Mr. Speaker. That's information others don't have a right to know. But that's information the government, by a change of regulation in the last week, has determined that health trust foundations in fact have a right to have. Mr. Speaker, they don't even necessarily keep the information to themselves. It can be passed on to a third-party fundraising agency, Mr. Speaker, and this is people's private health information.

Mr. Speaker, polls on this very issue show more than 90 per cent of people in the province of Saskatchewan do not want their health information released by their government to either a health foundation or a third-party fundraiser, Mr. Speaker. That breaches the trust between the patient, the citizen of our province, and their government because it's their government that determined that that information should be released — a government they elected in good faith. Did the government tell them that they would release their private health information when they ran for office? No, Mr. Speaker, so they broke the trust. Mr. Speaker, today in Saskatchewan people are asking, why should we support a government that wants to release our private health information?

Mr. Speaker, just like justices of the peace and the fact that we have to rely and trust upon their better judgment and their good judgment, Mr. Speaker, to act and represent the people of the province of Saskatchewan, people also believe that they should be able to trust their government to act in their best interest.

Mr. Speaker, it's the role of the government, it's the role of the elected officials of a government, Mr. Speaker, to deliver health services in our province because that's what our legislation says, Mr. Speaker. And it should be properly funded to deliver those services so families know, Mr. Speaker, that their health information doesn't have to be released to the public for fundraising and so the public have confidence that if you have a medical emergency, Mr. Speaker, or if your life is at risk, you are going to get the services you need.

Earlier this week, we had a young wife in the Assembly sitting in the gallery, Mr. Speaker, who was here to plea on behalf of her husband, her husband who may die because he hasn't been

able to get a kidney transplant.

Mr. Speaker, we had a kidney transplant program in this province for over 20 years. It survived Saskatchewan's most difficult financial times, Mr. Speaker. It survived through the early 1990s when this province had no money at all. It survived. And people could rely on getting those transplant surgeries here. They knew their loved ones would get the treatment they needed here. So they wouldn't be denied treatment if their medical condition got so bad that it was a risk to move them, Mr. Speaker.

And people have to have trust in their governments. Just as we trust . . . As I indicated in Bill 112, we're making amendments to *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker. Justices of the peace have the trust of the people which they serve and that's very important, Mr. Speaker. Now justices of the peace aren't elected; they're appointed. But they're appointed from a group of men and women across our province that have the respect of their communities and have the respect of the people in their communities, Mr. Speaker. But they have to have the trust.

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, I want to spend just a few more minutes talking about a few other circumstances in our province that I think deal with the issue of trust. Mr. Speaker, when the government was first elected in November of 2007, there was a plan in place to build two surgical ambulatory surgical centres in the province of Saskatchewan — one in Regina, one in Saskatoon — from the previous government. There was money put aside to do that. One of the first things the new government did was take that money, cancel — cancel, Mr. Speaker — the building of those facilities.

So, Mr. Speaker, we face today, some two and a half, nearly three years later, a growing crisis in surgical wait times. The people of this province were promised in the last election by the government that they would deal with this problem and they'd deal with it promptly, and they would improve the well-being, the health and well-being of the people of our province. Two and a half years into the mandate, what do we get? We get the government announcing another program that over the next four years they will take some steps to improve it.

Mr. Speaker, people had faith and trust that the government would in fact do as they said. Today people are facing an increasingly critical situation for health services. Two and a half years later, the government who thought they could fix everything, an incoming government, are making plans to deal with problems over the next four years when they promised they would deal with in their first four years — in fact, Mr. Speaker, more rapidly than that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, trust is a cornerstone for appointment to being a Justice of the Peace. Mr. Speaker, trust also needs to be a cornerstone of any government. Mr. Speaker, I would say that today the people of the province of Saskatchewan have grave concerns about the trust of the government before them. I think they would probably prefer to have justices of the peace making decisions on health matters than the current Health minister, because at least a Justice of the Peace would meet with them,

probably. He would probably take the time to listen to them because that's what they do. And, Mr. Speaker, he would try to fix the problems as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to spend just a few more minutes talking about some of the issues contained in *The Justices of the Peace Act*, Mr. Speaker. Justices of the peace hold various hearings and undertake various undertakings and differently, not necessarily the same in all parts of the province, Mr. Speaker. In some cases, as an example, you will have justices who act on traffic issues. In other cases you will have them act on criminal issues, Mr. Speaker, and make the initial determination whether or not the person should be released on their own recognizance or released back into the community under conditions to appear before a court in a timely manner, Mr. Speaker.

The individuals doing that have my utmost respect, Mr. Speaker. They are people who work to improve the stability of our communities. They work to provide a peace of mind for citizens in the communities in which they live. And they work to protect the well-being of all our citizens, Mr. Speaker, in ensuring that individuals who may be a continuing threat to them are in fact remanded into custody and remain in custody until which time a judge and a full-blown hearing is able to be held, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important piece of legislation both for justices of the peace and for the province, Mr. Speaker. It is a Bill that we have spent some time discussing over the last several months, Mr. Speaker, examining in detail the implications upon the community, upon the province, and upon the justices of the peace themselves, Mr. Speaker.

So at this time, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to move this Bill to committee so that we can ask more detailed questions on the specifics that may not be clear, may be uncertain at this time. But the committee gives us the opportunity to do a more detailed examination of some of the specifics before the legislation.

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 Justice that Bill No. 112, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009* now be read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this committee Bill be referred? I recognize the Deputy House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 112, *The*

Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009 be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

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

Bill No. 115

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

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and participate in this debate on *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act*. Again this does a number of things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of making certain consequential amendments and also repealing *The Laws Declaratory Act*. Some of them are housekeeping, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Some of them are certainly a bit more substantive.

Some of them are of great symbolic interest or importance historically in terms of what constitutes a legal authority in Saskatchewan, the transition from the period of being the North-West Territories to becoming a province. Indeed the transfer of the Rupert's Land territory, as it was known, from the Hudson's Bay Company, that being chartered in 1670, how that persisted through until 1870, and different amendments in this Act relating to statutes that have been set out back in those days, Mr. Speaker, in 1870 when *The North-West Territories Act* was brought before the . . . was passed in the House of Commons.

So again it goes a number of different places. Fairly interesting. But, you know, from housecleaning or . . . housecleaning. Housekeeping. Sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's probably that spring cleaning time and I've got things on my mind, housecleaning-wise. But housekeeping items in this legislation and the different sort of updating measures that take place here, the relocation of certain measures from other pieces of legislation and then the restatement of the authority, which in this case removes the declaratory Act or the changes to the declaratory Act.

So one of the interesting points in this is the abolishment of the clause that had previously dealt with the cause of action for breach of promise to marry. The Minister of Justice, in his introductory comments and certainly the remarks that would follow in this House, the explanatory notes provided by the drafters would argue that this is unconstitutional. And certainly in *The Queen's Bench Act* being sort of a catch-all of different legislation, that this would find, this measure would find itself there, is of interest. And again the development of law and legislation is often an evolutionary process and there's always a need to be diligent and keep up with the times, so that something has survived in this legislation that is unconstitutional and is worthy of housecleaning — or housekeeping — is as it should be.

It's also interesting to note that there are changes to *The Trustee Act* and some of the powers under that piece of legislation. That particular recommendation comes out of some work done by the Law Reform Commission in 2002. It is of course interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We've been talking in this Chamber about different matters related to trustees. And of course we wait with great interest to see developments on that front. But certainly *The Trustee Act* and its relation to *The Queen's Bench Act* is clarified in the proposal put forward in this legislation. So we're interested to see how that plays out in fact.

I guess another interesting aspect is the proposed amendment as it relates to the Agreement on Internal Trade. Certainly in the explanatory notes it indicates that all provinces have agreed to adopt this provision, and Manitoba, Quebec, Alberta, and the federal government have already done so. We're interested to see though, Mr. Speaker, whether or not this relates to the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement that the members opposite have had a different revolving relationship to over time, being, you know, at one time the biggest cheerleaders for it in the province, then next coming out against it, and then upon taking government, entering into negotiations with Alberta and BC [British Columbia] to implement what would seem to be from our perspective a very similar set of agreements.

You know, and oftentimes they're cloaked in ambiguity, such as the Western Economic Partnership Agreement. And again, it's always interesting to try and figure out what the gap between what the proclaimed intent is with this government and how things actually play out in reality. So on trade agreements, as in so many other sectors, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're trying to figure out what the real impact of these things is. And we're not just going to take it on trust from the members opposite.

Again, in terms of *The Queen's Bench Act* being a bit of a catch-all, it's sort of an eclectic array of the different items of legislation. So we come to the measures around the changes to the declaratory Act, and again the transfer of land and authority to the Hudson's Bay Company with Rupert's Land, and that charter being granted in 1670, that transfer being returned or being assumed by the Dominion of Canada in 1870, and the need in law to keep your statutes current and to keep the developments moving forward.

So I guess the one thing I'd wonder . . . Certainly my colleague from Regina Lakeview gave a very lengthy speech on this and a very interesting speech and had a lot of thoughtful things to say about this. I don't know if I can add much to that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but certainly . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now I'm being egged on by the member from Cypress Hills, but I'll not rise to the baiting.

But anyway, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this time, given the discussion that's taking place at this stage of the proceedings, on the opposition side we think that it would be more fruitful, more productive to move this Bill on to committee. And as such, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move that we send this Bill 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 Justice that Bill No. 115, *The Queen's Bench amendment Act, 2009* 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.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 115, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

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

[11:45]

Bill No. 127

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 127 — *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to put a few comments on the record on Bill No. 127, *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009*, Mr. Deputy Speaker, an important piece of legislation for our province.

The Assessment Management Agency provides a valuable role in assessing property in our province for the purpose of taxation, Mr. Speaker. It's important, this agency, for the work, it's important work that this agency does. People rely, and it's a high value of trust placed in this agency. And any changes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, should not be taken lightly that are made by this agency, Mr. Deputy Speaker, now especially changes that the government is proposing and has indicated that this agency should be more in line with the government goals.

Now hopefully, Mr. Speaker, as we go through, there are some things that we have to look at more carefully, but those sort of statements, Mr. Deputy Speaker, do probably give some of us a little cause for concern in terms of meanings of that, in terms of what that exactly would mean.

One of the more important things though that I . . . and the minister when he spoke, introduced the Bill, was that he said and I quote here, "And you know, Mr. Speaker, this reassessment brings Saskatchewan up to 2006 values — 2006.

That does not cover the boom."

And of course we all know that started under the previous government, the boom, and I think that minister for acknowledging that as they seem to have had difficulties with that prior to that — giving credit to where in fact the economy took off, the health of our economy — to give credit where credit was due to the previous government, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, moving forward from that, we again here, just to point out that previous record to this record of this government in terms of dealing with legislation, concerns regarding consultation. These have become sort of ongoing things that no matter which piece that is brought forward, we hope that the consultation — and we always have to raise this; this should be perhaps, Mr. Deputy Speaker, something that we don't have to go into — but each time we have a piece of legislation, we find ourselves on the cusp of questioning the consultation procedures used by this government, because they definitely . . . their track record on this is definitely lacking, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And so the question of consultation. Who did they consult? When did they consult? The records, we did not hear anything of that. We simply again have to go on the trust of the minister. And I think, as my colleague from Regina Dewdney spoke previously, we have seen many times what trust has brought us. The kind of trust that where things are promised, people are given indications of certain actions, of certain legislative changes that will be brought forward, certain things that will not be brought forward — we have heard many of those over the past over two years now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and quite the record that this government has compiled in this area. Quite the record.

I wouldn't say it would be something that I, for myself or our side that we'd be holding that up, but each time we go through these Bills we have to be careful and give them the due diligence necessary because no longer is there that ability to simply give credibility.

Now again, this is not to take away that each Bill that we look at that we need to carefully go over the Bills, so give them the due diligence that is necessary and particularly something that is important as this Bill which the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency does, as I mentioned earlier, carry this valuable role in assessing property in our province for the purpose of taxation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, just on the issue of taxation, it was the previous government that brought in many positive changes in that area. And so we know that it is important because, Mr. Speaker, you have to get . . . Part of getting your taxation right is getting the finances right. And again here we see where the government, where I spoke before of trust, where they were handed a balanced budget, they were handed money in the bank, and how soon thereafter we find ourselves in a debt, Mr. Deputy Speaker — a \$622 million deficit. And that is simply as a result of the folks across.

Many other indicators that were, again the minister responsible here speaks of, we can remember him speaking about the oil,

for example, the number of wells drilled. And if that minister would care to look at that, he would realize that the levels, he should check the levels in 2002 and the oil levels that are at now. And then maybe he would be getting up and piping from his seat once he has had the ability to check on those.

Now these are the kinds of things for us that bring concerns and put into question the credibility, the credibility and the work that is done here when we hear things such as that the oil well drilling is up. And in fact when you check the records, I would ask that minister to look at the records from 2002 and see what is going on in the province and not simply . . . I would dare say I'm not sure who's spreading those wild rumours on that side, perhaps the Minister of Energy and Resources, but I would say that they would be well-advised to maybe look at the facts.

So it is with those kind of statements that are made in the legislature here that we then, it gives us cause for concern in terms of then listening to the minister come forward and propose changes to the Act. We need to then look twice as hard. We need to not, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . You know, that we would always do the due diligence on the Bills, which is part of the opposition in a democratic institution such as this.

And I would say that we on this side have respected this institution and its principles, what it stands for, what it means to the people of this province. But it becomes difficult, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you not only have to do due diligence, but you have to be ever wary that we might get figures such as the oil wells are now higher than they have ever been before. And it's not quite like that when you check the records, and I would ask that minister to check the records from 2002 in terms of oil well drilling.

So again as I say, we on this side hold this institution very dear and near to our hearts. We make, in the statements we attempt to make here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we keep one eye on that because we are sent here to uphold those democratic principles and to do the work that the official opposition has been elected to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And getting to that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you cannot leave assessment in Saskatchewan simply to the whim of, as I dare say, politics. Now again to suggest that SAMA [Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency] should change to better reflect the government's priorities, as the minister has, causes again another area for me of some concern.

Because the daily whims of this government in terms of the work that they say they are doing or continuing to do, as we heard earlier today with the Department of Health and the minister, where they are always looking forward to doing something in the future, and they . . . When at some point in time it is wearing rather thin, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we hear continually of what this side did for 16 years because we are, we are proud of that record of what we did on this side. And it is disconcerting that that is still raised in this Assembly as an argument for not doing the job. They were elected to the job. They are doing it. And people will, to their detriment, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it'll be to their detriment when people judge them in November of 2011.

Now the other concern that has, when you look at this, and it is

in terms of where the money will flow, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the minister indicated that the money will flow through the Ministry of Finance where it formerly — if I understand this correctly — came through the Department of Education. Now the Department of Education has its own particular concerns right at the time. They are concerned about a number of issues in terms of funding, what has occurred, what will be happening. They are looking very hard. And the department has created a difficult situation for our education in this province, similarly to health care where the issues are now coming forward, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a daily basis, phone calls in terms of services not being provided.

And I dare say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this is all . . . It could be traced back to the mismanagement of the finances, of finding the books in order, finding money in the cupboard, and now we have to open the cupboard and it is bare. And now we hide behind a lack of services and cuts to services, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in all, as we on a daily basis, hear in all the departments, cuts, even to the human rights as we heard earlier. And it is disturbing.

And then of course we have to deal with this because we have to be sure that we get this valuable role, as I said previously, role in assessing the property in our province for the purpose of taxation. It is a continuous, continuous struggle. Continually we have to look and give a second look and second sober thought to this.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the SAMA people are a group of professional individuals who work hard in our province to make sure that assessments are done professionally and appropriately. Now again their work, I dare say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is difficult work. They do a professional job and no doubt have some difficult questions. And I would hope that members on the other side, the minister would, would again as I mentioned in terms of the few times we have heard pronouncements from that minister, in terms whether it be the oil or some of the pronouncements we've heard, that I would hope that there would be research and due diligence done by him on these issues and that we are getting the just service that we deserve around this file.

There are no doubt difficult questions, things that need to be researched, things that we have to understand, and for our part on this side we are doing that due diligence to deal with these issues.

But again when we hear comments and when we see daily the cuts to services — whether it's the Dutch elm program being cut, West Nile, Mr. Deputy Speaker — many programs which are dear to the people's hearts. When we first heard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that in fact what was occurring was that simply they had cut funding to 18 long-term care homes around the province, people were wondering about that. But every day there's a rollout of new cuts, new cuts to services and, quite frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my phone is, the phone calls to my office have definitely increased. I would say spiked, much like we had the spike in the economy when we were in government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the system of managing the property assessments in our province, some have said it isn't perfect by

any stretch, but perhaps, you know, but given the complicated process that SAMA undertakes to have legitimate, accurate assessments any, again any . . . you know perhaps there can be some leeway there for some small errors. But I don't want the minister to get the wrong impression here, the wrong impression that in fact we are talking about massive miscalculations, such as the potash for example. We're not talking about that. So I would want him to understand that we're not talking about small errors in assessment like that, we're not talking about small errors in when he talks about the oil spiking in this province. We hope that they get those figures right.

[12:00]

So this is, as you can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why we have legitimate concerns. Why we on this side, when we hear pronouncements about that the work, that the consultations have been done, we have numerous things that we can look at which causes issues of trust, issues of trust that are not easily, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we cannot easily overlook because we are not certain what is in fact coming behind that.

Because if we had a feeling of . . . And I think ours is . . . Perhaps this happens to us sooner in here, that we lose that trust or that the ministers lose credibility with us, but I think it's slowly rolling out to the people who have to on a daily basis do the work in, whether that be in the school boards or cities or the different groups that have lost funding, how they have to manage when they are in fact or were led to believe that the finances of this government were in order or that here's where the things that they were doing, many, many promises made; many promises broken now, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

It is starting to look a bit like a shambles, not only here that we witness every day, but moving out very quickly as they roll out their plans or lack of plans into the province, into the province.

And one of the all-time, one of the all-time favourites on here was a billboard in Saskatoon . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was a billboard in Prince Albert regarding the pulp mill. One of the promises made was a vote for Hickie is a vote for the mill, and that was from what the billboard said. Now that we should've known, we should've known right at that point in time. We should've known right at that point in time that when that member from Prince Alberta put that billboard up that what we were in for . . . But it continues to roll out.

And then we had the decreasing debt billboard. We all remember that one. The Premier's face all over the place. And I would dare say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that that billboard was probably accurate for the first day that it was put up, and after that . . . Maybe a day and a half. Maybe a day and a half and after that it was a downhill slide after that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A downhill slide, a slippery slope to a deficit. A slippery slope. It's unbelievable. In fact people have a hard time, until we show them the facts, to believe that something like that could be possible. Unbelievable.

Now our main concern here is again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is this deep concern lying, lying with the government, the unwillingness to consult with the people regarding legislation. So they might say they consulted, but a lot of times we then

find out later in fact from letters that there has been no consultation, no consultation, no consultation, and this is what we're left to deal with.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this sort of thing it does leave us more. It makes us start at the two levels that I spoke of. Not only do we have to do the due diligence that we would normally have done, Mr. Deputy Speaker, not only is there the due diligence around that, but also then we have to deal with the issue that we are never certain that even ministers of the Crown are giving us the facts, Mr. Deputy Speaker, giving us the facts. And I've just raised a number of points where the minister was talking about oil production in the province. What was that? What was that all about?

We heard the promises to the school boards. We heard the promises to the cities. We heard the promise for the mill. We heard the . . . We wonder sometimes from here what is going on over there and I think the people are as well. The people are as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now again just to summarize, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to summarize this, the Saskatchewan management agency provides a valuable role in assessing property in our province for the purpose of taxation. We take our hats off to them for the hard work they do. It's a difficult job. It's a difficult, demanding job that they have to do. They should be . . . Changes should be made that help their work. It is at the base, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because without the economy, without getting this big piece of taxation right, we cannot deliver services to the people which the people expect from us.

So, Mr. Speaker, not only that but the people have a right, they have a right to expect that we will deliver, deliver the services for the tax money. So we are somewhat concerned in terms of what is happening to that tax money. And people are asking me. I had the opportunity over our Easter break to go and talk and do some door knocking. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was, where has all the money gone? Where has all the money gone? Because when the good folks of Saskatoon Fairview looked around, there wasn't a lot that they see that was being done.

They did know though, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they have heard they've cut the Dutch elm program. They did hear that they are not getting money, that their city is not getting the money that they were promised. They did hear about the difficulties in the education sector. They did hear about the balloon that the Minister of Education floated regarding the educational assistants, and it turned out to be somewhat of a lead balloon. And there is some confusion out there as to what actually is happening because there are some school boards that are, in fact, following that.

But again it's the kind of lack of leadership that is provided on that side where we poke our head out much like the gophers will be doing very shortly, but then hiding, hiding.

An Hon. Member: — Because they killed all the coyotes.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — And there are a lot of gophers now because the coyotes are gone, yes, so they'll be popping their heads up soon. But these folks have been doing it all since we started here, earlier than the rest of the gophers in Saskatchewan, yes.

So this is what's happening here, and people are wondering when the next minister will be popping their heads up and making pronouncements and then ducking back down because oops, that's not quite right. Where do we go here? And so then they pop out and make announcements about programs that they've cut, followed up very quickly by that they will . . . followed very quickly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, by pronouncements that they will have to work on it, much like our Minister of Health.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I digress from *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act*. And again just that this is important work. This is important work. We have to get this right. We are concerned because of the track record of this government. But, Mr. Speaker, I know there are a number of other members that want to speak on various Bills and, Mr. Speaker, with that I would be moving this Bill to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the committee is Bill No. 127, *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill stand referred? I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate Bill No. 127, *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009* be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Bill No. 134

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 134 — *The Opticians Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and speak about *The Opticians Act*. And this is legislation that's been brought forward to update *The Ophthalmic Dispensers Act* which was passed in 1978. And, Mr. Speaker, when one looks at this kind of legislation, the issue is always trust between the various health professions, but also trust in the government in what they're doing. And, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately some of the trust issues in the Health department are playing themselves over into some of the legislation that's showing up on the order paper today.

What we know in the community, every part of Saskatchewan,

every small town, every big town, every RM [rural municipality], there are people who feel that their trust has been broken as it relates to the chiropractors and the traditional way that chiropractors have been part of the health system in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, that same kind of uneasiness and lack of trust goes then into all of the professional legislation that we have within the Department of Health. And in fact this particular legislation has some difficulties.

And at this point I'll state upfront that I think it may be that the Minister of Health will have to withdraw this legislation and correct it, because a number of issues have arisen since this legislation has been introduced that need to be resolved. And so, Mr. Speaker, I will put on the record two quite opposing views of what should happen in this particular case.

Our critic, the member from Saskatoon Eastview, doing her job, has written to various groups that are affected, and we have received some responses. And the first response that I will read which is sort of the official line comes from the Saskatchewan Ophthalmic Dispensers Association, Mr. Paul Johnson, president. And this letter was received on April the 6th, 2010. And this is a letter to the official opposition Health critic. This letter with respect to Bill 134, *An Act respecting the Profession of Opticians*:

[12:15]

This is further to our earlier response to you on March 27, 2010, wherein we provided information relative to your request for input concerning Bill 134.

Further to that response, we would like to provide you with additional information that we hope would assist you in better understanding the need and importance of Bill 134.

The "*Ophthalmic Dispensers Act*" is the original legislation that was passed by the legislature in 1978 when opticians first became regulated members of the health care circle. That legislation is still in effect today. Since its inception, the "*Ophthalmic Dispensers Act*" has received very few changes, updates or amendments and as a result, has become terribly outdated. Subsequently, Bill 134 was introduced to modernize and update the legislation.

For example, with the exception of Saskatchewan, ophthalmic dispensers in every other province are known as "opticians". Bill 134 addresses that anomaly. Saskatchewan's optometrists who have owned the rights to the title graciously agreed to give up their right to the title so that "ophthalmic dispensers" could make the title change to "optician" from "ophthalmic dispenser".

Once Bill 134 finally takes effect, Saskatchewan's ophthalmic dispensers will legally become "opticians" and will finally be on par with all other opticians across the country. In addition to adding an extra degree of professionalism to the profession, this act adds clarity for the public who recognizes the title "optician". This is a well-known and respected title throughout the health care industry.

Under the “*Ophthalmic Dispensers Act*”, many of the duties or functions currently being provided by ophthalmic dispensers are not specifically clarified or described in the legislation. Bill 134 addresses those shortcomings by setting out and clarifying the duties and responsibilities of opticians.

Also included in Bill 134, is a change from the “Saskatchewan Ophthalmic Dispensers Association” to the “Saskatchewan College of Opticians.” This change is a significant change for opticians. The “Saskatchewan Ophthalmic Dispensers Association” have always put the public’s best interests first, however, by making the change from an association to a college, Bill 134, unlike the current “*Ophthalmic Dispensers Act*”, explicitly sets out the duty and objectives of the college.

Bill 134 was drafted very carefully and in conjunction with Ministry officials. Stakeholders were fully consulted as required and have made their appropriate responses or representations to the Ministry. The ministry has weighed and addressed their concerns very carefully during the process. All parties have agreed to this legislation prior to it being presented.

Finally, Bill 134 provides opticians with the tools necessary to do their jobs properly now and into the future while ensuring the safety and best interests of the public are met. It also takes into consideration the legislation of other health care providers and ensures that it is compatible with their legislation. It also ensures that it will conform to the future umbrella legislation that is being planned for health care providers.

Ms Junor, the Saskatchewan Ophthalmic Dispensers Association (SODA) considers this legislation to be a very important piece of legislation for the public as well as opticians. The SODA is respectfully requesting the support of you and your colleagues in helping this Bill through the legislative process without undue delay.

Yours truly,

Saskatchewan Ophthalmic Dispensers Association

Paul Johnson
President

cc: Megan Rumbold
cc: The Hon. Don McMorris
cc: Judy Junor . . . [and]
cc: Ken Sorenson Registrar SODA

So that’s the letter that’s come from the opticians which is dated April 6th.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will now read the letter that has gone to our opposition Health critic from the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists, and this is dated March 29th, 2010:

Dear Mrs. Junor,

In response to the Official Opposition’s March 16, 2010

inquiry regarding the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists position on Bill No. 134 An Act respecting the Profession of Opticians we advise that we strongly oppose the Bill.

As communicated to Sandra Cripps of the Workforce Planning Branch we have a number of issues with the legislation as outlined in our Sept 21, 2009 submission. Our primary concern is with Section 23 “Authorized Practices”. It is our understanding that template legislation does not contain provisions regarding scope of practice and that scope issues are to be addressed within regulatory bylaws. It is our position that the wording contained within Section 23, however, creates a potential for a fundamental change in the ophthalmic dispensers scope. The existing Ophthalmic Dispensers Act contains interpretations that specifically define several important terms. One of these terms is “ophthalmic dispensing service”. This is defined as “the measuring, adjusting, or adapting of ophthalmic *appliances* to the needs of the intended wearer”. In the proposed template legislation, under Section 23, the wording is changed subtly, but profoundly, to “interpret and adapt a *prescription* and determine the necessary specifications to correct a client’s eyesight in accordance with regulatory bylaws”. There is a huge fundamental difference between adapting an *appliance*, and adapting a *prescription*. The intent of template legislation may be to simply be [may be to simply, or may be simply too broad to be] . . . enough to allow for future changes to a profession, which we support, however, this “small” change leaves the Act open for interpretation of the term “adapt” and allows for the change in the role of an optician from *dispensing* to *prescribing*. To appreciate its potential impact, the phrase “adapt a prescription” must be interpreted in its most liberal sense, meaning to “change” a prescription, which as mentioned above, represents a fundamental change in the scope of an ophthalmic dispenser. In addition, the phrase “determine the necessary specifications to correct a client’s eyesight”, in our opinion, subtly establish scope and any such wording should be confined to bylaws rather than contained within the Act. We understand that regulatory bylaws, once drafted, allow for control of scope, however, the current phrasing of Section 23 creates an immediate and entrenched change in scope within the Act itself. From our discussion, it is clear that this is not the intent of the Workforce Planning Branch, however we have concerns that the true intent of this specific wording has been misrepresented by SODA. Since it is not the intent to address scope within the Act, we believe *without question*, that this section requires amendment.

Also it is our opinion that specific referral to the term “prescription” within Section 23 of the proposed Act, creates a requirement for a specific definition of “prescription” and “prescriber” also within the Act, which is easily facilitated within template legislation. Interpretations of “prescription” and “prescriber” are key definitions within the existing Ophthalmic Dispensers Act, and we can think of no reason why they would not be contained within the new template legislation. Once again, “small” change with profound agenda-driven implications.

In our Sept, 2009 submission, we also expressed our concern over release of the title “Optician” in Section 22. It was our initial intention to allow SODA to use the title, but not relinquish our own rights to the usage. The titles “optician” and “contact lens technician” have been, and continue to be, commonly used terms within Optometric practices and it is our intent to continue their usage. We see no reason why this is not possible through suitable wording within the template Act.

Our final concern is the process through which these Act changes were developed. We received the proposed Act changes on Sept 10, 2009 (sent by your office Sept 2, 2009) with a deadline for response of Sept 15, 2009 which was subsequently changed to Sept 22, 2009 at our request. Legislative change of this magnitude requires a much wider time frame for proper and thorough review. Through informal telephone conversations and emails, we were left with the impression that there would be further consultation, and that the Act changes would not formally proceed until bylaws were drafted and properly reviewed by stakeholders. We were caught completely off-guard when we were advised that Bill 134 *had already passed 2nd reading*. In our opinion the process has been compromised and as a result, our concerns were not given due consideration. We respectfully ask that Bill 134 be withdrawn and amended to address these concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to clarify our position.

Yours truly,
Dr. Michael York, President
Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I’ve read these rather lengthy letters into the record because they once again go to this question of trust in the people who are working to try to develop legislation and in the Department of Health and I assume in other parts of this government. And so what’s happened is that you have a group that is directly and profoundly affected by this legislation who on March 29th send a letter to the official opposition saying, we respectfully ask that Bill 134 be withdrawn and amended to deal with their particular concerns.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are in a position where we’re asking the question, what is consultation? Why do people who are professionals and who are directly involved and working with Health officials and the Minister of Health feeling as if they’re completely left out in the cold? And, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately for the people of Saskatchewan, we have an example of the Minister of Health doing that with chiropractors. Where they negotiate an agreement, all of the people that are appropriately doing their jobs are then undercut by the minister and by the Premier in dealing with chiropractors.

We have that kind of a situation that happens again and again. We have the whole situation around the trust and lack of consultation as it relates to SCN. We have lack of trust and no consultation in a whole number of the decisions that are taking place.

The only slight change that we have seen from the members opposite was when the Minister of Environment added a few dollars back into the Dutch elm disease to deal with the lack of

consultation there. But unfortunately that’s not sufficient.

So what we seem to see is a whole record of bumbling and tripping and falling and doing things that basically cause all kinds of difficult. Mr. Speaker, what we’re saying here today, as it relates to the optometrists and the opticians, that this kind of legislation should not be presented in this House until they have sorted out the issues that are between them. And it makes it very difficult for all of the people who work in the various professions in our province if they can’t trust the Minister of Health to be doing his job properly and making sure that legislation is brought forward.

Now one of the issues that always comes is, what kind of comments are made by the minister in developing this particular legislation? So if we go back to the speech of the Minister of Health on March 15th, 2010 — this is just, you know, three, four weeks ago — the minister says on page 4175 “In developing this legislation, the government has consulted closely with the Saskatchewan Ophthalmic Dispensers Association.” And he had Mr. Johnson and other people in the gallery when he gave this speech.

Now that’s the particular problem that we have here, is that the people that have a concern about this legislation, the optometrists are pushed to the side. But what’s even more concerning is you have a rather extensive piece of legislation, and you have the minister giving a very cursory report into this legislature.

And this is one of the reasons that I think many people also have a lack of trust for this government because part of the record about legislation being introduced to the House are the second reading speeches of the minister which set out the policy and the plan and what’s to be done. What we’ve seen with this government is such skimpy information when legislation’s brought forward that we end up then having to go and dig and find all of the problems that are there.

So here we have an example today in Bill 134. Within two weeks of the legislation being introduced, the main group that’s being affected — which is being somehow glossed over that they don’t like this even though some of the department people seem to know this — comes out and says, we oppose this Bill. We don’t think it should go through this House. But we all know, Mr. Speaker, from long years in this particular legislature that when it comes to professional legislation, there need to be discussions, consultations, often compromise and discussion again and then compromise and discussion. And that may take years to do that.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health has not done his job. The other people who were involved in helping draft legislation have not done their job. And, Mr. Speaker, I think we have no other choice today other than to adjourn debate on this matter.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has adjourned debate on Bill No. 134, *The Opticians Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[12:30]

Bill No. 135

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 135 — *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to rise on Bill No. 135 which is a health Bill, *An Act to amend The Prescription Drugs Act*. And if we ever had concerns with Bill 135, *An Act to amend The Prescription Drugs Act*, if we had concerns before, we've got double the concerns today.

Just this week, we've had concerns on the floor of the legislature respecting confidentiality of patient information. If you look at the daily newspapers or listen to the television and some of the radio stations, they will be talking about a pharmacist that misused some information. That is clearly in the news. And now this Bill, part of *The Prescription Drugs Act* amendment is dealing with privacy issues, particularly as it respects to some of drugs that have codeine products in it, but it clearly would affect more than that.

We've got a situation where in question period the minister certainly didn't make it any clearer that there's a handle on how, where to proceed from here with respect to privacy issues. It is just really unclear. And yet, the privacy issue with respect to *The Prescription Drugs Act* is a significant part of this Bill and what it's all about. So again I say, if we had concerns before, we've got doubly the concerns today that we had with this.

We see in health care, Mr. Speaker, we see a kidney transplant program in Saskatoon that's been shut down under the Sask Party administration despite the fact that all the information says the same number of specialists, the same specialties that were operating the program before are in place in Saskatoon today. And despite that, we have a kidney transplant program that's shut down, and it's causing some real concerns for people.

It makes me wonder, you know, if the government has too much on its plate, if it shouldn't, perhaps instead of trying to amend a prescription drug Act as this is happening, if it wouldn't have been better off spending that effort and that time dealing with the kidney transplant program and making sure that a program that had run successfully for many years and done a lot of kidney transplants, made sure that that was able to continue.

Because clearly there's value in saving lives; that's what the Department of Health is all about. That's part of what prescriptions are all about too, is making life better for people, enhancing health, or at least minimizing the detrimental aspects that some of us, most of us face at one time or another — I'll put it that way.

Because it's of course very common . . . It's very uncommon — I'll put it this way — it's very uncommon for any person in Saskatchewan not to at some point in their life be dealing with a prescription drug. It's less common for us to deal with prescription drugs with codeine, although that's fairly common too. It's pretty darn prevalent if you've got chronic pain or those sorts of issues.

But we need to get it right. We need, if we're going to be changing a Bill here in the legislature, we need to get it right. And we're distressed because again earlier this very week we didn't get any clarification out of the Minister of Health when we asked direct questions around prescription drugs and how the pharmacists would control the privacy issues. So that's one of the things.

We're not at all confident that the consultation that is required to make sure that this gets done right has been done. We're not confident that the pharmaceutical association or pharmacists collectively or individually have been consulted. We're not at all confident that there's been a patient advocate that's been consulted. Certainly I don't know, I'm not aware of any call to the general public for opinions around this. And we want, with the track history of the Minister of Health, the Sask Party government, around prescription drugs and privacy issues, we want, Mr. Speaker, to make as sure as we can that the government gets it right. So, huge concerns.

We see a government that is bringing forward this amendment to *The Prescription Drugs Act* when they could have perhaps spent the time honouring the contract that the chiropractors had negotiated. Instead that was tore up, and that's a shame because that was a direct benefit to a great number of Saskatchewan people, tens of thousands. The number escapes me at the moment, but tens of thousands would be understating those of us that have benefitted from chiropractic manipulation over the years. And it was such a small budget item in the relative scheme of things.

But we think that the government would be better off spending the time making sure that the chiropractic negotiations had been successful and that that continued to be co-funded as opposed to perhaps getting a prescription drug Act amendment wrong. There was no, again I say, no mention earlier in the week that this Act that's before the Assembly is in any way going to change the status quo, is in any way going to make things better, is in any way going to address some of those issues. So we've just got these huge concerns, Mr. Speaker.

The Prescription Drugs Act has, according to the government, some need for repair. But this is the same government that said that they were going to fix the vacancies in rural Saskatchewan respecting doctors. And the harsh reality is that the number of vacancies in rural Saskatchewan doctor practices is up over 50 per cent since the Sask Party formed government. By their own Ministry of Health numbers, an increase in vacancies in rural Saskatchewan of doctors more than 50 per cent from when New Democrats were in government.

And you have to ask yourself, how does this work coming from a government that had all of the answers the night before the election in 2007? Well here we are, fast-forward, it's 2010 and we're going backwards. How does that work?

We need, we need to get the promises that were made delivered on. I think the people of Saskatchewan have a right to deserve that. They'd like to see those vacancies in doctors' practices throughout rural Saskatchewan reduced. We of course want more doctors everywhere. We want to see, Mr. Speaker, we want to see the wait-list for surgeries reduced instead of growing where, for example, in the Swift Current Health District the wait-list is approximately double what it was in 2007. It just belies the . . . the reality belies the promises. There's just some complete disconnect between what was promised and what the reality is. And that's no small part of why we have these concerns around the Act to amend *The Prescription Drugs Act*.

Sticking with health care, we've got a situation where, instead of bringing forward these changes that we have no confidence are accurate, are going to fix a problem, instead of bringing forward this amendment to *The Prescription Drugs Act*, we would argue that the Ministry of Health and the minister would be better advised to spend some time making sure that the majority of health care workers aren't without a contract. The majority being those members of CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees], SEIU [Service Employees International Union], and SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] — the more than 50 per cent of workers in the health care industry that are working without a contract for about a year now.

And our argument is that the ministry and the government would be far better advised to take care of the things that they led the people of Saskatchewan to believe was going to be fixed, that they had a fix for, would be better advised to be doing that than to bring forward any legislation, but particularly this legislation, when so very recently, so very recently earlier this week, in most of the major media in Saskatchewan and in this very Chamber in question period, questions are asked and the answers just generate confusion. We don't know where it's going.

So, Mr. Speaker, we've got a Bill that requires pharmacies to record the sale of non-prescription codeine products to the pharmaceutical information program, that PIP program. And that's the very program that, if you pick up the *Leader-Post*, *StarPhoenix*, and I'm sure other daily papers in the province, if you listen to any of the major radio stations, watch TV, you'll find out that there was a case that recently was before the courts where a pharmacist misused the PIP program and was able to access the file on some people that it was inappropriate for that pharmacist who accessed the file.

And yet we ask in question period about it and there's no answer. There's just no, not even . . . I didn't even hear an acknowledgement that there was a problem. I didn't hear, for example, yes this happened. It was not contemplated and, you know, we've got the ministry taking steps. They're going be bringing . . . I've asked them to bring advice and they'll bring advice for me as quick as they can on how we can block up that hole, that problem, so that it does not happen again in the future. Well we never heard that. We never heard that.

Nobody on this side would pretend that the Minister of Health personally is the one that operates the pharmaceutical information program, that he's got a master computer in his

ministerial office and that all of the information goes there. That's not what we're suggesting at all. What we do suggest is that the minister is responsible for his ministry. The ministry has a problem that was identified that in fact all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] got a report of that problem in our mail. I know I read mine and read it very carefully.

But what's missing is the public acknowledgement there was a problem, the public acknowledgement that needs to find a solution. That's totally missing. And in the absence of those things, it's difficult for us to find much joy in Bill 135, the Bill that's before us today. We need more signs from the minister, more signs from the ministry that the existing problems in health, the very real and existing problems in health, are first acknowledged, and then secondly taken seriously enough that the minister and ministry would try and find some solutions for my constituents and all of our constituents, the people of Saskatchewan. Because that's, at the end of the day, what we're here for.

[12:45]

This Bill 135 on prescription drug amendment Act brings more centralized reporting to be done, and it centralizes that reporting in the hope of preventing drug abuse. But how is that to help us when that very centralized reporting is, in no small measure, the problems that we read about in the paper respecting the pharmaceutical information program? How is it that centralized information without the proper guidelines and constraints and controls, how is it that that can help? Because none of us want unfettered access to our medical records.

It's inappropriate for my seatmate to know about my health — good, bad, and indifferent — in any way other than what I want to share with him. It is my business. And arguably my spouse's business, my family's business, but that's where it should end. And I should be confident that when I see a pharmacist, that whatever I'm seeing that pharmacist about is between that pharmacist and me.

I should be equally confident that when I go and see a doctor, it's between my doctor or the doctor I have chosen to see and myself. It is not, not a matter of public record what I might be doctoring for or what I might be consulting about or what I might be concerned with.

It's no matter whether my concern is for myself or for someone else. It's got to be confidential. And that's the principle that we've operated on in the health care system for many years now. And it's a principle, Mr. Speaker, that really, really is under fire these days. It's very much under fire and that's a shame.

Because for us to make progress as members in this great Chamber, for us to genuinely bring forward legislation that's going to benefit the people of Saskatchewan, we have to have confidence that existing identified problems are being taken seriously by the respective ministry and by the government. We lack that confidence that the Sask Party government is taking it seriously. We lack that confidence that the minister and the ministry is taking these issues as seriously as they should.

Now let me not put too fine a point on that. There's a huge number of people in the pharmaceutical industry and in the Ministry of Health that care deeply about this and are acting in good faith. But the action always has to start and come from the top, the head of the ministry. In this case that's the Minister of Health, that's the Premier, that's Executive Council. And we're just not seeing it.

We're seeing a ministry that had lots of promise. We see a ministry that is run at a time of unprecedented economic growth in Saskatchewan. We see a Ministry of Health that when the government collectively inherited roughly \$2 billion surplus at the time of the last election in November of 2007 and we see that having turned into a deficit. But we see a \$3 billion turnaround, is the best way I can describe it, Mr. Speaker, in short terms. We see a \$3 billion turnaround and we see all of the . . . so many of the indicators of Health going in the wrong direction. And we have to ask ourselves how does this, how's this possibly work?

It's just doesn't make sense that we would have higher waiting lists today than in 2007, almost double the wait list in the Swift Current health region than it was in 2007. That's almost double in the Premier's own, in his own health district. And this from a Premier and a Sask Party government that had all of the answers the day before the last provincial election.

So we see failure. We see problems in health care. We see for example the . . . right after the budget was delivered not two weeks ago we see the Minister of Finance speculating about the need for a user fee or a deterrent fee. Call it what you want. It's a health tax on people who are sick and it's a very big tax on people who don't have the money. And I say this in all seriousness because, without putting too fine a point on it, I've been there.

Without putting too fine a point on it, I recall a personal situation where a deterrent fee would have prevented one of my family members — one of my children — from receiving medical care. And it would have. It would have. I know it's hard to believe that a parent could be that callous. I'd be happy to explain the situation to anyone that wants to ask without giving any of the medical details, but it was a situation that involved three doctors in as many days. And if there'd been a deterrent fee in those days, we'd have found \$10 for the first one; we probably would've found \$10 for the second one, but after the second time I don't think we could've. We'd have been forced to trust that not one but two doctors were right, and the first two doctors were not right. It would have been very, very, very serious. The cost would have been horrendous.

So we've got health care where everything's going . . . not everything, but where the leading indicators are going backwards. We've got a kidney transplant program that's not being in operation. It's not being funded. It's not, despite the fact that there is all of the appropriate specialists in place. All of the staffing is in place. If you listen to the Sask Party government, the RNs [registered nurse] are increasing in number. So it seems to me that with that, and an increase in the Ministry of Health's budget, we should be seeing a better kidney transplant program, not an axed kidney transplant program.

We should be seeing that the chiropractic association is funded, and that would help a significant number of people in Saskatchewan. We should see that the doctor vacancies in rural Saskatchewan, that have increased more than 50 per cent under the Sask Party watch, more than 50 per cent, we should see that having decreased, Mr. Speaker, not increased by 50 per cent in two and a half years. We should see wait lists for surgeries clearly going down. We shouldn't see, in the Swift Current health region, wait lists virtually double what it was in 2007.

We should see the majority of health care workers, those members of SGEU and SEIU and CUPE that have been operating for now close to a year without a contract, we should see them having their reasonable offer and a contract in the way. We should see a government focusing on the very real problems in health care. That's what the people of Saskatchewan elected the government to do. That's what they were promised to do and that's what they should do.

And the other thing — and I'm not going to go long in this — but the other thing tying it directly to *The Prescription Drugs Act* is that the Privacy Commissioner should be acknowledged, should be listened to very seriously, and the Privacy Commissioner's concerns respecting the pharmaceutical information program, or PIP, should be addressed in an appropriate manner that would deal with the privacy issues.

We should see people of Saskatchewan that can present themselves to a pharmacist or a doctor or a hospital and not expect that six weeks later they're going to get a beg letter requesting a donation to the health foundation fund. And the health foundations are great organizations, but they shouldn't ought to get your name just because you've accessed the health care system, Mr. Speaker.

At one point, at one point that was the situation before, before there was legislation passed respecting the privacy of information and respecting the privacy of health information. And I remember because I was in the caucus when we changed that Act. At one time, what is being contemplated was done because that was normal. You'd go to the hospital and you could reasonably expect that before too many weeks went by, you'd get a letter asking you to make a donation so that the health facilities could be improved.

But we recognized when the legislation was introduced that it was inappropriate to continue doing that. We had a discussion about it, and the discussion was fairly short. Why did we agree to follow the legislation? It was the right thing to do. It was our legislation, and it was the proper thing to do. And in no way did it detract from my ability as an individual or anyone else's ability as an individual to make a donation to a foundation, a health foundation or a hospital or a facility. It did not detract from that one little bit.

So, Mr. Speaker, we've got a pharmaceutical Bill. We're being asked, we're being asked to support *An Act to amend The Prescription Drug Act* when there's all these other very real problems in the health care system. All of these problems are there. All of these problems are crying out to be addressed. Most of these problems the Sask Party claimed they had the solution to before the election in 2007. Most of them they had the answer to, and it was just a slam dunk.

Just get those darn New Democrats out of the way and Sask Party would fix it all. That was the promise. That's what the hope was. That's I think in no small measure why the Sask Party was elected in 2007, Mr. Speaker. I do believe that. But the reality just is something diametrically opposed to what those promises were.

We've got, Mr. Speaker, a situation where the government had more than \$2 billion surplus, turned it into . . . There's been a \$3 billion turnaround. We've had a situation where there's all kinds of opportunity to deal with privacy issues — that's relatively a non-monetary thing — but all kinds of opportunity to deal with the privacy issues. But what did the government do instead of that? Instead of that, they were too busy finding ways to get rid of the \$2 billion surplus and more. They were too busy trying to heap blame on the former government for all of the errors, and it's something that they continue to do to this day.

And I'm not for a second trying to pretend that the New Democrat government was perfect. You don't get perfection in politics or in any operation. But I want to tell you that I was always proud that we tried to be as straightforward as we could with the people of Saskatchewan. We ran a kidney transplant program, and we ran it successfully for a great number of years. And there's a lot of people alive and relatively well today as a result of that.

We funded the chiropractors and co-funded chiropractors for many, many, many years. We discussed it in 1992 in the peak of our financial problems; we discussed whether we could afford to continue it. And the answer was, we couldn't afford not to because for every dollar you spend on chiropractors, you're saving \$3 or more in other places.

We worked on doctor recruitment and with a fair degree of success. The reason I say, with a fair degree of success, Mr. Speaker, is you look at doctor vacancies in rural Saskatchewan today, up over 50 per cent by the Ministry of Health's own numbers. Vacancies in rural Saskatchewan, up over 50 per cent under the Sask Party government, more than 50 . . . under them, they who had all of the answers, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me New Democrats maybe weren't as terrible as they were told by Sask Party members that we are.

Mr. Speaker, wait-lists up nearly double in the Premier's own health region from when they formed government. This is the reality of health care. This is a reality of Saskatchewan today. We have a \$2 billion surplus when the Sask Party formed government, turned into close to a \$1 billion deficit today. A \$2 billion promise of revenue in potash last year that turned into . . . The last thing they did is wrote a \$300 million cheque to the potash industry . . .

The Speaker: — Being the hour of adjournment, this Assembly is adjourned until Monday afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:00.]

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