



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

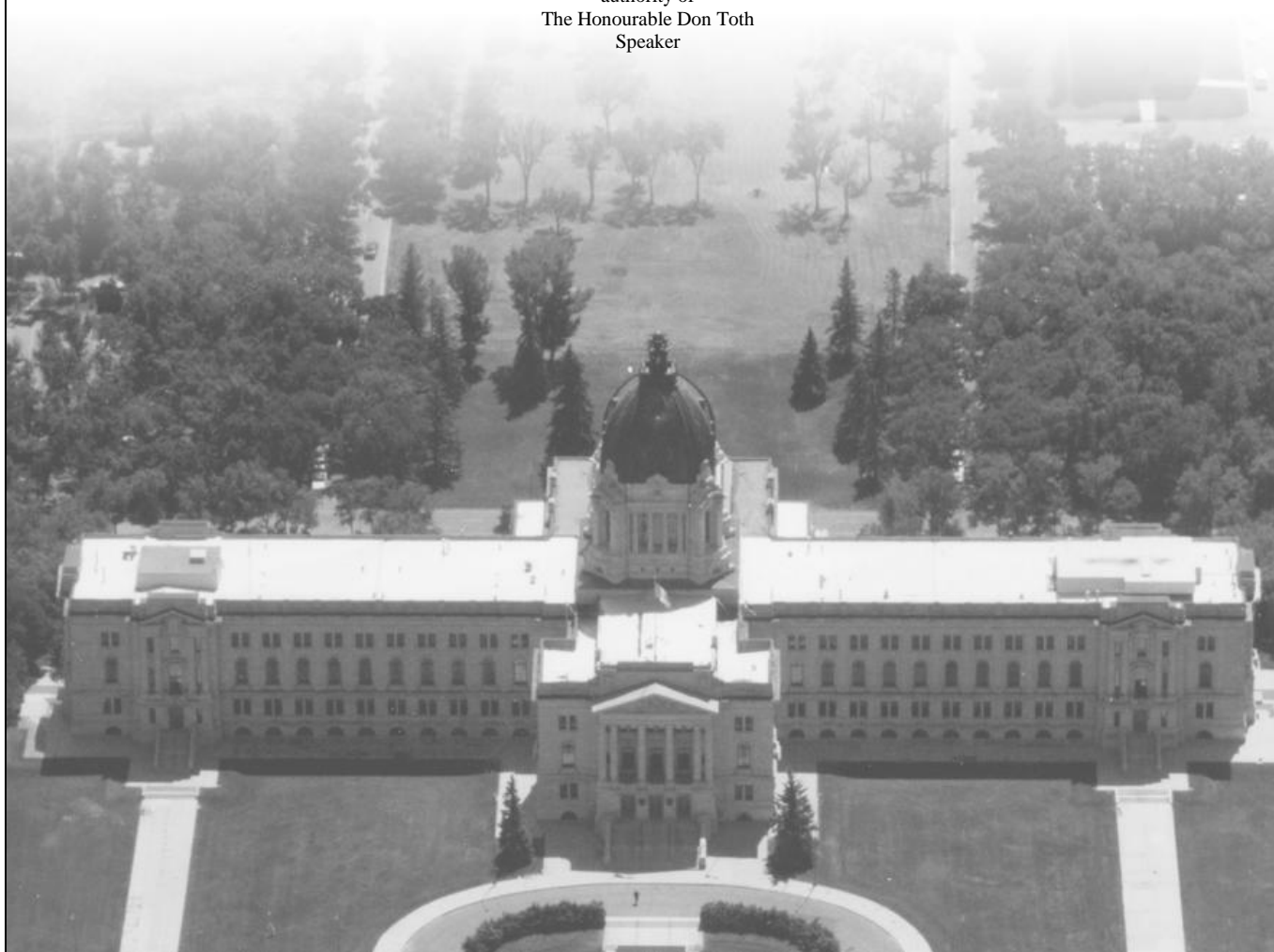
of the

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
Broten, 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
Gantefer, 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	Ind.	Saskatoon Northwest
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

Clerk: — I wish to inform members that Mr. Speaker will not be present today to open today's sitting.

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a family — and more family is coming in as we go, Mr. Speaker — a representative of the families that we honoured today earlier in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, we honoured the Johnstone family of Martensville, the Kooger and Poirier families of Regina, and the Reimche family of Saskatoon. And I see the Reimches and the Koogers have joined us here in the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, families for some time in our province and across the country have been working towards the adoption of children from Haiti and frankly of other places around the world. And then of course the 12th of January happened. The massive earthquake in Port-au-Prince, that literally shook that entire nation, occurred and in many cases expedited the process, but also caused much concern and worry on the parts of family members for whom matches had been made and the process was under way.

And, Mr. Speaker, we had a chance today to honour those parents who have exhibited as close we can get to perfect love on this side of heaven by opening their families and their hearts to kids. And, Mr. Speaker, we also had the chance to recognize the federal government for their expeditious treatment of the adoption of children from Haiti, as well as officials from Social Services and the Government of Saskatchewan and the immigration branch of the Government of Saskatchewan — not the politicians, Mr. Speaker, but the officials who did an amazing job working with families to expedite the process.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we were able to honour a number of families and kids today, but I want to say that we are joined by, in terms of adoptees, we're joined by Gregory and Jackie Reimche, if they would give us a wave. The parents . . . They have adopted Mackenson and Wilson. They are 10 months, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and obviously at 10 months they're not prepared to wave just yet, but they might make some other sound that we would know that they were here. Also joining them is niece Grace, and she's just one year old. And there she is. She's being held up by her mom, Mr. Speaker.

Also joining us today are the Koogers. And we want to acknowledge Lovensky, who is 16 years old — his last name is Horace — and his sister Jennifer who's 15 years old. They've both joined us as well today.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if all members of the Assembly would help me to thank these parents, help thank the officials that

made these adoptions possible in a timely way. Most importantly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wonder if members of the Assembly will help me welcome these newest Saskatchewan citizens, these newest members of the Rider nation to their Legislative Assembly today. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my pleasure to join with the Premier today to welcome the families here who have adopted children and the great job they're doing.

And also to mention that, as the Premier mentioned, when the devastating earthquake occurred in Haiti, the tens of thousands, millions of Canadians who came forward and were involved. Some special people who adopted, but the many millions, tens of millions who donated money to that worthwhile cause. To our Governor General with the special ties to Haiti and for her involvement. I would want to join with the Premier and say how pleased we are to join with him in welcoming these families here today who represent many, many others from across the province. Welcome and I hope you enjoy your stay with us.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Greystone.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, sir. I'd like to, to you and through you, Mr. Speaker, introduce to all members of the Assembly 41 grade 7 students from the Greystone Heights School along with their teachers, Ms. Lisa Kalesnikoff, Ms. Deanna Fast as well as chaperones Mr. Doug Maurer, Mr. Tony Mak, and Ms. June Morgan. I'll be meeting with the students, the teachers, and the chaperones later on after question period, Mr. Speaker, but I'm wondering if all members of this Assembly would welcome these fine students to their Assembly. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce an important group seated in your gallery. In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is a group of the southeast Indian community from Saskatoon, a delegation from Saskatoon who came to the legislature today to observe the proceedings, a good number in the group. I would like to highlight Naveed Anwar, one individual — Naveed, if you could give a wave — who does a great amount of work in leadership within his own community in Saskatoon.

Having lunch with the individuals, they shared to me that some of them have been to legislative assemblies in other jurisdictions. But for most of them, this is their first trip to the Saskatchewan legislature, so I would ask all members to give them a warm welcome. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Southeast.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Greystone in welcoming the class from Greystone School. In that class and with that group are two people that have got some special relationship to me. One is my niece, Sarah Hogarth, who asked me today to introduce her as my favourite niece. I in fact have five nieces so I'm not able to do that. But I can say, Mr. Speaker, that she is my youngest niece and lives the closest to me.

Also in the back row is my favourite sister, June, my only sister. Thank you. And I'd ask that all members welcome them.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Speaker's gallery today, we have Stacey Simms — give a wave, Stacey — and her husband, Philip, I think. No? Yes. And her parents.

And we also have members of the families of Justin and Cheryl St. Louis who have come today to talk about kidney dialysis.

And interestingly enough, Stacey just . . . You might have seen her just come into the gallery. She just finished doing her dialysis in our offices so she could come and watch the proceedings today. So welcome to you all to the legislature.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the member opposite and welcome the people here, probably who are going to be listening to some questions around kidney transplant. I'd like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly, and thank you for being here.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the safety and conditions of their highway. This particular petition applies to Highway 123, which is the only highway to Cumberland House. It's the only highway in, and obviously, Mr. Speaker, the only highway out. And this petition goes on to state that this highway has so many potholes it requires considerable manoeuvring just so you don't get stuck in the mud. And, Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And this petition, Mr. Speaker, is signed by the good folks from Cumberland House. I so submit.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member

from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of the protection of wildlife habitat lands. And, Mr. Speaker, we're all aware that *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* protects 3.4 million acres of uplands and wetlands or one-third of all wildlife habitat lands in the province in its natural state; and that there is concern with the government repealing this schedule, listing these designated lands within the Act. Now, Mr. Speaker, the prayer on the petition reads:

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 and without delay recognize the importance of the protection of wildlife habitat lands and immediately withdraw proposed amendments that will negatively affect the protection of wildlife habitat lands;

And in so doing cause the provincial government to commit to meaningful and adequate consultation with all stakeholders that will be affected by future legislative changes to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I so present on behalf of citizens of Elbow, Hanley, and Outlook. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for protection for renters from unreasonable rent increases. And we know that many renters in Saskatchewan are facing a dangerous combination of rising rents and low vacancy rates in many communities, and in fact many have seen rent increases of \$100, hundreds of dollars monthly. And this is hurting even smaller communities. And we know a majority of Canadians, now 80 per cent, live in provinces with protection, with rent controls. 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: we would cause the government to consider enacting some form of rent control with a view to protecting Saskatchewan renters from unreasonable increases in rent.

And I do so present on behalf of citizens signed here in Regina. Thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of Highway 135 with concerns of the people of Pelican Narrows. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause

the government to pave the 7 kilometres of Highway 135 through the community of Pelican Narrows as committed on August 27th, 2007.

The petition is signed by the good people of Pelican Narrows. I so present.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition signed by individuals in the province concerned about the issue of tuition. And I 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 commit to addressing the burden placed by high post-secondary tuition fees on Saskatchewan students.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of the expansion of the graduate retention program. The petition is being circulated because the Saskatchewan Party government specifically amended the retention program to exclude master's and Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] graduates in addition to 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 Prince Albert. I so present.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition with respect to yet another issue regarding safe and affordable water in Saskatchewan, in rural Saskatchewan. And these citizens have been ordered to upgrade their water system, with no assistance from the provincial government, amounting in monthly bills of upwards of \$165 a month. And this has been going on for over a year, Mr. Speaker. The petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety due

to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfills its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we all know that the members of the building trade unions have a proud craft history in our province and that the existing construction industry labour relations Act has been working just fine. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's also no secret that the existing building trades contracts support an apprenticeship system which provides training and a highly skilled workforce. And the petition 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.

These petitions are signed by residents of Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Swift Current. I so present.

[13:45]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise to present a petition in support of maintaining quality health care services. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners note that the Government of Saskatchewan must recognize the value of all health care providers by having a commitment to adequate funding and the installation of good faith in provincial collective bargaining process. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

That the honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to negotiating a fair and just collective bargaining agreement with health care workers in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of Lloydminster, of Marshall, and of Waseca, Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Meewasin.

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

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

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

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise 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 tabled by this government, and they reference the two years of billions of dollars of debt growth under the Sask Party, contrary to the billboards that pretend something else, Mr. Speaker. 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, signed by concerned residents as it relates to financial mismanagement, are from Pilot Butte and Regina. I so submit.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased again to rise today to present a petition in support of the Saskatchewan film and television industry. This petition is signed by residents concerned that this government does not understand how film and TV producers build their financing for their projects and the critical role SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] plays in this process. 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 the Saskatchewan Communications Network, and to work with the industry to reverse the decline in film production.

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

This petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

La Ronge Ice Wolves Win Credit Union Cup

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the La Ronge Ice Wolves on winning their first Credit Union SJHL [Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League] Cup last week against the Yorkton Terriers.

The Ice Wolves skated to a victory with an overtime 3-2 win in Yorkton. The Wolves took a 2-nothing lead thanks to the goal-scoring ability of Liam Brennan. The hometown Terriers fought back and managed to bring themselves within one goal, as former Wolf, Adam Moar, beat Joel Danyluk and scored. Then with only 38 seconds left, Yorkton tied the game to send it to two overtime periods. But never giving up, the Wolves came out in the fourth period with a renewed energy.

Brennan pulled through, scoring the game-winning hat trick goal. Congratulations to captain Dustin Stevenson who was named playoff MVP [most valuable player] and now has signed a contract with the Washington Capitals. I'm sure he'll make us all proud in the NHL [National Hockey League] and will have a long, successful career ahead of him.

Special congratulations must also go to the head coach and general manager, Bob Beatty, along with his team of highly qualified coaching staff. And we must not forget to thank Brandi Bell, director of marketing and promotions, for all of her hard work. A big thank you to all the volunteers. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the La Ronge Ice Wolves on becoming SJHL Credit Union Cup champions for 2010.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Haitian Children Welcomed

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Premier officially welcomed children from Haiti who were recently adopted by Saskatchewan families in the wake of a devastating earthquake, to their new home and province. At a special event at the provincial legislature today, the Premier thanked these adoptive families: the Johnstone family from Martensville, the Kooger family from Regina, the Poiriers from Regina, and the Reimche family from Saskatoon. The love and generosity that they have displayed by opening their hearts and homes to children from another part of the world is extraordinary. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it took a lot of hard work on the part of many people to make these adoptions possible. Charles Kooger of Regina said:

We're truly grateful for the stellar assistance of Social Services staff in Saskatchewan. We were able to call our caseworker night or day to find out where things were at as we anxiously waited for our children to arrive. My wife

and I are delighted that the people who helped so much with bringing our children home are able to meet them today and visit with the entire family.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I along with all of my colleagues wish to welcome all the newest residents from Haiti and wish them and their families all the best in the future. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Newcomers Contribute to Community

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, our provincial motto “from many peoples, strength” is a true reminder of what makes Saskatchewan such a strong and vibrant place. For generations, people from around the world have come to Saskatchewan to begin a new life with the hope of a brighter future. And thankfully, Mr. Speaker, just as my great-grandparents were successful in establishing roots here in Saskatchewan, more recent immigrants have been choosing Saskatchewan as their new home.

Although the migration of people and the desire for a better life is the same across generations, the countries from which people arrive have changed. Among the groups with an increased presence in Saskatchewan are members of the Muslim faith. In my home city of Saskatoon alone, it is estimated that 5 to 6,000 Muslims currently reside.

While some members of this faith community are born and raised in Saskatchewan, many others have come over the past number of years from a wide variety of countries. These newcomers to Saskatchewan are contributing greatly to the social, economic, and cultural landscape. Through hard work, a commitment to family, and a dedication to their faith, members of the Muslim community are ensuring their role in our province will be a long-lasting one.

But sadly, Mr. Speaker, many of these new arrivals are also learning that their future is in jeopardy due to the Sask Party’s reckless mismanagement of our province’s finances. An increased burden of debt and hurtful cuts to social programs are but some of the ways new immigrants are being asked to pay the price for the Sask Party government’s failure to be good managers.

I ask all members to join me in thanking new immigrants to our province for their contribution in making Saskatchewan an even better place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Regina Qu’Appelle Valley.

Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I had the pleasure of speaking at the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspaper Association annual convention over the weekend. In a day and age where newspaper readership is slowly being eroded by online and alternative media, weekly newspapers continue to thrive.

The common misconception is that the weeklies are about bake sales and bonspiels. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. These publications provide the readers primarily with the news that matters most to them — local news. Their opinion pages focus on local happenings. They take matters of provincial and national importance and inform readers how these events impact their lives.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our government recognizes the vital role that weeklies play in Saskatchewan. They are a key component of our cultural and social fabric. The publishers of these papers reflect the Saskatchewan spirit. They are hard-working and down to earth.

They provide young journalists with the all-important first gig. Through experiencing first-hand the impact of the work they do at a very personal level, these young men and women learn valuable lessons about ethics and responsibility. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Pay Equity

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. April 20th marks Equal Pay Day in Canada and this date symbolizes how far into 2010 women must work to earn what men earned in the 2009 calendar year.

According to Statistics Canada, the annual gross income for women in Saskatchewan is only two-thirds that of men, and Aboriginal women make a further 30 per cent less than the provincial average for non-Aboriginal women. According to a study done by the chartered accountants in Saskatchewan, there is a quote that, “Saskatchewan [has] made large improvements in pay equity, going from one of the worst wage parity environments in 1999 to the most equitable in 2005 . . .” And that was under an NDP [New Democratic Party] government, Mr. Speaker. Yet in 2008 under the Saskatchewan Party, Saskatchewan had the second worst wage gap in the country.

The government should lead by example in the fight to achieve pay equity by working to elect women to public office, appointing women to leadership positions, and putting their money where their mouth is, funding programs that work towards achieving pay equity such as the Status of Women office. Yet all we’ve seen from this Sask Party government is a complete disregard for women’s rights and insulting wage offers to health care workers, 80 per cent of whom are women. And figures provided by the government show that women working for the Saskatchewan Party are paid just 53 per cent of the median salary earned by men working for the same group. Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — Order. I recognize the member for Yorkton.

Encouragement for Bone Marrow Donations

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We all

know that donating blood saves lives but so often we don't seem to find the time until someone near to us needs that gift of life, and we see the huge need and decide to do something about it. My own family was much like that but now, along with so many others, we try to donate regularly, Mr. Speaker, whether it's organ donation or — recently coming to my attention — being tested for the bone marrow registry which places you in the OneMatch worldwide registry.

This was an initiative a group in Yorkton in support of Yorkton Terrier and local resident, 19-year-old Luke Boechler who is currently battling leukemia, took on. Luke is in need of a bone marrow transplant and in an effort to support Luke, search for a match, and bring awareness to the need, the group set up a registration day at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton. An astonishing 329 people came out to register.

Mr. Speaker, admittedly, live organ donation can make many fearful, but the gift of one's blood is almost of no risk and the minor discomfort and time needed to donate bone marrow is well worth the small sacrifice for that gift of life. I would encourage anyone with an interest or wanting more information to please contact Canadian Blood Services. My family has witnessed first-hand the supportive nature of my home of Yorkton and area, but I'm always encouraged to see the heart of Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, Luke is a true hero with the attitude to prove it. And in his own words in regard to his disease, "You will not win because I will not lose." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

The Government and the North

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Time and time again we have seen how this government leaves northern Saskatchewan behind. All across northern Saskatchewan roads are in desperate need of repair, and because of these dangerous conditions people are placed in life or death situations. And yet the Saskatchewan Party continues to neglect the repairs and upgrades that are desperately needed.

The Saskatchewan Party government has failed to address the affordable housing shortage in the North. While hundreds of people wait for a safe and affordable place to live, this government has offered nothing but empty, empty rhetoric and cheerleading.

The Sask Party government has also ignored the health care needs of northerners. Despite the growing number of youth suicides, they have not improved mental health and addiction services. They continue to ignore and disrespect the health care situations for people in northern Saskatchewan.

At a time when the government is stripping millions of dollars out of our Crowns, the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing admitted yesterday that his government is putting thousands of people at risk because many areas of the province, including the North, do not have adequate cellphone coverage. Mr. Speaker, in an emergency situation the Sask Party can offer no guarantees that Saskatchewan people, especially those in the

North, will be able to call 911.

Mr. Speaker, in a desperate attempt to balance a budget and cover up their own incompetence, it's time for this government to stop leaving northerners behind. Thank you.

[14:00]

QUESTION PERIOD

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Status of Member

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Can he provide the date, time, and circumstances under which he first became aware of allegations that his legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing was using cocaine?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, let's be very clear here. There is an allegation, or it is alleged in material, that that was the case in respect of that independent member. So let's be very, very careful about the words that we use in this Assembly, where members have the protection that isn't afforded them in terms of immunity outside this Assembly.

On Friday last, shortly after lunchtime I believe, was around the time that I first heard of this information being presented by members of the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] to senior officials in my office. I was informed of the material. I contacted that afternoon the Attorney General for counsel in terms of the appropriate actions moving forward.

And then, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the record will show, the member in question, now the independent member for Northwest, voluntarily resigned a position of caucus. And subsequently the government has turned over all of the information per the counsel of the Ministry of Justice.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the CBC reported yesterday that after verifying facts within the package of information it received, it brought the entire 13 minutes of audio to a senior government official, "somebody who is a right-hand man to the Premier."

To the Premier: who informed the Premier of the allegations that his legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing was using cocaine, and when and where did he first hear the full audio?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The individual in question is my senior advisor, Reg Downs, who was provided this material from CBC reporters, both radio and television, on Friday and subsequent to that, on that same day at his earliest opportunity, contacted me, provided me with all of

the information. And the government has taken the action it has taken.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, the right steps have been taken in this respect because counsel was solicited from the Attorney General. As well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, counsel was solicited from my deputy minister, a former deputy minister of Justice under the previous administration, and an able one I would say, obviously, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And then subsequently to that, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Justice provided subsequent council to Mr. Downs and all of the material was turned over to the Regina Police Service for their further investigation. That is where the matter stands today.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, *The StarPhoenix* and the *Leader-Post* are reporting today that the Premier and his legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing had decided before Friday that he would not run again:

But he said he had made the decision not to run again in the 2011 election in consultation with Wall before Friday's bombshell news, despite being renominated by the Saskatchewan Party in Saskatoon Northwest only on March 25.

On March 30th, the Premier signed the individual's nomination papers. Those nomination papers were sent to the Chief Electoral Officer on April the 6th. To the Premier: what information did the Premier learn between April 6th and last Friday that caused him to talk to the legislative secretary about not running again?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I would remind the Opposition House Leader that according to rule 19(2), that questions of a topic related to a political party is not appropriate for usage in this House. I will allow the Premier or any other member of Executive Council to answer it if they so wish.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm happy to answer the question because no conversation took place. In fact, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the decision of the hon. member to run or not run, no direct conversation took place between he and I until after the events were disclosed this weekend in a subsequent telephone conversation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which I didn't believe it was my duty or right, frankly, to release to the media. That is the responsibility of the member in question, especially given the obvious stress that that member would have been under.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, up to Friday and even today without any formal notice, except for the fact that we've suspended the nomination, as far as I had been informed directly by the member, he was the nominated candidate for the Saskatchewan Party in Saskatoon Northwest. And there was some talk, I know. He had discussed with some members about running again as short as weeks ago, with other officials about not running again. But the final decision, the resolve is represented in this nomination paper which I did sign and turned over to the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier signed his legislative secretary's nomination papers on March 25th and then sent them to the Chief Electoral Officer on April the 6th. Now apparently there were discussions between the Premier and his legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing sometime between April 6th and last Friday when the alleged cocaine affair became public. According to the Premier's legislative secretary, the discussions he had with the Premier were about not running in the next election, despite having been recently nominated.

To the Premier: what changed between April 6th and last Friday? Was he aware of any information that changed the standing of this legislative secretary? And was he trying to keep the truth from the people of Saskatchewan?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the answer is no, to the question, to the premise of the question which is did a conversation take place between the member and myself in the time period that member has referenced as to his intention to run again. The answer is no. No such conversation took place, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The first I heard unequivocally from the member about his interest in not seeking re-election for Northwest was Sunday evening, Sunday last. So let's be very, very clear about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Let's also be clear that the nomination paper was signed by myself, submitted to the Electoral office.

And while there was some discussion by Mr. LeClerc — by the member for Northwest, excuse me — about his interest in either pursuing or not pursuing his career, and he expressed different things to different members, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the only information, the resolve I had until Sunday was that he was the nominated candidate for the Saskatchewan Party.

The conversation that that member is alleging, never happened, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The answer is no.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Premier's scrum yesterday, he did not tell the media or the people of Saskatchewan that he had any discussions with the legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing in advance of his scrum yesterday. He just admitted those conversations occurred on Sunday. In fact all the Premier said yesterday was, "I would expect it is reasonable to expect that Mr. LeClerc's nomination would be suspended." He just admitted he had conversations on Sunday.

To the Premier: if it was decided well before Monday that his legislative secretary would not run again, why did he mislead the media and the people of Saskatchewan yesterday? And if he knew about the potential cocaine affair before Friday, why did he wait to act?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the first I heard of the alleged information with respect to potential cocaine use was Friday last, and no such conversation existed prior to the events, Mr. Deputy Speaker. No such conversation took place.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Police Investigation

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, with regard to the suspicious missing laptop, the Premier said this yesterday, “The answer to this question is that the laptop . . . is said to have been lost by the member in question.” The Premier said the laptop was lost.

Well today we learn that the Premier’s legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing is saying he knows where the laptop is. The laptop is in Ontario.

To the Premier: will he admit that he misinformed the House and the people of Saskatchewan on this point yesterday?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this matter is now before the Regina Police Service. I don’t think it’s productive for us to get into minutia of whatever statements took place on whatever date. We should, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we should do what the Regina Police Service intends to do. We should give them their co-operation, their support. That is the role of the police, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We should allow that process to take place.

It is not productive to be in here doing what the members opposite are doing, Mr. Speaker. What they’re engaging in is pure politics. And, Mr. Speaker, my suggestion to all of them is that we allow the police service to continue to do their work and give them our full and complete co-operation. If the members opposite have information in their possession, however they got it, I would urge them to forward that information to the Regina Police Service as well.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the truth is not minutia. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the reason that the Premier said the laptop was lost yesterday is because that this is a story he wants to have out. Perhaps this is what he and his legislative secretary talked about when it became clear that these allegations were going to be made public. At first, the legislative secretary followed that story. He said he no longer had the laptop and that the hard drive could not be checked. But yesterday, the legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing went off message and presumably told the truth, that the laptop is in Ontario.

To the Premier: now that the story has been shown to be false, will the police investigation include tracking down and testing

the member’s laptop for any evidence related to these serious allegations?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the matter is with the Regina Police Service. The Regina Police Service have the information that’s there. If the members wish to ask the Regina Police Service to investigate something else or they have some additional information, that’s the proper place to take it.

Mr. Speaker, what the members opposite are doing is engaging in speculation and trying to jump to conclusions. The investigation properly belongs with the Regina Police Service. If the members opposite want to raise something with them or they feel they have some information that would be helpful to the Regina Police Service, they should go there and give that information to them.

To engage in speculation is not productive, not helpful. And we would like to urge the members opposite to co-operate fully with the Regina Police Service, and if they have any other information in their possession, however they got it, they should turn that information over as well, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, with the Premier saying one thing and his legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing saying another, it’s difficult to determine what is the truth here. What is obvious, however, is that the legislative secretary’s laptop could contain evidence central to serious allegations.

To the Premier: what steps has he or his Minister of Justice taken to ensure that this piece of evidence will be turned over to the proper authorities without it being destroyed or tampered with by this legislative secretary in the meantime?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, for the record, the individual, the member for Saskatoon Northwest, is no longer a legislative secretary, does not have that role at the present time. The member for Saskatoon Northwest has turned the matter over to the Regina Police Service. The Regina Police Service I’m sure — and I have full confidence in them — will investigate all aspects of the matter.

If the members opposite want something else investigated, or if they have further information, it’s within their purview to pass that information along. Mr. Speaker, once again I restate: the matter is with the Regina Police Service. Co-operation should be given to them and, Mr. Speaker, it would be inappropriate for the members opposite to do anything else other than give their full co-operation to the Regina Police Service.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Massey Place.

Applications for Immigration

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this minister really thinks that immigration is a priority, he should back up his words with action. This minister could have increased staffing levels to address the wait times in the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program but instead, in this government's desperate attempt to cover their financial mismanagement, they axed nearly \$200,000 from the immigration budget including \$113,000 from salaries. To the minister: why is it fair that Saskatchewan families who want to sponsor relatives from overseas have to pay the price for the Sask Party's mismanagement?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Immigration.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and for the opportunity to provide an update to the people of this province regarding immigration. Between 2001 and 2006 just 8,000 people came to Saskatchewan from other countries. Mr. Speaker, just 8,000. At the same time Manitoba brought in about 30,000. What we've seen, Mr. Speaker, is we'll be moving on about 10,000 newcomers into the province of Saskatchewan this very year alone, Mr. Speaker.

The legacy, the legacy of the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, does not focus on people coming in. It's a legacy of 35,000 people leaving, leaving the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We've seen the province of Saskatchewan grow by 30,000 people since the last election. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we stand on our record. We're building more diverse, dynamic, and cosmopolitan communities, while the others saw the reduction of Saskatchewan's population, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I think I struck a nerve over there. The member opposite is quite excited. But this is a serious issue. Mr. Speaker, applicants to the family members class of the immigrant nominee program are waiting nearly a full year for their applications to be processed here in Saskatchewan. And in some cases, those in the backlog have been waiting even longer.

To the minister: why is the Sask Party forcing Saskatchewan families, some of whom are in the gallery today, to wait more than a year before their highly educated family members can receive the green light from the Saskatchewan government?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to report that in fact since the '07-08 year as we came into office, Mr. Speaker, we've been able to reduce — regarding the family class category — by two months the wait times. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's important to say there's obviously more work to do here. The average overall is about between five and six months. The

family class category is taking a little longer, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Is there more work to do? Yes, there is. But our track record is rock solid. More people are moving to Saskatchewan. In fact more people living in Saskatchewan than ever before, Mr. Speaker. It really speaks that the rebranding of Saskatchewan that our Premier and this government has undertaken, that is, Saskatchewan is a land of opportunity, which stands in stark contrast to the Saskatchewan that the members opposite ruled over.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — Just before we proceed with question period, I'd like to remind members that the decibel level is getting fairly high and we have guests who are here to hear the answer. They've heard the question; I'm sure they'd like to hear the answer. Next question, member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it appears the minister missed the memo from the Premier that he was not to use the phrase 'stark contrast.' Because the last time the Premier used "stark contrast," it so clearly illustrated their complete inability to have any understanding of the provincial finances. Mr. Speaker, the typical Sask Party math, they spin and talk about numbers but their actions don't add up. The story does not hold water.

Mr. Speaker, members of Saskatchewan's immigrant community are here today. Some of these people have family members who want to come to Saskatchewan. They have applied to the family members category of the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program. Despite satisfying all of the eligibility criteria, the Sask Party has rejected applications, denying families the chance to be reunited. But since there is no appeal process, these people have no avenue to hold this government to account. Mr. Speaker, since there is no appeal mechanism, what are families who are wrongly rejected by the immigrant nominee program supposed to do?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, obviously I'm open to meeting with any number of stakeholders or ensuring that our officials do. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in fact what we've just done is rolled forward with a new portal so that we are the first province in the country, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the first province to ensure that online applications are available. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the first province to move forward as well as an online tracking system so that individuals can ensure that they can track their status within the system.

We're taking a leadership role. Our goal is to have the best immigration system within the country, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There's sure a long way to go, but we're making important strides, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Kidney Transplants

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Stacey Simms

is in the gallery today. Stacey is a 28-year-old woman from Moose Jaw needing a kidney transplant. She has a donor, but she doesn't have a surgery date. Today at the legislature Stacey came to tell her story, dramatically demonstrating the dialysis that she goes through every day while she waits for a transplant.

Last week the minister said he didn't show enough compassion to the Poochay family and he was sorry. Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the minister find his compassion this week and immediately reinstate the kidney transplant program so Stacey Simms and Dion Poochay and others like them can get the transplants they so desperately need?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I, and I think probably most people of this Assembly, enjoy good health. I think sometimes we take far too granted how important good health is until we find challenges in our lives that takes that away, Mr. Speaker. And then we will look for every opportunity to get back to good health.

Mr. Speaker, people around the province face many challenges. The people in the gallery today, as was mentioned, have some issues with kidney transplant, Mr. Speaker. Our government and our sincere thoughts go out to that family. We want to make sure that all families in the province, if they are suffering from poor health, have the care that they so deserve within the province, Mr. Speaker. If that care is not available within the province, we'll work very hard to make sure that care is acquired outside the province, Mr. Speaker. That is the case with the kidney transplant program.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The biggest challenge the people in Saskatchewan have today and the biggest issue they have is this government and their inability to do . . . [inaudible] . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, today Justin St. Louis and his wife Cheryl talked about the life-changing morning in July 2009 when he received the call telling him he would get his transplant. They spoke of how their lives have changed, how Justin can now hold down a job, swim, play basketball. And they're even planning a family.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Stacey Simms and her husband Philip want that life-changing phone call. They want to move on with their lives and even have a family. Every day the program is closed is five more times Stacey has to do home dialysis to stay alive. It is one more day her life is on hold. Mr. Deputy Speaker, why is the minister putting the life of Stacey Simms on hold? Why is he making Stacey and the other 105 people needing kidney transplants wait?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that any member on this side of the House wants to see that care given as timely as possible. We are working really on two fronts in this issue. We are working on a long-term solution to the kidney

transplant program in Saskatoon that has been postponed, that has been cancelled for the last number of months. We are working for a long-term solution that will see it function well into the future and not reliant on one issue if a vascular surgeon is sick.

But in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we are working with Edmonton to try and increase their capacity. But, Mr. Speaker, more than that, I've instructed the Ministry of Health not only to look across into Alberta, but across Canada to see where we can find capacity so that our citizens will receive care. In fact if it's out of the country, Mr. Speaker, we'd entertain that thought too, Mr. Speaker. We want to ensure that our citizens receive the timely care that they receive. Mr. Speaker, we've just heard that one more patient will be accepted into Edmonton. As of today or yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we have five that are willing or able to receive treatment elsewhere. We're looking for those places.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't think people want to shop around for their kidney transplants. It can be done in Saskatoon . . . [inaudible] . . . Tell us today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the minister tell us today, what's the stall? There are three nephrologists and three vascular surgeons ready to work — the same complement of health providers that were there when the program was up and successfully running. The waiting list is growing and people's lives are at stake.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, everything is in place now for the transplant program to start up again. We all know that nothing happens on that side of the House without the Premier's approval. So my question then is to the Premier: obviously the minister can't do the job and start the program right now, so will the Premier make it happen?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I beg to differ with that member opposite on many, many different issues, and I'll beg to differ with her on this one. First of all, absolutely we want to have the transplant program up and running in this province. But what she said is that people wouldn't be willing to go out to Edmonton or to Winnipeg or to other areas of this country . . . [inaudible] . . . That's what she said. They don't want to shop around. They wouldn't want to shop around, Mr. Speaker.

Priority number one is to have it up and running in this province. But having that not in the situation right now, in the short term, Mr. Speaker, we are making sure that there are arrangements outside of Saskatchewan and even outside of Canada if that needs to be, Mr. Speaker, because patient care is priority number one for our government.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the truth of the matter is the program is ready to go in Saskatoon. It will cost less money to do it there. Families can go and support their members, their

family members that are there having the kidney transplant. This is a ridiculous answer. And not putting words in my mouth, I never did say that we need to see people go . . . that people are not willing to go out of the province. What I said is, they don't need to. They need to have the program in Saskatoon. And my question then is to the minister: why not?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, you know, perhaps that member thinks she knows more than the vascular surgeons in Saskatoon that says the program is not ready to go yet, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps that member knows more than the transplant nephrologist, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps that member knows more than the urologist.

All three of those specialities are involved in the transplant program, Mr. Speaker. And they are saying that the way the program was run in the past is not the way that it can be run in the future.

That's why we're working with the Health ministry, the Saskatoon Health Region, and the three professional . . . the specialities that make up a transplant program to ensure that we have a transplant program that is secure into the future, that isn't reliant on one physician going sick and the program failing, Mr. Speaker. That isn't the program we want to see. In the short time, we're guaranteeing and ensuring and working as hard as we possibly can that citizens of Saskatchewan will get their care elsewhere.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 136 — *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Minister of Policing and Public Safety.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that Bill No. 136, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act* is now introduced and read a first time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — It has been moved by the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety that Bill No. 136, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act* be introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 112, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill now be read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 112 — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1988 sur les juges de paix*

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 112, *The Justices of the Peace 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 Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 113, *The Justices of the Peace Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* without amendment.

[14:30]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Deputy 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 Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 113, *The Justices of the Peace Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* without amendment and that the Bill be read now for a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — When will this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 113 — *The Justices of the Peace Consequential Amendments Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I had just requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole and that we would now move to third reading.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — Sorry. We're going to find the right language here yet. The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 113, *The Justices of the Peace Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* without amendment. And is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — And is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 115, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* without amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 115, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* and that the Bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The minister may proceed to move to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 115 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)/Loi no 2 de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 115, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* now be read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you again, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 103, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the minister.

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill No. 103, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) Amendment Act, 2009*. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 103, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) 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 Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Chair of the Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you again, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 101, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009* (No. 2) without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, we request leave to waive consideration of the whole on this Bill and this Bill be now read the third time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 101, the credit union amendment Act, 2009 without amendment, and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 101, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009* (No. 2) without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,497 through 1,501.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The Government Whip has requested that questions be tabled for 1,497 to 1,501. Is it agreed? I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you. I wish to order the answer to question 1,502.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The Government Whip has moved that the question 1,502 be ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,503 through 1,529.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The Government Whip has tabled the answers to questions 1,503 to 1,529.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 107

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 107 — *The Weed Control Act*** be now read a second time.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to re-enter this debate after not having the opportunity yesterday to conclude all of my remarks. And, Mr. Speaker, of course it's always a pleasure to rise in this House and take part in the debates on the Bills that come before this House, particularly to do so on behalf of the fine people of Regina Northeast. It's an honour to do so.

It's an honour to participate in the debate on this Bill, Bill 107, the Act respecting prohibited, noxious and nuisance weeds and to make consequential amendments to *The Municipal Board Act*. So, Mr. Speaker, it's a Bill that's of course very relevant to Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan having a long, long history of agriculture and being known in the past as the breadbasket of the world, and agriculture at one time being the mainstay of our province. It perhaps isn't the mainstay it once used to be, but it's still a very, very important part of our province and of our economy.

And, Mr. Speaker, it goes to say that the farmers in Saskatchewan are what I would call professional farmers. They take a great deal of pride in the work that they do. They take a great deal of pride in the product that they produce. And I think they take, it goes without saying that they take a great deal of pride in their land. And if you know a farmer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'm sure you do, you know that there is a relationship — I think a special relationship — between the farmer and his or her land. And they develop that relationship and they develop a great deal of respect for the land.

There's a neighbour of mine. He used to be on the farm years ago when I farmed out there. He used to have a saying. He said, you know, you can fool your friends, you can even fool your family, but you can't fool the land. And I think that's very true, that if you take care of the land and you treat it with the respect it's due, it will certainly look after you and your family. And I think that many farmers subscribe to that theory.

And in that regard, Mr. Speaker, the farmers do, I think, a tremendous job of looking after the land and attempting to clean the land up as far as weeds is concerned, to do so in many, many ways. Certainly in the past, cultivation was the mechanism or the tool best suited to control weeds.

And in my grandfather's day and even in fact in my father's day, that was . . . There was an art. There was an art to the timing of the operations, whether it be the timing of cultivating or the timing of seeding. A lot of that had to do with the weed and the weeds that were being controlled or the attempt to control through cultivation and cultivation practices.

And that is where the respect, I guess you'd say, that the farmer gains for his land is so, so prominent, I guess you would say. It becomes obvious when farmers understand the process, understand their land, and know their land so well that they can control the weeds in many, many cases through cultivation and through proper practices and proper timing.

And some of that is done today, Mr. Speaker.

And when you look at organic farming for example, where there is no commercial fertilizers used or no commercial weed spray used on the land, and I believe that time period is something like five years before the land is certified as organic, that it has to be free from pesticides and chemicals, and it has to be free from commercial fertilizers. And in order to do that, and yet maintain productivity and maintain the land in good, healthy condition — good, clean condition — it's done through a method of cultivation and a timing of cultivation and a timing of the work being done.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to look at the farmers as truly as professionals because it's a talent that is learned. It's a talent learned through experience, often handed down from generation to generation, often pointed out from father to son as to the need to pay attention to the land and to make good decisions as far as the care of that land is concerned. And I think, Mr. Speaker, this is certainly noticeable in our farming community today when we see that the shift in the farming mechanisms have gone away from cultivation and more towards a continuous cropping mechanism.

I know up in the country where I'm originally from, Mr. Speaker, there is basically, I think, virtually every farmer up there is well into the cycle of a continuous farming operations. So in order to control weeds now in that type of atmosphere, I think there's been a greater and greater dependency upon chemicals and the application of chemicals in a correct and timely manner to be able to ensure that the weed population is controlled.

I have a farmer up there, and I wish I would have gotten his permission to use his name because I would have been proud to do so here. He's a very, very careful farmer. A very good farmer, but a very careful farmer and very meticulous about his work, very meticulous about care for his land. And truly, Mr. Speaker, I believe that that individual has not only improved the land through making sure that the brush is all removed, and making sure that the potholes are drained so he has access to all of the acres, and not only making sure that the land is clear of obstacles such as stones and by digging them up and burying them and so on and so forth, but he's also very meticulous about the land and the care for that land and making sure it is as weed-free as possible.

And he spends a lot of time, a lot of time concentrating his efforts on ensuring that that land stays free of weeds and clean as possible, to the point where I know that in the past he's had issues with the local municipality over the weeds that grow in the ditches and his desire to control those weeds because of his concern, and a real concern it is, of the dollars and cents that he spends each and every year and the time and the effort that he spends ensuring that his land is clean of weeds and yet has no control over the ditches that run along the borders of his land

that can — I'm not saying they do, Mr. Speaker — but can cause weed growth. And of course if weeds grow, they have a tendency to mature and seed out. And those seeds could make their way over onto his property and to his land that he's just spent thousands of dollars and lots of hours to ensure that it stays clear. And he's now fighting that.

[14:45]

So, Mr. Speaker, I really want to say that, as an individual, I think he does a wonderful job of looking after his land and does a wonderful job of ensuring that that land stays weed-free. And he does so more and more, probably through dependence on chemical. And I suppose in that vein, Mr. Speaker, there's been a lot of improvements in the science world in the last 20 years of agriculture, and agricultural science.

At one time there was probably, pretty standard, two or three chemicals used to control virtually all the weeds, but today this has become, I think, more specific. I think maybe it's because of the emergence of weeds that are starting to, in some cases I think, are becoming resistant to a lot of the older chemicals, and that newer chemicals are required. But they're becoming more specific to control of certain weeds, Mr. Speaker, certain chemicals will control certain weeds. And I think again, once again, science has recognized a need for farmers to control more than perhaps one weed at a time. So it's developed the chemicals in many ways so that they have become friendly to each other, that as far as being tank mixable, they could be mixed together and one application will sometimes often control all the weeds or many of the weeds that present themselves to a farmer.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that it is essential that we recognize that great contribution that farmers make to our society. And they do so, Mr. Speaker, not helter-skelter; they do so with a plan, a very detailed plan. And often you will see them, Mr. Speaker, that those plans include the crop rotations, and they will include long-term planning. It's just not something done for one season, it's often one is reliant on the other. And the planning that goes into a crop rotation cycle within a farm operation, it's quite detailed.

And I say again, the neighbour up there — that I would've wished I would've been able to use his name — he does a great job of that. And you can see just, if you watch his farming practices from year in and year out, you can see that he has a plan. He has a plan on the rotation of his crops throughout his fields. And I think by doing that, he not only maximizes the chemicals that he uses each and every day, but he also is able to use the crops in a manner which will assist him in controlling the weeds so that he has a good control on the weed population of his land. And, Mr. Speaker, I assure you it's a very clean farm, and he's very meticulous about ensuring that it stays that way. And he does a great job. And I know that on occasions when perhaps some of his neighbours haven't been quite so diligent on controlling their weeds, it has really been an irritant for him.

And I think that that's not an uncommon thing throughout Saskatchewan. You'll find that often there will be some friction appear between neighbours out on the farm. And sometimes that friction is a result of one farmer believing that the other one

isn't perhaps paying as much attention to the weed control and therefore of course stands the real risk of polluting his neighbour's land. So I think that's been an issue that has on occasions in the past been brought up. And I think in fact in some perhaps rare occasions even the RM [rural municipality] have had to get involved in order to ensure that good management of weeds. And weed production or growth, I guess you would say, is something that farmers pay attention to.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think one would have to remember that in some instances, for example in hay production or hay crops or legume production, it's often a dehy process. And I know from my own personal experience that being involved in a dehy process, if it's done properly, there's less need for weed control because the alfalfa that is being grown for the dehy process will often be harvested well before the weeds get to a stage where they may seed out and pollute that field but also the neighbour's field. And that is sometimes, Mr. Speaker, a sore spot again between neighbours.

Because you know, the neighbour who's doing an excellent job at keeping his cereal grains and oilseeds free of weeds and keeping his land free of weeds, and a neighbour next to him growing a dehy crop, and seeing those weeds there and seeing the potential of those weeds going to seed and having the potential of infesting, you know, his land with weeds, I can understand being quite nerve-racking. But in most cases, I think you'd see that the dehy operation takes place in a timely fashion that doesn't allow the weeds to go to seed, that they are harvested with the hay crop or the dehy crop, and they are controlled that way.

So there's different ways of controlling the weeds, Mr. Speaker, and I don't suppose there's any right or wrong way. It's just that there are different ways depending on the situation.

But we certainly do need to ensure that we have a regimental process in place that will allow farmers the opportunity to be able to control their weeds and be able to ensure that the land stays free and clear. And I think there's a role there for the RMs to play too in recognizing that they too have a responsibility ensuring that the roadways are relatively free of obnoxious weeds at least — noxious weeds I should say, or nuisance weeds — that they have that role to play.

Because after all, Mr. Speaker, part of the RM's responsibility, and I spent 10 years on municipal council and I know that part of the council's responsibility — whether it be the reeve or the individual council or the council as a whole — that part of the responsibility is to promote and enhance agricultural activities within the RM. And I would think that most, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that virtually all RMs take that very, very serious, take that role very seriously. And they do so to ensure that the agricultural industry within their RM continues to grow, continues to stay strong. And they do all they can to ensure what level of prosperity may be within the agricultural industry continues to grow and allow the farmers the opportunity to continue to do what they do best. And that's quite simply farm, Mr. Speaker.

And that is why I think every RM, at least the RM I was in, we had a weed inspector. We would appoint the weed inspector each and every year. And I think there were many years that we

didn't need him. We didn't need his services. We had him in place in case we did need his services, but many years we didn't need the services.

There was the odd occasion, there was the odd occasion where we had to call on the weed inspector. And if my memory serves me correct, Mr. Speaker, it was back in the days of the, oh, mid-to late-'80s when the agricultural economy was tough. It was a tough economy.

And there was some instances where land had been turned back to a financial institution for debt settlement, and the financial institution now became the holder of the land, and in many cases were not able to rent that land out or make the turn of the land, whether you're renting it out or selling it, in a timely fashion. So they were left being the owner or the holder of the land for at least that one summer, and as a result of course there was a need to control the weeds. And of course the responsibility to that would be that of the owner or the holder of the land, and in this case would be the financial institution.

So if my memory serves me correct, there was two or maybe three instances during that period of time that we had to call on the weed inspector to go out and do an inspection of a quarter of land because it had been turned back by the farmer and been turned back to the financial institution for debt settlement, and that the financial institution now became responsible for the controlling of the weeds.

And the weeds were getting to the point where they were going to be a problem. They were getting to the point in maturity where if they weren't dealt with fairly quickly, that they could seed out and create a problem, not only for that land which the weeds had been growing on, but for the farm land in the area because of the ability of seeds to be spread through wind and so on and so forth.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it was on two or three occasions we had to call in the weed inspector from the RM who simply had to go out and do his job, which was to inspect the complaint, inspect the land to identify the degree of weeds, the type of weeds and the stage the weeds were at and the risk they ran for presenting a problem to neighbouring farmers in the area and then make his order. And he would do so.

And quite frankly, I think you'd find that most financial institutions reacted fairly quickly to that. They too wanted to ensure that they weren't a problem for anybody in the area. They also wanted to ensure that their land was maintained in a reasonable fashion so that it would be something, a product that they would be able to resale in the following season.

So there was certainly a significant role for the weed inspector to play when called upon, and it is certainly good that we have that process put into place, Mr. Speaker.

And according to what I read in this Act, it looks like this particular Act is a piece of legislation that really needs to be, really needs to be run by or run in front of or presented to the appropriate stakeholders. And maybe it has been. We don't know that, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the government has gone out and talked to the farmers out there, the RMs who are going to be involved, to get their feedback on this particular legislation

as far as how it affects them.

And I'm hoping the government has done a reasonable amount of consultation, although unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I really don't see any evidence of that either in the Bill itself or any of the supporting documentation that was provided to us by the government. But there's certainly a need for consultation. I think that's fair to say, Mr. Speaker, any time that a government proposes changes to an Act, that those changes need to be identified as positive changes and that those changes are a result of the consultation done by government with the stakeholders involved.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that this government has taken the time to consult with farmers across this great province of ours and consult with RMs across this great province of ours and take their feedback and use it in the manner in which it was intended to be used, and that is to enhance the Bill, to improve the Bill so that it has a positive effect on those people out there who find that changes to this Bill could affect them.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that this government has done that. Like I said, I see no evidence of it. But I will believe that they have taken the time to consult with the farmers across this great province of ours because after all, they're the ones on the front line.

They're the ones that face the issue each and every day. They're the ones that have spent their life in a lot of cases fighting the weeds and controlling them, and I think they would have a great expertise and they would have a lot to offer the government and share with the government as far as effects on these changes may have on them.

This legislation addresses a problem that's . . . A problem probably exists right across the province, and a solution to the problem is in one or two specific areas, and that is of course, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the authority lies within the RM, the local government out there.

And I think often we take local government for granted. I believe that the local government plays a very, very big role and I think often, often it's overlooked in the whole scheme of things. Because the local government and the officials thereof, whether it be the RM or whether it be the reeve, or whether it be the RM administrator or whether it be the councillors or whether it be in this case the weed inspectors, these are hands-on people.

These are the people who deal with the issues right upfront. These are the people who are your friends and your neighbours. And in many cases, Mr. Speaker, that makes it even tougher, it makes it even tougher for our local government person to do their job because, you know, they're talking to somebody that's their friend and neighbour. They're talking to somebody that they've known perhaps all their life.

In many cases they may be having to deal with somebody who is a bit older than them. And you know how it is in rural Saskatchewan. There's always that tremendous respect for people who are your senior, and who've been around for a long time, and who have learned a lot of things from the university of hard knocks.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, I think in a lot of ways we often overlook the job the local government does in this great province of ours. And I think we often maybe overlook the individuals who, within the local government, who deliver those services on a regular basis.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated in the title of the Bill, the Act defines the three classes of noxious weeds. And it basically breaks the weed population in Saskatchewan here down into the prohibited weed category, noxious weed category, and of course the nuisance weed category.

And that's important, Mr. Speaker, because I think if you spend any time with farmers — and I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you certainly have, and you've had your own personal experience at it — that the weed population is interesting. It's just not one chemical fits all. It's not one size fits all sort of thing, that there would be some weeds that would be affected by a certain chemical, perhaps even controlled by a certain chemical, and another one won't be affected at all. So this is why there has, science had played a very, very big role in developing chemicals that are more specific to certain weeds and to certain weed populations.

[15:00]

And they've been able to also recognize that there is a tremendous cost involved on the application of these chemicals. It's a cost that, quite frankly, in the farming community is always suspect because as you know, Mr. Speaker, the margins in farming today are very, very narrow, and farmers have to do everything they can to cut their costs. And they do so while still maintaining an effective program, in this case an effective program to control the weeds on their land.

So what has developed here, Mr. Speaker, is the chemical science, agricultural science has worked not only to identify and produce chemicals that will be very effective on weeds and individual weed families, but also the ability for those chemicals to be friendly to one another. And by that I mean, Mr. Speaker, being friendly so that they can be tank mixed so that the farmer can make one pass, one application and yet be able to handle numerous weeds and weed varieties that may be present in his or her land.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is I think an important aspect because once again it's the recognition of the need to cut the costs as much as possible while still performing the services, still delivering the goods, so to speak, to control the weeds, Mr. Speaker, so (a) the farmer can maximize the yields on his crop or her crop, but also to ensure that the weed population is controlled so it doesn't create a problem, not only that year, but into the future. So I think, Mr. Speaker, those are important points to bear in mind.

Mr. Speaker, this Act allows for some very aggressive steps to be taken against someone who is deemed to have a noxious weed and is not taking appropriate steps to look after that. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that's fair.

I think as we travel Saskatchewan, if you talk to farmers and you look at the farming industry, we'll recognize that the vast majority of our farmers in Saskatchewan here are what I would

call professionals. I really do. It's not only . . . It's not an easy job today to manage and to operate and manage a farm successfully. You have to be very skilful. I think you have to be talented to do so. And you also . . . Mr. Speaker, if you recognize any of those farms and farmers out there who fit in that category, who are very skilled at what they're doing and they are very successful at what they're doing, it's only because that they have a plan. They have a plan for their farm, Mr. Speaker. They don't just get up on an April morning, April the 1st morning, April the 1st or April the 2nd say, well I wonder what I want to seed this year. Well that's not the case, Mr. Speaker.

They have a sophisticated plan, a long-term plan as to the cropping rotation throughout their farm land. And often you'll find that cropping rotation kind of fits in hand and glove sort of thing with their chemical program and their fertilizing program so that they maximize, they maximize the inputs into their farm. And they do that by being able to capture the greatest yield possible, and they do so by controlling the weeds. And they do so by controlling the weeds in some cases very aggressively.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's not just a one-farmer effort, it's really a community effort. And when that chain breaks down, that community chain breaks down and there's an individual who for whatever reason isn't doing a good job or appropriate job of looking after his weeds or in some cases perhaps land has gone back to a financial institution and they haven't, haven't been brought to their attention that they have to, you know, have to ensure that . . . It's an ongoing problem, then, Mr. Speaker. There needs to be the authority within the RM and within the weed inspector to be able to call these people to task, to bring it to their attention that they need to take action. And they need to take action in a timely fashion because, as weeds will do, they like to reproduce and they do so through growth and through maturity and by producing seeds.

And often, Mr. Speaker, some of these seeds are transported by wind or in some cases by water, and they can infest land where a farmer has spent much of his time ensuring that his land is free and clear of weeds or at least has it well under control. And the last he needs, Mr. Speaker, or she may need, is an infestation from the outside.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is a need to have that authority to be invested in someone, and of course that someone should be through the RMs because they're the front-line people out here and through the weed inspector so that they can take action whenever action is required. One of the problems, Mr. Speaker, is that I suppose that will always be a bit of a disagreement in the interpretation of what is a noxious weed. And certain producers may not believe that that weed is a noxious weed because it may be a weed that perhaps is in their pasture and it doesn't affect their situation, but there is a potential of that weed growing to maturity and going to seed and that the seeds being transported to agricultural land — farm land — and causing an infestation.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, it's fair to say that the issue over weed and weed control is not a new one in Saskatchewan. I think it's one that's been around probably as long as Saskatchewan farm land has been put to the plow. But I think it's also one that has in many cases raised issues of concern and raised issues of

disagreement, and unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day on rare occasions, hard feelings.

But for the most part I think you'll find that, through Saskatchewan, you'll find good co-operation between farmers, between neighbours. You find good co-operation within the RM and the RM officials to be able to recognize that yes, perhaps one driving by would say, well gee that field has got quite a few weeds in it and nobody's doing anything about it. But it just so happens it might be a hayfield that the farmer is intending to harvest well before the weeds go to seed or maybe a dehy field where alfalfa particularly is being grown for dehy and the alfalfa processing company will be along well before the weed plants go to seed and harvested to ensure that those weeds certainly do not reach maturity, do not create a problem for those who are in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to make sure, though, that in this whole process that this government has done its job in the consultation aspect. And that's always a concern of mine, Mr. Speaker, because I believe that the role of government is to develop and change the Bills and develop Bills when required or change existing Bills to make them more responsive to the issues of the day. I think it's fair to say that as time goes on, issues will change and therefore Bills that have been around for a while may need to be revisited and changes be made in those Bills to make them more responsive to the reality of today, in this case, reality of agriculture.

Those changes need to be made to ensure that the local government has the authority to enforce the weed Act, the prohibited or noxious or nuisance weed Act, to ensure that their ratepayers are not finding themselves under siege of an infestation of weeds that perhaps could have been prevented had the action taken place at an early enough juncture in the process.

But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, we need to know that this government has gone out and done its consultation. Has it talked to the RMs? Has it talked to the farmers in across this great province of ours? Has it got that feedback? And has it taken that feedback and digested it and in turn developed the amendments or the changes to the Bill that's being proposed here?

And if that is the case, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to know how that consultation took place. Was there public meetings held in various communities across Saskatchewan? Or were there at least public meetings held in regions across Saskatchewan? Or was there some type of form of direct communications between the government and the individual producers out there?

Was there any type of communications that took place between the government and the RMs? Was there a letter sent out or a questionnaire sent out or was there any type of communications like that between the government and the RMs to ensure that they got the feedback from the leadership? And that's who the RMs are in rural Saskatchewan. They're the leadership of the community.

And they're the people who are elected by the locals, by local people and within their divisions and within the RM, to provide direction, to provide assistance, and to provide the leadership

that they're looking for from local government on many issues. And this is simply just one of the issues, the need to be able to control the weeds in our RMs. Has that consultation taken place? Has the RMs been talked to? Perhaps some, maybe a larger consultation process at SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] when they had their convention. Was there any type of consultation with the RM leadership at that time?

But, Mr. Speaker, there are many questions I raise about this Bill. And often we think of things perhaps, you know, as government, perhaps think of things if they're acting on their own, but if they are doing it through a regimented consultation process then, Mr. Speaker, I think many of the issues would be identified. And they would certainly glean the knowledge of the changes to the Act or to this Act or to perhaps even other Acts that would be beneficial to the agricultural community, beneficial to the RMs, so that it would make it perhaps more responsive to the people who are being affected by this, by the changes to the Act, and of course that is the farmers themselves out there.

But it's also, I think it's fair to say that the municipalities play a big role. Because at the end of the day, the leadership and rural Saskatchewan is the local government and that is done through the RM councils.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that I would hope that this government has done its consultation process and has been able to gather the information that they are looking for, and that the individuals out there want to share, so that we can have the changes, the proposed changes to the Act that will benefit those people who are the stakeholders, those people who are affected — whether it be the farming community, whether it be the RM leadership, or whether it be the small communities in rural Saskatchewan who depend so much on the activities and the prosperity of the agricultural community, Mr. Speaker.

So many of the definitions of this Act aren't clear enough as to what is really the role or the responsibility of the RM. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a bit of a concern to me. Because as I said already, certainly — and I know you would agree with me — is that the leadership in rural Saskatchewan and this rural municipality, and that their role has to be clearly defined so that they know what areas of jurisdiction they have, so they know what areas that they are expected to be responsible for, so they know what authority they have within that area, so that they can provide the best possible services to the people that they represent. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that that needs to be made very, very clear and I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that again this government has done its job and has done the consultation process.

There needs to be, I think, those discussions carried out with the RM leadership to ensure that they have a clear idea, a clear understanding of what their role is and what their responsibility is as far as controlling the weeds in the right-of-ways of the RMs, as not all right-of-ways are grid roads, Mr. Speaker. Many right-of-ways are farm access roads. And in some cases just farm roads, what is known as farm roads, there's a 66-foot road allowed, a standard 66-foot road allowance that is access to farm land and that there's the issue of weed control along these access roads.

Is it the responsibility of the landowner that's adjacent to that road? Is it his or her responsibility or the responsibility of the RM? Or has those issues been worked out and has that consultation taken place? Has that level of discussion taken place between government and government's officials and the RMs and the stakeholders out there?

So those are just some of the questions that quickly popped to my mind, Mr. Speaker, when I'm looking at this. And there's certainly a need for the consultation to take place and that the roles of each of the stakeholders involved is clearly defined so that there is no misunderstanding or misinterpretation, so that the stakeholders involved fully understand what their roles are, what their responsibilities are, what area of jurisdiction they may have so that they can act on it in a timely fashion.

[15:15]

Because, Mr. Speaker, I think that's basically what people in rural Saskatchewan, farmers, as far as this issue is concerned, *The Weed Control Act* is concerned, what they're looking for is the clarity and a full understanding of what is their responsibility and what is their area of jurisdiction and what is it that they are supposed to be responsible for at the end of the day here.

And, Mr. Speaker, those are certainly a number of questions that come to mind on this thing and, Mr. Speaker, I suppose that I could probably go on for a fair amount of time on this issue because I think it's an issue that there's a lot of questions. There's a lot of questions on this particular issue and I think that, I think it's one that has to be explored fully to ensure that this government has done its role and that we have the issue of responsibility clearly identified within this Act so that those individuals over there in rural Saskatchewan have an idea of what it is that they are responsible for.

And if they are responsible for a certain area, then they need to know that and they need to know and have that understanding. So whether it's the RM council that make their decisions well in advance of an action being required, for example, that they can make sure that they have a weed control officer in place, but the weed control officer also educated, I guess you would say, or trained to knowing what his or her responsibility may be within the RM and within the desire to ensure that we maintain a good weed control program here in Saskatchewan so that we can maintain good, clean farm lands and have that access.

And we need to ensure that we have that clearly defined within this Act. And I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker, that this government has done that. I don't think that they've done the consultations to the level, at least to my satisfaction, at least based on the stuff I've been able to see so far, and that that consultation has taken place in a meaningful way so that we're able to make the amendments and make the changes to the Act where it will be totally beneficial to those people who are being affected, the stakeholders involved.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pretty well concluding my remarks here on this particular Bill, the Bill No. 107, *An Act respecting Prohibited, Noxious and Nuisance Weeds and to make a consequential amendment to The Municipal Board Act*. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I think that that will conclude my

remarks on this particular Bill for this afternoon. Thank you.

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

Mr. Vermette: — Yes, thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's with pleasure I join in on Bill 105, *The Weed Control Act* and join in on the debate. And as my colleague spoke previously about *The Weed Control Act*, this Act I guess I want to go through. There's obviously a concern from out in the rural area in the farm community about weeds, and I think the RM has issues that they wanted to raise.

And I'm just sitting here listening to my colleague and talking about where this Bill came from and the process, how it got to the legislature, and concerns. And I'm hoping that truly it went through a process. And the process for an Act like this, there's obviously concerns out there and noxious weed control is probably a huge issue to farmers.

But you know, I want to talk a little bit and go back and forth. I would like to look at it from this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is an Act but it goes to consulting people, consultation and different things. And it's interesting. Not only the rural areas want to make sure that they're, you know, they're consulted when an Act like this of legislation affects farms and the rural area, but northern people want to make sure, and Aboriginal people, First Nations, Métis want to be consulted. And you know, unfortunately the current government does not consult like it says it does. It truly needs to make sure that it's . . . any legislation that this government brings in.

And it's a trust thing. People trust the government will do the right thing. But unfortunately we've seen many times where the trust that people put into this government, they're now going and finding out that it's not so, and they're backtracking. A lot of times their backs are turned on . . . The government turns their back on them. And the people are feeling it all over and I'm hearing it on a daily basis.

But I was trying to just put the connection between this Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act* and the duty to consult and all the other things that people want to be consulted when we pass legislation. So I want to be very clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to make sure that I refer back to Bill 107 and some of the situations with the duty consult and making sure that stakeholders are informed. And how do they come up with this legislation? Did they make sure they go out to the farmers and did they speak to those farmers? Did they make . . . [inaudible] . . . did they talk to the RMs? You know, and what type of Act . . . And if you look at the weeds and what type of process will come into play, and you can just pass legislation to do whatever. But I want to make it very clear that people want to feel like they've been heard, and I think the farmers will be impacted, the rural area.

And I think my colleague talked about the weed inspectors, and that's interesting to talk about, their role and have they been consulted by this government as far as, you know, Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*. So you know, I don't think they probably have been but it's interesting to watch.

You see a government who wants to pass legislation. And

sometimes, the debate is to make sure that the government is consulting with the community stakeholders, farmers, whoever. But it just goes to show you the neglect that this government has done with the duty to consult. And talking with, you know, stakeholders and talking with the RMs, I want to make sure that they did that. And I hope they have done that because if they haven't, I hope that the farmers in the rural area will come back and make it very clear that they're unhappy with the government's lack of consultation to the rural area. And we know that a lot of members opposite represent the rural area and hopefully this information is coming from those farm areas.

So an Act like Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*, you know, I think they're talking about certain areas and I think what a . . . You know, a farmer has land and he plants his crop and he makes sure that, you know, it's a weed control that he uses, whether it's a product that eliminates weeds, a product that he sprays on to make sure his crops are protected, and he does his job to protect his crop because that's his livelihood. And I want to make it very clear; it's his livelihood. He wants to make sure, you know, he wants to make sure that his crop is not going to be dealt . . . and lose money from weeds that are not even on his property, but coming in from and blowing in from some other, whether it's a ditch or another property.

So . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . yes, or some other individual, whether he's a cowboy . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . yes, or a farmer or a rancher. There's different people out there who grow crops and we know that.

So I want to make it very clear. I want to go back to this duty to consult and the trust people put in our governments. And the people put trust into a government to make sure that, when they pass legislation, that they consult. And so many people are unhappy with this current government about the duty to consult and accommodate. They are not. And they don't feel like they're getting input.

The government just makes legislation, decides what it wants. We've seen that with other Bills that have come through this House. And you know, we've tried to debate them and some of them have gone through. And we're doing our job here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to make sure that we debate the Bills. But Bills that need to go forward to help the province, I think we have co-operated as an official opposition. We have done our job, asked some good questions, and moved those on to committee. And there's a process that it goes through and I, you know, I'm learning that process, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to make sure that we have a chance.

The people want us to ask the tough questions to make sure legislation is something that is being brought here — the concerns of residents. And it's not just the constituents that we represent; it's the whole province. We have a right to represent the whole province. The rural area, northern area, the urban area, there's a lot of concerns. And people want to feel like their government is listening to them. But we can see that the Sask Party government is not listening and not consulting people when it comes. They just want to pass things, ram it down. And some people will call it bully, whatever.

But going back to Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*, you know, to control . . . and I want to go through that process. There's

obviously been some concerns out there. It's gone on, you know. It's gone on and people are really concerned. So obviously it's a piece of legislation that the people want to . . . but I'm sure that people want that legislation but they want to make sure it's right. It's going to do what they need. They want to be consulted. They want to be talked to. So you have to make sure you go out to the farmers and you've got to talk to them. You've got to make sure.

The RMs and the weed inspectors, I mean, they'll play an important role. I mean, what kind of teeth are going to be into these Acts and what power will they have when they go to a farm and they say, hey, your land is causing problems with the other producers and they have a right to be protected. But you have to make sure you're consulting those people and you have to make very clear that they're feeling like they're being heard. Because so many times they're not being heard and that's unfortunate.

And that's how so many Saskatchewan residents feel under this government, that they are not being consulted. They are not given a chance to bring their view forward. It's almost like the decision's made and you live with it. And if you balk, you know, look out if you balk. And that shouldn't be. People of our province should have a right to debate it and talk about it. And I mean, we're supposed to work together to make sure the best legislation we can for the Saskatchewan residents. And that's many places we can go.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're hearing so many complaints, day after day, people feeling like this government has left them behind. The trust, the trust issue is a big one. People want to trust. And when you tell them, oh you're going to do this and you're going to do that and you're going to do this and you're going to . . . and they trust you and they support you and vote for you, there's a trust there.

They trust you will bring in legislation and you will consult them. But you know what? When you turn your back on those people and they lose the trust in you, trust me, those individuals, and I say that those individuals that put out the trust . . . And they trust a government will do the things that they need to have a better, a better opportunity at a living, at a job, at a home. And when they don't trust you any more because of what you've said, and you turn your back on them, you will get a message. And I think the government is going to get a message from the people. There are people out there, very clear, that feel like their back's been turned on them by this government. The trust issue is very clear.

But you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's interesting to see. I've talked to a number of people over the last while, and I've said to them, I know you feel like they have turned their back on you. And you put trust into them, and you definitely feel betrayed. Yes, that's how they feel. They're feeling very upset, angry. They feel like their back's been turned on. But I remind them, you can send them a message in 2011. You don't have to support them any more. You can send them a message. Maybe it's time that they get that message.

So going back to Bill 107 there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, *The Weed Control Act*, and I want to make it very clear, RMs must have the ability to deal with the weed control with farmers. They

have to make sure that when they come and they have their inspectors and they go out to an area and they look at that, that is very clear they have certain powers.

And I don't know. Does this Act give them the power that they can enforce on a farmer and on somebody who owns land who maybe not be farming? He might just be renting out his land. And he might say, oh I rent out the land. I don't have control over if there's weeds or not. I think they would have to be very clear.

I'm not sure that this legislation is very clear. And I think it has to maybe be made sure it's clear so that the RMs, the inspectors, and people that are renting land and people that are producing certain products on a land — and you know, it can be different things — I mean, whether it's wheat, it doesn't matter, barley. It doesn't matter what they're producing. But they have to feel like, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that their land is being protected and that the RM and the weed inspectors, when they phone and put in a complaint and they see something . . . Their land's been clear of weeds and noxious weeds control. And that's very important that some people take a lot of pride. And I know that, in the rural area.

My grandfather was a farmer. He took much pride in his land. He did an excellent job. He raised a lot of children — 13 to be exact — on that farm. And he was very proud. He worked hard. Early in the morning, up till late, but he wanted to make sure, you know, that his land was protected. When he planted a crop, he wanted to make sure . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well yes. Yes, so many things are out of control. I mean that's the other thing but we'll go back to the weeds, but that's government.

But this Bill is going to have an opportunity for people, I think, to bring input, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they've got to have that input into this. So I'm not sure that this government has gone through the process to make sure it has consulted with all the people that it should consult with. And you know, just knowing their past history in the last two and a half years, they totally disrespect First Nations and Métis with the duty to consult and accommodate, and a lot of others.

[15:30]

So I can see the farmers and other people feeling the same way. They must truly think, well are these guys consulting us or not? And I hope that they're being heard. I really do. I hope this Bill will take into account their concerns. I really do. Because this government has totally turned their back on First Nations and Métis and northern people.

But there's other areas where they've cut programs and passed legislation that they haven't consulted. They haven't gone out and consulted. They just make the cuts and it doesn't matter. You accept what you got, and look out if you put up a balk. Look out if you want to put up a fight. Look out if you challenge them. Some people are really nervous and scared, and they shouldn't be scared of a government.

Government's supposed to be there to protect all Saskatchewan residents. Whether they're new, whether they're young, the government has an opportunity, an obligation — so do we all

— to hold this government accountable. And I know from this side, the official opposition and our leader will hold them accountable. That you can count on.

You know, they're going to have problems out there with the RMs and, I know, enforcing some of the legislation we pass. But again, you know, they're hoping, the RMs are hoping they can put trust into a government, that that government will make sure that the legislation gives them the teeth they need. And it's, you know, it's important that they have the teeth that they need so that when they pass this legislation, they've talked to them. It's important.

You know, are these aggressive steps? You know, we don't know. Are they steps that are recommended and the steps that are coming into legislation and the powers to the inspectors, the weed inspectors, or to the RM? You know, these are some very aggressive steps. I don't know. Are they? I hope you went to the farmers, you've talked. I hope you went to the RMs. I hope you've talked to the inspectors. I hope anybody's who's out there in the community that would be impacted, stakeholders, that you would have talked to them. I hope that's happened.

Because if that hasn't happened, that goes back to showing the trust again. People put trust into the government. And if the government's not going to go and consult and make sure the stakeholders and the people impacted are heard, then again it's unfortunate. And there's turning your back on the people again. I mean that, to me, I hope hasn't happened here.

We'll hope that, you know . . . It's very clear that whatever conditions come out after the debate and if this passes legislation, there is time. There's time for people to make sure that they approach their MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and they talk about, here's what we need and here's what we don't need in regards to Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*.

So people still have an opportunity to talk to the official opposition and to their members and, you know, in their rural area to make sure that what legislation is passed here is clearly . . . Not only the government side and the members opposite hear it but the official opposition will hear it and make sure we hold them accountable. And sometimes the phone calls we get — and from the constituencies on the members opposite, they phone us. They talk to us. We see them, and they raise concerns.

So it's not all a, you know, a view out there that it's 100 per cent acceptable what the current government is doing, because it is not. On some of the legislation that has been passed and some of the decisions that this government has made, it's not very clear. Some people are not 100 per cent happy with what has gone on. So there are concerns there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know.

But I want to get back to the weed control. You know, this piece of legislation will ensure . . . And I want to make it very clear because this is so important. People take it so serious. You know, the duty consult, to make sure input is in there — I think it's huge. It just goes to show what we're hearing out in the province all over. People want to make sure.

You know, now, addressing the problem, like I said earlier in some of my comments, we're not sure where this legislation came from, this Bill, Bill 107. Was it one of the members that brought it forward? Was it from the RMs? Was it from farmers? Was it something, housekeeping business, whatever? Like I'm not sure where it came from, but I hope it'll address the problems.

And does it go far enough, like far enough to deal with the problems? If it's been raised by the RM or by farmers, does it go far enough? Has the process gone through making sure that they've consulted with the people, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Have they gone through with the farmers, with the RMs, with the weed inspectors?

They have to make sure that this legislation is going to do enough to accomplish what they want. We know that passing legislation is very important. It's a tool. It's the law after it goes through a process. It will become the law. We have to make sure that we're making laws like this — and I look at it as a law — it's very clear. It has to be the right law and the right tool for the people using it, whether it's the weed inspectors, the RMs, to make sure that farmers comply. That when they have a problem with, you know, noxious weeds, that it's being dealt with properly, and that it doesn't allow them to move around and find a way to get around it and not. Because it is impacting on other farmers and other crops. And if that's happening, then you see.

And like the member earlier said, my colleague, he talked about farmers who take a lot of pride. And they do an excellent job and they keep weed control on their farm to just about to zero. But they put a lot of work into it, a lot of pride. They put a lot of time. And we know that. Farmers are very important; we know that.

And I hope the government will listen to them, and making sure that they're consulted and that action taken by this Bill will enable the inspectors, the RMs, to make sure that somebody is in compliance, that they're not going to be able to move around and get around it and say, well I found a loophole. So if you go and consult and you make sure you talk with the farmers, the RM, and the weed inspectors, you can come up with good legislation that has an opportunity to not allow people to manoeuvre around it. So I just want to make it very clear that's important.

But I want to go back to the trust thing. Because I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*, and I just want to refer back as I guess an example, some of the Acts that have been passed by the previous government. You know, people trusted that this government would do the right thing and people are sadly disappointed out there — sadly disappointed. And we're seeing more and more of that coming back, day after day, people unhappy and impacted by decisions of this Sask Party government turning their back on them.

And that's how they feel. It is. It's betrayal. They put the trust into this government and this government has turned their back on them, and that is appalling. And those individuals that supported them are now maybe figuring, hey, we trusted these guys. They gave us their word and now they turned their back on us. I think they're going to send that government a message

in 2011.

I think there's an option. They know our record as a past NDP government. They know the record. People are talking. I'm hearing it. Was it perfect? No. We know that. Our leader makes it very clear. Was it perfect? No. Can we improve? Yes, we know we can. And I know under his leadership and our team, we will improve and the people can work with us and they can trust us.

But unfortunately the track record of this Sask Party government is very clear to the people out there.

But I want to go back to, I want to go back to this Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*. There's a few things I may not have talked about and I want to make sure. Because I'm going to go back and refer, because I like referring but I like coming back, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know that we have to make sure. You know, Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act* is very important and I want to make sure I keep referring back to it, but I sometimes like to use examples, Mr. Deputy Speaker, like the trust thing and stuff like that, and the past record and where people have gone.

But I want to go back to this. You know, if you look at this, like . . . And I want to make it very clear, because sometimes you know you pass legislation, I hope this Act doesn't create hard feelings amongst the farmers, neighbours who work together and usually work in good partnership and they help each other out. And you look at the farm communities. I know my grandfather, any neighbour around, around his farm — and I mean some of our neighbours were 10 miles away; he called them neighbours; they were further away — they would come together and they would help each other. And it's amazing to watch. They trusted each other and they could rely on each other in trust, not like that government.

An Hon. Member: — CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party] spirit.

Mr. Vermette: — Oh yes, yes, it was. My grandpa was very clear on that. You know, and it is an honour to be able to even talk about the experience my grandfather had and we had on the farm growing up, spending time with my grandfather and just the knowledge he had.

And it is about trust. And it is about farming and how people got along. And they worked things out and they got together.

I hope that this legislation doesn't cause, you know, hard feelings and rough times for the farmers because they're trying to make a living. And sometimes, you know, the farmers . . . With legislation like this, you got to make sure that you've gone out and you consulted with all the farmers because some of the ones that will . . . we hope will all be in compliance under this Act and will not have issues. We hope they will get along and they can work out that this legislation protects them — all, all farmers and people that will be impacted.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's just a . . . it's an opportunity. And I hope at the end of the day when we're done and this Bill passes and it goes on and becomes law, that it is truly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, legislation that will work for the farmers, work for the weed inspectors, and work for the RMs so they can do

the job and they can protect the producers that are doing an excellent job, the farmers out there producing crops.

And some of them have very good crops. Some of them have years of experience and much pride and generations on the farm after generation. They just want to make sure that they can make a living and that their crops, you know, the money that they spend on weed control and the money that they look after their crops, and I mean, very clear that somebody else is in compliance and isn't causing them grief and hardship. And that shouldn't happen. It is the government's role. But we have to make sure the government . . . make sure that this legislation, you know, Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*, is what is needed for the farm area, for the rural area, for the RM, and for the inspectors.

But you know, I want to go back to an example and use this as an example. So many people out there honestly wanted to trust and they wanted something. And you know, they said, we want to trust. We want to trust. So you know, they supported the current government. And they said, you know, we're going to trust them and look at all the promises they're going to do. And I'm telling you, people are telling me exactly this: we trusted them, and they have turned our backs, and we're going to send them a message very clear.

I know they don't like hearing this stuff, Mr. Deputy Speaker — trust issue. They don't like it at all. But you know what? They need to hear it because I think they're going to get a message: don't be counting on yourself. When you pass legislation and people put trust into you, make sure you put trust into it. You know, the people want to make sure that when they give their word and their commitment, either way, that it's very clear that you can count on that. But the people that put that out, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . But they expect that as well from the government.

And when people go out knocking on their doors saying, oh vote for our party; we're the one that's going to listen. We're connected with the people. We're going to do all these wonderful things. And you're knocking on their door asking for their support and you say, trust me. Okay, that's fine, and those people do. A lot of people did. They put their trust.

But I can tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this group of residents are so concerned about the trust they put into the current government and the people that asked for their support — and they did; they trusted them — have turned their back on them. And they say they will send a message, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to that government, the Sask Party government, to those individuals that have turned their back on.

But I want to go back to Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*, because that's important. This legislation might have some serious implications for different farmers. I don't think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, everybody's going to enjoy and want to support this legislation. There's probably people out there that maybe have difficulties. We don't know their conditions of their farm.

And if they're a small farmer, maybe they're struggling out there and they're trying all they can. And maybe their wife is working or they've got a part-time job and they're trying to

make ends meet on the farm. And you know, they might subsidize their income by going off and working because they can't make it just on farming. They're a small farmer. They're not like the big farmers who could afford a lot of different things. So maybe they're struggling and maybe they have a problem, some of the smaller farmers, with, you know, noxious weeds.

But you know, sometimes we have to be willing to assist them and help them. And sometimes when you look at legislation like this, we're going to put compliance on them. I hope it doesn't affect the little farmers. And if it is, that there's support, that we've talked to those. Like if we make you comply, are we going to come up with support so that you support the small farmer? Because we know that, you know, sometimes the small farmer, the little guy is left behind. And unfortunately, big business is big business. And sometimes the little guy . . .

It's just like referring to the trappers. I look at the trappers and I look at the same legislation. You know, the little farmers. And then you have some of our trappers. Look at their industry — left behind by this government, totally disrespected and left behind.

[15:45]

That's appalling. Legislation, regulations that are impacting the trappers — same way. They put a lot of trust into the government, that you would consult them, you would talk with them, but you turned your back on them and you just turned your back on the trappers. You changed regulations and you don't even consult them. You affect their organizations and you don't consult them. You just do it. That's the same thing. It's appalling that this stuff goes on, and they're not consulted. First Nations, Métis, this list goes on.

And I really think at the end of the day the public, the people out there, the voters, the people that elect us to represent them, will send a message to the Sask Party government saying, when we put the trust, we want to be consulted. And we come up with solutions for you as a government. We don't just complain. We want to come up with solutions. We want to work. And you don't work with them any more and you turn your back on them. The people will send you a message in 2011 and then maybe some other government will take over or party will form government, and they will do the business that needs to be done on behalf of the people. That I trust.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — Order. It's a very interesting premise that the member is offering, but it's got nothing to do with weed control. I'd appreciate it if he would address his comments to the Bill in front of us.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me be very clear. I want to tie it all in because I'm using examples. I've got to use examples to show this. So you know, I'll go back to Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*. But I was using, Mr. Deputy Speaker, examples like trust. I want to make it very clear the connection of consulting the farmers, the rural area; consulting trappers, First Nation. I'm trying to use, you know, the comparison to make sure that I come across on this Bill and debate.

So I want to go back to the trappers now and use that as an

example, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The trappers feel like they want to be heard, consulted. First Nations feel the same way just like the farmers. While in this legislation that will impact the farmers, they want to make sure that they're consulted and things are shared. But we know this government, they don't want to talk with them. They don't want to share. So that's my concern. I hope the government is going to go through and truly consult with the stakeholders, the farmers, the weed inspectors, the rural, the RMs.

So I want to make it very clear. That's important and people expect that. Just like I want to use an example, trappers, whether it's . . . want to be consulted. Anybody who's been impacted by regulations and Acts and Bills that affect them, they just want to be heard, a chance to share their views to the government. But the government, no it doesn't want . . . Sask Party government doesn't want to talk to anybody. It just wants to say, this is where it is. And sometimes I don't think they care . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh yes, that's a word that we heard today in the House. They want to rule. Well right now they're ruling, and it's not good what's going on out there.

But I want to go back again to Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act* because I want to make sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to . . . that we're referring to but I use examples because it helps me to understand how my grandfather felt about it and the hard work he did. And, you know, he was very proud, very proud farmer, very proud Métis, a leader in the Métis community. He did the work that was asked of him. He worked with the farmers. He worked with the community, his neighbours to make sure.

So when I talk about Bills like this come forward, I hope it's not going to create hard feelings for farmers out there that will be impacted. And, you know, it's very clear that that has to happen.

But having said all that, you know, the comparison is a trust. People want to trust them. You know that trust thing is huge. You know they want to use comparisons and trust, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They trust that the legislation and the Bills that we pass here are debated and that we've done our job.

We want to make sure that members opposite understand and the government understands. The official opposition understands. We want to make sure that the people feel like they're being heard. That's what they want. They want to be consulted. And at the end, they want to make sure that the government's making an informed decision, not their decision, an informed decision. And that's crucial.

Because when you have a group of people feeling like they're not heard and that they're feeling like they're not consulted, you know, they start to get frustrated and they wonder why and they start questioning things. This government has a lot of people questioning when they make their decisions on regulations, on Bills, on budget cuts, the way they went after the budget because of their incompetence, their mismanagement. And now who has to pay for it? The rest of Saskatchewan residents.

But I want to show the connection. We see different legislations and Bills coming through here because of some of the problems that the current government has created. They've created those problems very clearly.

Now we have to go back to *The Weed Control Act*, 107. I hope that when we go through this process that people will come forward, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they will share their views — the farmers, the RM, the inspectors. I hope when this goes through, my colleagues, the official opposition, will make sure that they've talked to the farmers, making sure how these Bills . . .

And I think it's important to say, I've seen my colleagues and the official opposition debate Bills. And I've seen some of those Bills, and they've been good legislation. And the people ask us as a legislative to do that, to debate those Bills, to make sure. But there's times when we've co-operated with the current government because there's certain Bills that need to get through for a reason so that people can get the job done.

And the official opposition under our leadership, Dwain Lingenfelter, has done that. And I have to commend that that process has happened. And that shows me that it's working. We're doing what we need to as an official opposition holding that government accountable. But also working with them when we need to make sure that legislation that needs to come forward is passed and is law. And I think that's important.

But at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I will allow my colleagues to get in on this, I know some of them want to talk about this. But you know, at some times I think, well maybe I could go on and, you know, referring to things. But I think I've talked about comparisons with trust and different organizations and I think at this time I'm prepared to move to adjourn debate on Bill 107, *The Weed Control Act*.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — The member from Cumberland has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 107, *The Weed Control Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Bill No. 102

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 102 — *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard): — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to talk about *The Personal Property Security Act, 1993*. This legislation fits within the framework that comes out of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Justice that basically is observing and looking at and reviewing the legislation in Saskatchewan to make sure that it follows in the tradition of that department, to ensure that it's appropriate for the economic development of the province. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, *The Personal Property Security Act* is a piece of legislation that I think all members in this House are supportive of. And basically we want to make sure that whenever this kind of legislation comes forward that it's being done and it's being amended or changed in an appropriate way.

Now when the Minister of Justice was speaking to this legislation in his second readings speech, he laid out a number of the principles that were involved in this particular legislation. But I think it's quite interesting to see, in the year 2010, how far we've come with this type of legislation. In 1993, there was new legislation brought forward which was a consolidation of the personal property legislation which was the creation of *The Personal Property Security Act*, and it basically worked through and set out a scheme. Many of us in Saskatchewan continue to acknowledge the role of Professor Ron Cumming in doing this kind of work because he has spent time and effort to think through all of the possible combinations of problems that arise and solutions that can be provided that may resolve some of those issues.

And so what we have in this particular legislation is a further gloss on that particular work, and that's, I guess, giving it some praise. But also it raises the questions of what kinds of issues are being addressed and why are they being addressed at this time.

And I think when you look at the legislation and you look at the comments from the minister, what you realize is that in 15, 20, 25 years of development of this kind of legislation, much of our economy has changed. And it used to be that the provincial boundaries as it related to security legislation on movable property, which this legislation is about, primarily related to those items which would stay within the boundaries of Saskatchewan.

I think this particular set of amendments recognizes the fact that people will be lending money to purchase some rather large movable objects, which may spend some part of their life in Saskatchewan, but they may also be in Texas. They may be in Alberta. They may be in Florida. They may be in Quebec. And so when you have those kinds of questions about how you can lend money for people in business to purchase certain items, then you need to make sure that your rules reflect that multi-jurisdiction issue.

And so what we see in this particular legislation is the fact that they're setting out some of the rules that come from the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and also items that come from the commercial code in the United States to make sure that it's absolutely clear where particular banking documents need to be registered to make sure that you can get your money back if somebody doesn't pay you for the loan that you've given them.

And so I think that this may be one of the first attempts at doing that here in Saskatchewan. And I know that we'll end up having questions from our Justice critic in committee as it relates to these specific issues, but clearly the goal is the right goal, which is to make sure that economic activity in Saskatchewan is not hampered by laws in our jurisdiction that don't mesh well with laws in other provinces and territories and also with states in the United States.

Now it's also interesting in this particular legislation to understand that the history of development of this kind of security legislation in Saskatchewan has also moved into a new stage that provides for some ease of use. And I know that we've seen in other places in government that the ISC [Information

Services Corporation of Saskatchewan], the government registry company has developed to the stage where it's being trusted by many aspects of the business community and individuals, but also of government and of this legislature.

And here's another example where some of the rule changes that are made in this particular legislation will assist in the ease of developing electronic registries of interests that are available for others to have access to them. We know for example that there's work being done in the mineral registries to have them more available than they have been.

Clearly the land titles system itself has made some dramatic improvements. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's quite a pleasure for me to see this because when I became the minister of Justice and attorney general in 1995, there was no thought of electronic land registry. All we knew was that we had very good records that were all kept quite carefully pretty well by hand in a number of offices across the province. And there were a few of us, I guess, after I asked a number of questions about whether it would be possible to transform what we had into what could be a leading land titles system, a modern land titles system.

[16:00]

And we all know that this was not a simple task, but I think this legislation today is an example of giving an affirmative answer to the question, was it smart to do that back in the late '90s, to make this change to our land titles system? Because in turn what we had or what we were able to do was set a base there which now is the base for many of the other registry systems that we have in the province.

So here we have personal property security amendment information that will be connected together through ISC, and it will be connected in all of the appropriate places so that searches can be done with a minimum amount of hassle and hopefully a minimum amount of money. And as this particular legislation is setting out and developing on that strong base, I think it's also an example of where having good civil servants, good people who you rely on for advice within the department, and taking that advice, you can then make sure that there's a certain stability in the structure that we have in the province.

Now it's unfortunate that doesn't happen all the time. And we had a good example last week where it's pretty clear they made a bunch of changes in the film industry without talking to the people involved. We've seen changes they've made other places where there haven't been the kinds of discussions that are necessary, and we've seen some fairly unusual and I would say sometimes damaging decisions. We know that that style of trying to govern without getting proper advice is something that doesn't serve the people well.

And we see this particular Bill as maybe one that is an example of where they have listened to some advice, and so therefore I don't think we have any more questions about it. And so I suggest that we move this Bill onto committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 102, *The Personal Property Security 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 the Bill stand referred? I recognize the Government Deputy House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 102, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009* be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

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

Bill No. 124

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 124 — *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when looking at this Bill one can see that this Bill is being introduced at the request of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. Now the Law Society of Saskatchewan is the professional regulatory body that oversees the legal profession in the public interest. This oversight is performed by elected and appointed benchers who act as the governing body or by professional staff of the society, as is quoted by the Justice minister in his second reading of this Bill.

I'm very relieved to see that the government is actually listening to an organization that wants to see some changes made that is of a progressive nature, and that they've consulted with the Law Society, for instance, on this Bill, Mr. Speaker, because that doesn't seem to be the MO [modus operandi] for this government at all when they're introducing most pieces of legislation or making budget cuts or alterations to the budget, Mr. Speaker. We've seen in many other Bills that have been introduced that there was absolutely no consultation, and the ramifications that come from the fact that there were no consultations done, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen now that the UN, United Nations agency ILO [International Labour Organization] has now presented a ruling that the Harper Tories are now supposed to keep track of what's going on in Saskatchewan, and that the Premier of Saskatchewan and the Cabinet are supposed to report back to the federal Conservative Tory government with respect to that ruling from the United Nations on Bills, for instance, 5 and 6. Those were of course the essential services Act and the changes that were made to *The Trade Union Act*, Mr. Speaker.

And the reason for that ruling is simply because of the fact that the changes (a) were not of a progressive nature. They were of a regressive nature, Mr. Speaker, and were done completely without consultation with the main stakeholders, being the workers of Saskatchewan, believe it or not. So the United Nations ILO is very clear in their ruling, Mr. Speaker, about what should be happening in Saskatchewan, that those two pieces of legislation should be repealed, that those consultations should take place.

And, you know, having gone through those consultations, if there's legislation that should come from that, Mr. Speaker, that it should be done so on a consultative or collaborative basis with the people that it affects, the stakeholders, and not just done as a favour to some Sask Party supporters or as a favour to some of the ideologues in the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

So we see that out of Bills 5 and 6. But what's interesting, Mr. Speaker, is that this ruling goes even further than that. It also talks about some other pieces of legislation, for instance Bill No. 43 which was the trespass . . . the amendments that were made to the trespass Act and how that may affect democracy in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and the notion of free speech and free expression and how that may be stifled by that pieces of legislation that the Sask Party rammed through in the last session, Mr. Speaker.

So we can see that the United Nations is quite concerned, not just with the complaints that were brought to them, but with some of the other pieces of legislation that are being brought forward by the Sask Party government with respect to a complete lack of consultation and therefore are of a very regressive nature in the way they've been adopted.

So I'm very pleased to see that in Bill 124, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act*, we see that there's been some suggestions made by the Law Society of Saskatchewan, and through those suggestions with the Law Society of Saskatchewan, that the Sask Party government has taken heed to those suggestions, and on a consultative basis, it sounds like has made some changes that were desired.

So like I said, when one looks at the typical way that the Sask Party government moves forward with legislation, it's quite unlike what we're seeing here in Bill 124. Now there's another piece of legislation of course that is of great concern to the United Nations and the ILO, and that's obviously Bill 80, which is the changes that are being made to *The Construction Industrial Labour Relations Act* with respect to some sweeping changes that are again of a very regressive nature for the workers and the province of Saskatchewan.

It's been well-documented now by the stakeholders who are most directly affected, that being the workers that will be directly affected, and how they will be affecting not just them but their families and their style of living, their income, potentially their benefits, Mr. Speaker. There's so many different facets that tie into that piece of legislation and how dramatically it can affect the front of working people, tradespeople in this province, Mr. Speaker.

So it's really critical that the Sask Party government does what

it's claiming to have done with Bill 124, in terms of having done these consultations with respect to *The Legal Profession Amendment Act* and make sure that the legislation is accurately reflective of what people in Saskatchewan are looking for and what is needed to make us truly the best province to live in in all of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

So when one looks at this Bill, the public who make complaints and the lawyers facing those complaints deserve greater certainty and a timely resolution to their disputes. The proposal to streamline the sentencing process for serious misconduct appears to achieve that and as such is a positive move. Similarly, allowing the Law Society to appeal a finding of the conduct investigation committee to the Court of Appeal seems to be an appropriate move, Mr. Speaker.

So there are some changes that seem to be causing a good streamlining of the process and allowing some recourse in the event that there is still a dispute or a difference of opinion, Mr. Speaker, and that's something that's obviously so vital to have. There's always going to be . . . Not always, I shouldn't say, but there is going to be from time to time differences of opinions on rulings.

And it's important that when decisions are made or rulings are made, no matter what the case may be or what it pertains to, that there is always a mode of recourse, Mr. Speaker, and a mode of recourse that the complainant or the person that has concerns feels comfortable with — that they don't feel that it's biased, that they don't feel that it's a useless exercise to pursue to begin with, but that they truly feel that they can be heard, that they will be respected when they are heard, shall we say, and that those complainants will be taken seriously and maybe then addressed going forward, Mr. Speaker.

So it's very good to see that the changes seem to be of a positive nature and that there is recourse built into those changes, Mr. Speaker. Now there is more than a little irony in the government's proposal to include a statement to the effect that the legal profession exists to serve the public, and, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, New Democrats couldn't agree more. One of the most admirable qualities of the Law Society is the degree to which they operate openly and transparently. Complaints and findings of misconduct for example are posted on the Law Society's website.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it would be a great relief if only this Sask Party government operated as openly and trustworthy as the legal profession. Instead we see a government obsessed with secrecy and spin at every turn. . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now I hear one of the members saying, excuse me, excuse me. So it's nice to hear that one of the members is actually paying attention to what I'm saying. Because it is quite obvious from what we've seen here, just in the last few days, Mr. Speaker, that they're having a difficulty getting their story straight, Mr. Speaker. And we're still trying to wade through the mess and still trying to get to what are the accurate facts, Mr. Speaker, besides all the spin and rhetoric that we're getting from the Sask Party government and their Premier, Mr. Speaker.

So again as I said, it's a relief to see that the Law Society acts in a much, much different way than the people that have the ability to make the laws and change Bills and bring Bills

forward in the province of Saskatchewan — that being the Premier of Saskatchewan and the Sask Party government behind him, Mr. Speaker.

Because what we're seeing is quite the opposite. It's quite the opposite. We don't see any open . . . We don't see any transparency when it comes to the financial management of the province, Mr. Speaker. My colleague, who is the critic for finances, has quite an onerous job trying to sort through what the Sask Party government is doing with the finance in the province.

And quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it's a shame that my colleague, the Finance critic, isn't the finance master because I guarantee you, I guarantee you that the finances in this province would look dramatically different, Mr. Speaker. We wouldn't be sitting in a deficit position. We would be sitting in a situation where we'd be in the black instead of the red in this province, Mr. Speaker, because decisions would be made differently, Mr. Speaker.

And the main decision that'd be made differently, Mr. Speaker, would be that we wouldn't have increased our executives' salaries within government to double of what they were when we were in government, Mr. Speaker. That would be one of the first differences. There's many, many other differences, Mr. Speaker.

We wouldn't have over projected potash revenues in this province because we were the ones saying at that time, when their budget came out in 2009, that their projections were way off base. Now why is it that the opposition could see that but the government itself, with all the resources it has, Mr. Speaker, could not? Why is that, Mr. Speaker?

[16:15]

So, Mr. Speaker, we see, as I said that the Law Society operates in a very different manner. There is transparency. They operate in a very open way. When complaints and findings of misconduct come forward, are found, for example they're posted on the Law Society's website.

Now again as I said, it's quite different from what we're seeing in other ways with the government. When we ask questions about whether a crane on a construction site is properly certified, all they want to know is, who gave us the information? That's all the Sask Party government is interested in, is who gave us the information, not is that crane safe for the workers that are currently there at the time that the question was asked. No. It's, who gave us the information? It's simply the issue of witch-hunting, which is not what the Law Society does.

The Law Society is quite different. They want to know who brings forward the complaint. They want to know what the situation is. And they want to know how they can best deal with that situation and complaint, and rectify it, versus the witch hunt which is what the Sask Party undertakes when a complaint comes forward from the opposition or from members of the society, Mr. Speaker.

So for instance, you know, when we bring forward, through our critic for Corrections and Public Safety, an issue of an offender

being mistakenly released from custody, what happens with the government? Do they simply . . . [inaudible] . . . the facts or look at the facts or do a due diligence with respect to the complaint that has been brought forward? No. Instead they lock up my colleague in a closed-door meeting for an hour and subject him to all sorts of threats and subject the workers within that unit to a witch hunt as to who brought forward the complaint.

That shouldn't be important when dealing with the Law Society. That shouldn't be important when dealing with complaints to the government. It should be, what is the complaint? Who is the person that the complaint is about? And how should that complaint be handled going forward, Mr. Speaker?

So I'm glad to see that Bill 124, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act* is taking a careful review of how those complaints are being dealt with when brought forward to the Law Society.

Another one of those concerns I have, Mr. Speaker, is when members of the public file freedom of information requests, and they're either rejected or large portions of documents are blacked out, Mr. Speaker. That doesn't speak to open accountability and transparency, Mr. Speaker, even if nothing nefarious is in the blacked-out section. The problem is, is that when the section is blacked out for no good reason, of protecting an individual's interests or such, but when there's literally three-quarters of the page blacked out, it then has the appearance of being nefarious, Mr. Speaker. And once it takes on the appearance of being nefarious, then unfortunately there is mistrust and distrust, Mr. Speaker.

So that is what's so critically important about the Law Society and *The Legal Profession Amendment Act* being open and accountable in what it's doing through its means, as well as the government being open and accountable as to what it's doing through its means. It's to make sure that the public feels that it can have trust in those entities to act on their best behalf, Mr. Speaker.

So if there is no trust, Mr. Speaker, then the system breaks down in many different ways. And there currently is no trust, Mr. Speaker, when people bring forward complaints to the government that they will be taken in the manner that they are being presented, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm reassured to see that the Law Society through *The Legal Profession Amendment Act* is working in that way, that it is giving a great deal of confidence to complainants and trust and is, like I said, allowing the appropriate amount of time for the public to make complaints and the lawyers that are facing those complaints to deal with things in a more timely resolution in those disputes, Mr. Speaker.

So when we look again at the full overview of the Bill, and we see that there has been consultations done from what the minister has said in his second reading speech and that these changes, according to the Minister of Justice, are being brought forward at the request of the Law Society, as well as the fact that we can see that the Law Society is acting in a very open and transparent way, Mr. Speaker, which as I said brings great

trust from those who are having to deal with the Law Society. We will continue to consult with members of the legal profession to ensure that these changes meet their needs and, more importantly, the needs of the public that they and we as members of the legislature serve, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will recommend that this Bill now be moved to committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 124, *The Legal Profession 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 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 that Bill No. 124, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2009* be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

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

Bill No. 129

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 129 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to weigh in on debate and discussion here today as it relates to Bill No. 129, *An Act respecting the Enforcement of Judgments for the payment of money, making consequential amendments to certain Acts and repealing certain Acts* titled as *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*, Mr. Speaker. Not only is the title long in length, Mr. Speaker. The Bill itself is as well with a 111-page Bill before us today which certainly speaks to the importance of scrutiny in great depth on this matter, Mr. Speaker.

I know when we're looking at this Bill here specifically we're talking about matters of creditors and debtors, Mr. Speaker. And certainly these are common issues and common challenges that are raised within our offices on an ongoing basis and around the province, Mr. Speaker.

So it's something that's important to our constituents. It's important that we get the legislation right, Mr. Speaker, and make sure that it doesn't create undue hardship for creditors or for debtors, Mr. Speaker, making sure that it marries that proper balance and making sure that it's effective in meeting the objectives set out by the minister, Mr. Speaker. The minister sets out principles which certainly we support, Mr. Speaker, but it's a matter of making sure that the Bill itself is actually going to achieve the kind of results and needs within our community that exists here today.

When we talk about the common challenges that come through our office as it relates to creditors, we hear from frustrated creditors from time to time who have obtained a court judgment which states they are entitled to compensation or restitution of some kind but find they are unable to enforce it, Mr. Speaker. So this is something that causes great frustration and consternation and rightfully so, Mr. Speaker. You have many businesses, many organizations, and individuals who are found in this circumstance as creditors who have a court judgment that says they are entitled, Mr. Speaker, but then don't have the ability to go after the amount owed.

And it questions the enforceability of the Bill, Mr. Speaker. And this is something that this Bill needs to make sure that it sets out to achieve, and these are the good questions that we need to be asking. And the thorough, thorough consultation within the legal community that we're engaged with right now is allowing us to dissect and understand this 111-page Bill, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that the delicate balance and the issues that it sets out to address are in fact addressed within this legislation and done so in an effective manner, Mr. Speaker.

The other group that we do hear from within our offices as well is, we hear from the creditors, the businesses, the organizations, the individuals who are owed money and have no ability at times to go out and retrieve that money that they're rightfully owed. But we also hear from debtors, Mr. Speaker. And we hear from debtors who worry about whether or not they'll be left with sufficient income at times to support themselves and their families. This is something that's important — the ability to sustain and be able to provide for their family.

They are concerned about the use of the family vehicle to transport themselves to and from work, Mr. Speaker, and certainly within their lives, vehicles that in many cases are something that enables their employment, Mr. Speaker, something that allows them to achieve revenues within their own life. And of course these revenues are needed as well because those dollars are needed to be able to transfer and flow to, in some cases here, the debt that's owed or to a creditor who's rightfully owed money. So those are some of the concerns.

I know that we also hear concerns about the powers given to sheriffs to enforce these judgments and how they interact with the public in the course of enforcing those judgments. And those sheriffs are put out in a very difficult role, Mr. Speaker, to go out and seek the dollars that are owed to a creditor. And we know that in doing that work, that important work, Mr. Speaker, that they're dealing with highly sensitive environments, Mr. Speaker.

When we're talking about matters of money, Mr. Speaker, I think that we would know that there's likely nothing more sensitive within many, many people's lives. Certainly many times I think it's the challenge of many that causes many problems for individuals and for relationships, Mr. Speaker.

So when we're dealing with money matters, we're dealing with something that certainly needs to be dealt with in a great deal of sensitivity. And as a result there's a lot of emotion involved in these exchanges, Mr. Speaker, and there's a . . . It's difficult for everybody involved, whether that be the debtor, the creditor, and certainly for the sheriff that's intervening. And we need to make sure we find the right balance in our legislation.

These matters, when you're looking at taking away something — the property or the rights or the money of an individual — certainly can cause great stress and can heighten circumstances to different types of environments that may not be desirable. Certain crises emerge at times, Mr. Speaker, and we need to be very thoughtful in making sure that this legislation has the right balance.

And as I've said, this is a piece of legislation that certainly isn't short in words at 111 pages. And it's one that we're really working — the opposition New Democrats — are working very diligently with the legal community to make sure that the scrutiny of this Bill allows us to make sure that we put forward a document that's meaningful and sets out the objectives of the . . . to achieve the objectives of the minister, Mr. Speaker, which, as I've said, we support those basic objectives.

I know the minister said that the legislation needed to be modernized, and we certainly agree with that, Mr. Speaker. That's a broad statement, and there's a definite need for clarity on these fronts, Mr. Speaker.

The government has also brought together, on one piece of legislation, rules that have in the past been scattered over several pieces of legislation. We agree with that principle, that idea of consolidation, and it's one of those activities that we're working with the legal community on right now to make sure that what we've achieved is a document that works and that achieves the fine balance that needs to exist between these entities that in some ways are competing, but also each of them have their pressures and the entitled arguments that need to be represented. We need to make sure that this consolidation serves, serves the enforcement of these judgments properly, Mr. Speaker, and we need to make sure that this consolidation provides the kind of protections that are needed to families and individuals, Mr. Speaker.

But the minister promises that this is more than a consolidation, Mr. Speaker, and then he went on with many rather vague and broad statements, Mr. Speaker, for which we are having difficulty scrutinizing at this point in time. And certainly the committee process will offer that opportunity.

It's disappointing, Mr. Speaker, that the clarity that should be provided from the minister in putting forward a piece of legislation that I hope the minister values and that I hope the minister understands, Mr. Speaker, it's disappointing that we don't have that kind of detail laid out at the front end, Mr. Speaker, because it only enlightens this entire process, Mr.

Speaker, and adds to the debate and the discussion and the scrutiny that the people of the province, the legal community are engaged with right now as it relates to this Bill with the official opposition New Democrats, with ourselves.

[16:30]

He says, the minister says that it will remove a host of procedural burdens in legislative inadequacies in the process, Mr. Speaker. But unfortunately the minister does not take any time to explain what these burdens or inadequacies are, Mr. Speaker. It's simply a broad statement. So for us to then be able to go in and understand the merit and effectiveness of those changes, Mr. Speaker, we're hugely hampered. Those are going to be questions that we request and urge the government to provide in detail at the legislative committee level.

It's certainly a process that we're engaged with right now through our consultations with our stakeholders and with the legal community who are helping to understand from the very, very broad statements that were provided from this minister and very vague statements from this minister, what this legislation means as it relates to creditors, as it relates to debtors, and as it relates to sheriffs, Mr. Speaker — all with their different pressures and needs that need to be achieved in this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

It's certainly found itself commonplace with the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, to have legislation that has derived in vacuum, Mr. Speaker, and that doesn't in fact achieve the goal or objective that it's intended to, Mr. Speaker, because of being formulated either in haste or without any consultation with those people that either have expert opinion or with those individuals that it impacts, Mr. Speaker. And that's a recipe for poor legislation. It's a recipe for poor government and it's certainly what we're seeing from the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker.

And we see this reflective of the broader failures and the bigger failures that Saskatchewan people are identifying and always are asking myself and individuals of the opposition to raise within this Assembly — and I always commit to doing so, Mr. Speaker, at every opportunity that I do so — and that's the big and large failures as it relates to health care, Mr. Speaker. The massive failures of the Sask Party and broken promises as it relates to health care, cost of living, and financial mismanagement, Mr. Speaker. And I'm always pleased to take to my feet here in this Legislative Building and raise those issues, Mr. Speaker, that matter most to Saskatchewan people.

So the minister lays out many aspects of what this legislation is supposed to do, Mr. Speaker, and yet he doesn't lay out any clear examples of how it, in fact, goes about doing that. He makes very broad and vague statements, Mr. Speaker, and it makes it very difficult to measure the effectiveness of this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

He did not provide examples of situations where people would not have been able to enforce a judgment in the past and how they'll be able to now. And this gets to . . . The crux of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is that one of the aspects that creditors have significant challenges at times, Mr. Speaker — those being businesses and organizations and individuals — to go after and retrieve those dollars that they're rightfully owed and rightfully

recognized through a court judgment.

This doesn't lay out any example of where in the past that those circumstances would, where there would have been challenges for those individuals to retrieve those dollars. And this legislation does nothing . . . Or I shouldn't say the legislation does nothing. The minister has provided no example of how this legislation changes that for specific examples, Mr. Speaker. And that's a very important piece for us to measure the impact and effectiveness of this legislation.

Further to that, he, the minister, did not outline which specific provisions in the legislation would make it easier to enforce judgments, Mr. Speaker. And this is something that is very, very important to, well to each of those groups — the debtors, the creditors, and the sheriffs, Mr. Speaker. And we need to make sure that we understand the broad statement offered by the minister that he's trying to enhance the environment so that those judgments could be enforced and that creditors receive the dollars that they're owed. But we've been provided not a single specific provision in this legislation that, in fact, enables that to happen, Mr. Speaker.

So that's problematic for the opposition. It's something that I challenge the minister responsible to table to this legislature as soon as he can, and certainly we'll be looking for that and scrutinizing it through the committee process. Without that information, Mr. Speaker, it's fair to say that it's a process that we can only engage with to some extent.

And I know that the broader consultations with stakeholders in the legal community cite these as major difficulties to be able to understand the impacts, when a minister says that his legislation is going to do this, this, and this, but then can't provide a specific example or a provision that actually is going to enable or allow that, Mr. Speaker. This is information that rightfully and dutifully should be provided up front, Mr. Speaker, and it prevents the democratic process from being as effective as it should be, Mr. Speaker.

And this should be of concern, Mr. Speaker, to Saskatchewan people because what we have here then is a Bill that is not yet understood, not certain that it's understood by the minister that tabled it, Mr. Speaker. But we need to make sure that it is understood before that in fact becomes law. Because what we see, Mr. Speaker, is that many, many reckless actions of the Sask Party are causing huge harm for Saskatchewan people, their lives, and their well-being. And we can look at that in the devastating record of the Sask Party as it relates to health care, Mr. Speaker, the huge challenges and burdens created by the Sask Party as it relates to cost of living, and the gross mismanagement, the utter recklessness and irresponsibility as it relates to the financial mismanagement, Mr. Speaker.

So these are big issues. And I know that the Sask Party members, many of them are recognizing here today in this Assembly here right now that these are big issues, that they've completely failed Saskatchewan people. I noticed, you know, that some of these members and ministers are likely not proud of these devastatingly poor records, Mr. Speaker, where many, many promises were offered on the front end, Mr. Speaker. A bond of trust was supposed to be created with Saskatchewan people on these various issues. And now here we are with

broken promise after broken promise, Mr. Speaker, and in fact going backwards on critical issues to Saskatchewan people and communities and businesses across Saskatchewan.

And when you're getting onto issues of broken trust, Mr. Speaker, that are the result of failures to deliver and broken promises, Mr. Speaker, that we see on so many fronts, it becomes hugely problematic for there to be any element of trust with the government of the day by either the opposition or Saskatchewan people with legislation that they put forward.

So when the minister put forward this legislation and said these are the . . . in very vague ways, this is what it's intended to do, it sort of comes with that "just trust us," Mr. Speaker. "Just trust us" is sort of the plea offered by the minister, because he's not able to offer anything substantive as to how this legislation will in fact address the circumstances that it's intended to. And the problem with the minister from the Sask Party saying "just trust us" is that clearly, Mr. Speaker, the people from across Saskatchewan don't trust, don't trust the Sask Party. They certainly don't trust the Sask Party Premier, Mr. Speaker, and certainly they're not going to simply trust them.

So what they expect is more detail, Mr. Speaker. They're going to expect that the government of the day expand and extrapolate on how they're going to fulfill the objectives and challenges that they've laid out here, Mr. Speaker. Because when this minister and those members opposite come into the legislature and put forward legislation that they say, just trust us with, Saskatchewan people clearly, clearly and resoundingly tell this government, and ask us to tell this government, that they don't.

Saskatchewan people, businesses, communities don't trust the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, because you can't take them at their word, Mr. Speaker. And not only can you not take them at their word, Mr. Speaker — and that's a sad state of affairs, Mr. Speaker — but you can't even take them . . . can't even trust them, Mr. Speaker, when you sign a document and form an agreement with this government. Contractual obligations mean nothing to this government opposite, Mr. Speaker.

So I find it odd that what we're dealing with here is a piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that in fact is trying to enforce legislation so that creditors who are rightfully owed dollars can go and retrieve those dollars, Mr. Speaker, often through a contractual obligation, often through a contractual obligation, and to get those dollars. And we support that principle but we find it kind of funny that you should maybe practise what you preach, Mr. Speaker.

And we see this government putting forward legislation that allows creditors to retrieve those dollars from broken agreements, but this government simply rips up agreements, Mr. Speaker. They rip them up as it relates to health care, Mr. Speaker. They rip them up as it relates to municipalities, and now we see the ill effects of that. We see property taxes going through the roof in most communities across Saskatchewan. That's directly tied to the financial mismanagement of this government, but also the treatment this government provides to the agreements that it puts forward.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're at a point of time where you can't take this government at their word and, Mr. Speaker, you can't even

take them in a contractual agreement. Yet the government of the day, the Sask Party, says well we can rip any agreement, any old agreement that we want, Mr. Speaker. We can rip up any agreement we want, Mr. Speaker, but Saskatchewan people, institutions, organizations, and individuals are always on the hook for contractual agreements.

And I think that's the way that it should be, Mr. Speaker, that not only I believe that it should be that one's word should be their bond, Mr. Speaker, and that that trust should be provided there, but certainly when pen-to-paper agreements are made, Mr. Speaker, that that obligation is one that's real and one that needs to be fulfilled by both parties, Mr. Speaker.

And we see ripped-up agreement after ripped-up agreement that has created huge problems for Saskatchewan people as it relates to health care, huge problems for Saskatchewan people as it relates to the cost of living within our province, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that breaks most promises that they put forward, Mr. Speaker. As it relates to climate change, as it relates to making big promises that you never even hear anything about it any more as it related to addressing rural health care, Mr. Speaker.

That's taking an absolute beating under this government, Mr. Speaker, where we see doctor vacancies, the very vital service that Saskatchewan people and communities depend on for their own health and their own needs but also their own economic well-being, Mr. Speaker, and we see those vacancies increase by 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker, in the past two years.

And what this represents is a broken promise, Mr. Speaker, but one that affects the people, the businesses, and the communities across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And when you take something so vital to the trust that was offered by Saskatchewan people for the Saskatchewan Party to govern and to go about and fulfill their promises, when you see those kind of ripped-up agreements and broken promises, Mr. Speaker, it begs the question, can you trust them on anything, Mr. Speaker? Can you trust them on anything?

And it goes directly back to this piece of legislation, Bill No. 129, because we have a minister who stands in this Assembly with either the audacity to simply make very vague statements, Mr. Speaker, that basically are premised on, just trust us, Mr. Speaker — isn't able to offer any substance to those — or, Mr. Speaker, he doesn't understand the legislation that he put forward.

Now either one of those could be realistic options, Mr. Speaker, but both of them are huge problems for Saskatchewan people — a minister that doesn't understand the Bill that he puts forward, a significant piece of legislation that consolidates in fact seven . . . several different pieces of legislation that addresses issues that are and challenges that are significant to our constituents, Mr. Speaker.

They're important to the member from Weyburn's constituents. I know that for certain. I know that they're important to the member from Humboldt. I know they're important to the member from Kelvington's. They're certainly important to my constituents, Mr. Speaker, and we need to make sure we get this kind of legislation right.

And the reckless approach to both putting forward legislation and governing within this province by the Sask Party simply has to stop, Mr. Speaker. And when a minister stands up here and puts forward a substantive piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that in fact consolidates many pieces of legislation and just simply says, this is what our goal is and just trust us, Mr. Speaker, is all he can offer for how we're going to achieve it, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan people expect more. They're disappointed by this. And they're telling us all the time when the Sask Party takes them for granted like this, make sure we call them on it every time, make sure that they're accountable and that they can stand up and offer the kind of substantive material and examples that Saskatchewan people deserve. And in this piece of legislation that's certainly not the case, Mr. Speaker, certainly not the case.

We're dealing with circumstances in this piece of legislation that deals with creditors and sheriffs and debtors, Mr. Speaker. And these are volatile situations and need to be dealt with the appropriate balance and the appropriate scrutiny needs to make sure that what's been put forward is going to be an effective solution to the challenges that exist because each one of those groups have respective needs in these disputes, in these challenges.

We need to make sure that Bill 129 achieves that. But what we see, Mr. Speaker, is a government, the Sask Party government and a Premier who won't listen to anybody and puts forward flawed legislation, Mr. Speaker, and puts forward flawed plans as it relates to health care, Mr. Speaker, that we see devastating consequences for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker — our cost of living, our financial mismanagement.

We look at health care, Mr. Speaker. We see in the examples here where we have a kidney transplant program that's cut, Mr. Speaker, without any sort of plan about how Saskatchewan people are going to receive those transplants.

Now we have family after family after family, Mr. Speaker, who are sitting in their communities right now, within their homes, Mr. Speaker, in a state that is anything but comfortable, anything but peace of mind, Mr. Speaker. And this is what occurs when you lose your health, Mr. Speaker. And we have a minister and a Premier with the Sask Party that's all too willing, Mr. Speaker, to let these individuals linger with these poor health.

And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about circumstances where individuals are going to deteriorate, deteriorate quickly, and we're talking about death, Mr. Speaker. And this is a government that's put forward program cuts that they didn't understand and had no plan for individuals that needed that, Mr. Speaker. Now families after families, loved ones and couples and individuals are faced with the consequences of death for themselves, Mr. Speaker, or the death of an individual for whom they love.

And Mr. Speaker, this is not the kind of treatment Saskatchewan people deserve. And we expect a heck of a lot more, Mr. Speaker, from this Premier than that kind of treatment. And that gets to the point, Mr. Speaker, when we, as

it relates to Bill No. 129, and when we have the minister stand in his place in this Assembly and speak to a piece of legislation that he simply doesn't understand, Mr. Speaker, or isn't willing to provide the kind of substantive detail that Saskatchewan people deserve.

And when I talk about simply not being able to take this government at its word, it's a result of the broken promises, the ripped-up agreements that this trust has been broken, Mr. Speaker. This trust has been broken and that's a major problem. And Saskatchewan people have little, little reason, if any at all, to take this government, the Sask Party at their word. Or this Premier. This Premier you cannot take at his word for anything, Mr. Speaker.

And that's a huge problem, Mr. Speaker, when you have a trust that's completely broken with Saskatchewan people. Too many promises, Mr. Speaker, that matter to Saskatchewan people. Too many, too many promises have been broken up and ripped up in the face of Saskatchewan people. So what we recognize . . .

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Saskatoon Massey Place on his feet?

Mr. Broten: — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Massey Place has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to members of the Assembly for granting leave. I want to take a moment, Mr. Speaker, to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a group of individuals who are seated in your gallery.

These individuals, Mr. Speaker, have arrived to Saskatchewan about four and a half months ago. They're originally from Pakistan and they are here working in the province. It's their first trip to the Assembly. So they, on a beautiful spring day, wanted to take the opportunity to come and see the proceedings and see the beautiful setting around the lake.

If I could introduce the individuals seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Zahid Hussain — you folks can give a wave — Akber Rashid, Bilal Ahmed, Faisal Aziz, Zabi Ullah, Saima Hussain, as well as Angela Arden, who isn't from Pakistan, I believe. But I would invite all members to join me in welcoming these guests to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you for being here.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont. Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, to ask for leave of the Assembly to join the member in introducing guests.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave to introduce guests as well. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member opposite in welcoming our newcomers to their Assembly, but also to the province. Certainly what we're endeavouring to do — all members of this Assembly — is building more diverse, dynamic, and cosmopolitan communities that offer greater inclusion and a spirit of welcome to all newcomers, certainly those included in the present group. Welcome to your Assembly. And I hope all members will join me in offering that welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 129 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* (continued)

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the minister opposite. I welcome the members to their Assembly. It's a pleasure to have you here today.

The minister of great hand gestures gets up, Mr. Speaker, and speaks about cosmopolitan communities, Mr. Speaker. Yet the member opposite at the same time cuts the entire film industry and takes a huge chunk out of our economy . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I would ask what that comment has to do with the Bill 129, the enforcement of money judgments agencies. I would ask the member to address the legislation.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for tabling legislation that's in contravention of the United Nations, Mr. Speaker, who stands in this Assembly, calls the state that he's providing a cosmopolitan nation . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I would ask the member to proceed to the legislation before us.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the minister with big hand gestures stands in this Assembly, the very minister who is responsible for . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. The member will either move to addressing the legislation or we'll move to the next individual. I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Sorry, Mr. Speaker. It's always a great opportunity to highlight the important aspects that need to be raised within this Assembly, and I think hypocrisy of the Sask Party are aspects that need to be raised, and thus I stand behind

the comments that I . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the member from Cannington has something to say to this point of order.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Beauchesne's it clearly outlines that the use of the word hypocrisy to describe members of the House is not proper parliamentary language. I ask that the member withdraw that and apologize unequivocally.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Clearly as my learned colleague would say over there, you cannot use that reflecting against an individual member.

Mr. Speaker, my learned colleague was referring to the government, not an individual but to the government, and the government is a legal entity of itself, Mr. Speaker. So it is not talking about the character of any one member or any member of the Assembly but of the government itself.

The Speaker: — I've listened to the point of order and listened to the response from the Opposition House Leader. And I would ask that members be mindful of the words they use and, whether or not it's directed against a group of members or an individual member, those types of words and phrases really do not add to the decorum or uplift members in the Assembly. And so I would ask members to be mindful of that in their comments and ask the member from Regina Rosemont to move directly to the business before us — Bill 129.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. It's a pleasure to continue with discussion of Bill 129 here today, Mr. Speaker, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* that needs to make sure it strikes the very important balance between creditors, debtors, and those who collect those dollars — sheriffs, Mr. Speaker.

But fundamental to these agreements, Mr. Speaker, is contractual obligations, Mr. Speaker. And a point that should not be lost and that needs to be highlighted is that this government puts forward legislation that in fact allows the strengthening of going out and collecting dollars that are rightfully received through a contractual obligation, Mr. Speaker. But at the same time that this government says that Saskatchewan businesses, organizations, and people, Mr. Speaker, should be more bound by contractual obligations, this government rips up the very documents that they signed, Mr. Speaker.

I will cite specifically with municipalities, Mr. Speaker. An agreement signed in great fanfare that was ripped up, Mr. Speaker, in huge disgrace, Mr. Speaker, that has, now has the consequence to Saskatchewan people and businesses of property tax increases for Saskatchewan people.

So I shame this government for putting forward legislation that either the minister didn't understand to elaborate on or thought that he could simply put forward such vague statements, Mr. Speaker, for a Bill of significance, Mr. Speaker. Put forward a Bill without any sort of detail or citing the provisions that in

fact are going to achieve the kind of goals and objectives that this legislation sets out to achieve, Mr. Speaker.

We don't have confidence in the Sask Party's ability to formulate legislation on this front. They don't even have the ability to explain it to this legislature, Mr. Speaker. And it's important that we seek the answers that Saskatchewan people are asking to make sure that they're protected and make sure that the legislation makes sense as it relates to those businesses and organizations and individuals who are seeking the dollars that are rightfully owed through judgments, Mr. Speaker.

So those questions will be asked through committee, Mr. Speaker. We'd ask the government at any point, the Sask Party, to table this information. In the meantime, we're going to continue to consult with stakeholders in the legal community, Mr. Speaker, and make sure that we arrive at a meaningful document, Mr. Speaker. At this point in time, there's many more questions to be asked and there's very little clarity to this legislation. So at this time, I will move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 129. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the House do now adjourn for committees this evening.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:57.]

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