



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

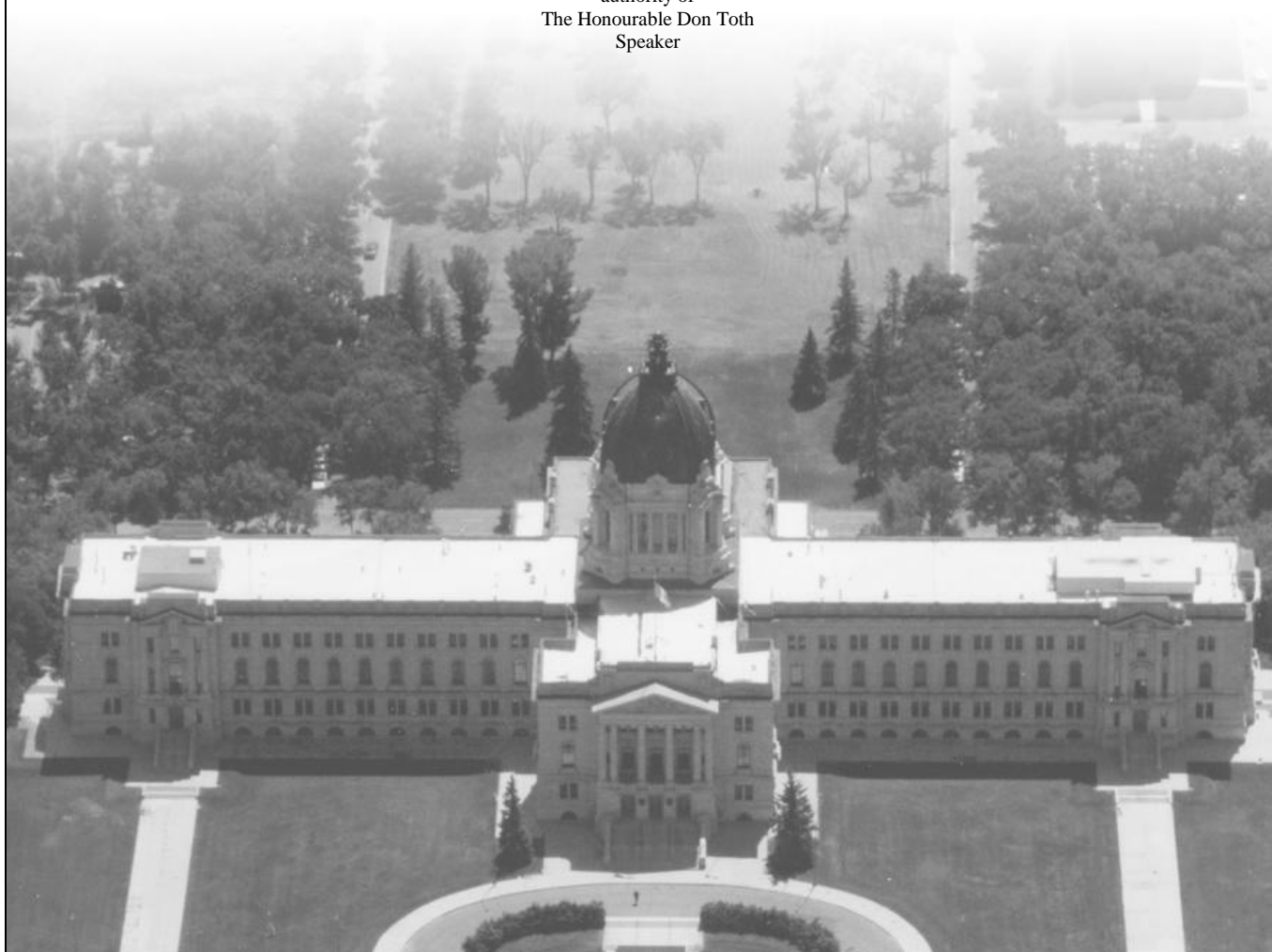
of the

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 resumed at 13:30.]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: — Being now 1:30, the House will resume with the beginning of routine proceedings.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to be able to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly today some very special guests that are seated in your gallery.

Mr. Speaker, it's well known across the province, and frankly around the world, that the best world junior hockey tournament was hosted in the province of Saskatchewan just a few months ago. And, Mr. Speaker, there'll be a final report to be released on the success of that report just in a few hours from now. And the report will be released by the individuals that it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly.

Again, seated in your gallery today, in no particular order by the way, although I'll go a bit off script and introduce His Worship, Mayor Atchison from Saskatoon, who was a key figure in attracting the tournament to the province of Saskatchewan. Mayor Atchison, it's good to have him in the Assembly today.

Also joining us, chief operating officer for Hockey Canada, Scott Smith. Scott Farley, also with Hockey Canada, has joined us. The president of the 2010 world junior championship host committee and just a community leader, a provincial leader really, owner of one of the other WHL [Western Hockey League] teams that doesn't play in Swift Current, Jack Brodsky, has joined us today. Mr. Speaker, Al Hubbs is president of the Saskatchewan Hockey Association. John Lee, member of the 2010 host committee, Ron Robison, commissioner of the Western Hockey League, has also joined us today.

Mr. Speaker, we also have Al Ford who was really involved in, well in all aspects of the tournament, but really helped make the Regina element of that tournament a success along with Mayor Fiacco and his team. We also want to welcome Joe Bloski who is a vice-president for the host committee. Dave Pettigrew has also joined us. And, Mr. Speaker, not in the gallery, but on the floor, also a vice-president for that successful host committee, the member for Silver Springs.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to welcome these individuals to their gallery. And, oh, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how I could have missed Hugh Vassos. Because if there is a successful event that is involved in the city of Saskatoon — whether it's the best Vanier Cup ever or the best World Juniors ever — you know that Hugh Vassos is going to be a part of it. And more than that, he was a leader in making this event happen for our province.

I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the Premier in welcoming Mayor Atchison and the great team that put together a wonderful effort to attract the world junior champions, and most of all, to all the volunteers. And I know how difficult it is to put together a working group and a bid. And it's just a great effort.

And I want to say to the Premier, because I know his government obviously is involved as well in making these things happen, and also to Al Ford, good friend over the years. Good to see you here too, Al. A great effort and I just want to congratulate all involved in this effort and we'll do it again. Congratulations.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce a school group visiting from my constituency, actually the first school group I've had the pleasure of introducing in this Assembly — of course northwest Saskatchewan being quite a distance from Regina.

The school group is from Northwood Christian School in Leoville, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. There's six students from grade 6 to 9, their teacher, Mr. Scott Toews, chaperones Murray Loewen and Dale Ensz, and students Kaylee, Mary-Jo, Sheldon, Paula, Emery, and Braden. And I look forward to getting together with them later today, and thank you very much for being here and welcome.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly it gives me a great pleasure again to introduce Heather Malek who's a film and television editor here in Saskatchewan, in Regina, who is working very hard to try to help the government understand the error of their ways with respect to shutting down SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network]. And she is in the west gallery.

While I'm on my feet, actually I have two very special guests to introduce. In the east gallery, my husband Blair McDaid who has taken a leave from his job as a union rep at SEIU [Service Employees International Union] so I can do this work. He's here today, as is my two-year-old daughter Ophelia who has taken leave from all her friends, little friends in Saskatoon, to come out and hang out here in Regina. And it's very good to see them here today, although briefly, and it's great to see them here actually while my toddler is awake. Anyway, thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I first want to join with the member opposite in welcoming Heather Malek to the Legislative Assembly. We had a very good discussion late yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm also on my feet I want to introduce to

you and through you to the members of the Assembly 18 students from the adult basic education class at the Southeast Regional College in Weyburn. Mr. Speaker, they are joined by their teachers, Bev Kulach, Shannon King, and Anna Fish, and their chaperone Terri Wilkinson.

Mr. Speaker, this is a class that over the last number of years that I've been the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] of, had the opportunity to introduce in this Assembly and also to visit them at their class in Weyburn. Ms. Fish, one of the teachers, has been always good in inviting me to class and I look forward to meeting with these students after the routine proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to introduce 37 grade 10 students from the Melville Comprehensive School in Melville. I also want to mention their teachers, Mr. Speaker, Perry Ostapowich and Glenda Yuzik. I think many of my colleagues will remember them.

Year after year, Mr. Ostapowich and the teachers out there bring the students in, and we really appreciate that. We want to get that message through to him. We appreciate the interest that he takes in the legislature and passes on and gives the opportunity to the students to see how this legislature functions. And, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to welcome Mr. Ostapowich and Ms. Yuzik and the grade 10 students from Melville to their legislature.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to introduce some guests from the labour community here with us today. Sitting in the east gallery, Larry Hubich, president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, along with Gunnar Passmore, with the building trades. In your gallery, we have Don Anderson from the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour], Cara Banks, and Larry Kowalchuk from RWDSU [Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union]. I ask all members to welcome these trade unionists to their legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, in reiterating that welcome to Mr. Hubich and other members of the trade union movement. Obviously they play an important role within contemporary Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members to join me in this welcome.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, through you, and to all members of the Assembly two guests that are seated in the Speaker's gallery today. Perhaps they can

give a little wave when I introduce them. One of them is Adison Mosiondz and she is with Burton Gerspacher. That's her boyfriend. And as you can tell, Gerspacher is a wonderful German name.

I am very excited that Adison has found a nice young German man given that Adison is a proud daughter of Brigitta and Darrell Mosiondz. And Brigitta's parents are Adi and Paula Traweger. Now Adi and Paula Traweger are very, very, very good friends of my family. They were very close with my parents, and so they are my daughter's adopted grandmother right now, and grandfather.

And so I've known Adison since she was born, and she's a wonderful young woman. She's going to be attending university this fall, and she's getting ready to do that. And Mr. Burton Gerspacher has aspirations of going into medicine. So I wish them a very successful education in Saskatchewan here. And I would like all my colleagues to welcome them to the legislature today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you to all the members of the Assembly I'd like to join the Minister of Agriculture, the member from Melville-Saltcoats, in welcoming the Melville school group here today.

There's one very special person among that group, a family member of mine. I consider her a niece; she's actually more of a cousin: Ms. Taylor Hudema, Mr. Speaker. We spend many Christmases together and very many family gatherings. And I'm very happy to welcome her here today. She's actually giving me a little wave there, Taylor. Didn't mean to embarrass her. But I'd ask all members to welcome Taylor to her Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the safety of our highways. This particular petition pertains to Highway No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of No. 1. This highway, Mr. Speaker, is a year-round traffic route to tourist destinations as well as serving three major inland grain terminals. And the prayer goes on to read, Mr. Speaker, as follows:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And this petition is signed by the good folks from Melville, Kelliher, Fort Qu'Appelle, Balcarres, and Lebre, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of the protection of wildlife habitat lands. And, Mr. Speaker, the wildlife habitat Act protects 3.4 million acres of uplands and wetlands, or one-third of all wildlife habitat lands in Saskatchewan, in their natural state. And there is a number of people across the province that are concerned that this government is repealing the schedule listing these designated lands with the proposed amendments currently tabled in this House. And:

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 in Rocanville and Moosomin.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition in support of maintaining educational assistants in the province. This petition indicates that all children have the right to learn in a supportive and stress free environment and that government data shows the growing numbers of students requiring additional support in school in order to succeed. Mr. Speaker, the government has a document that was published that indicates that there's going to be a significant reduction in the number of EAs [educational assistant] in the province of Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads:

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

And this petition is signed by people in Saskatoon, Bruno, and Regina. I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of concerned citizens in Saskatchewan calling for the reinstatement of the domestic abuse outreach program. And we know that the domestic abuse outreach program provided a number of valuable services to women victims of domestic violence and their children, including helping women to find emergency shelter and

accompanying them to their homes, court, and hospital or police station. And we know this government cut the program on December 31st, 2009, without consultation with the community. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

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 reinstate the domestic abuse outreach program as a provincial government service and make it available in all parts of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens throughout the province. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of Highway 135. These concerns on the petition address the concerns of the community 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 to the community of Pelican Narrows as committed on August 24th, 2007.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are from the city of Swift Current. I so present.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — 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 financial assistance for the town of Duck Lake water project. The petition is being circulated, Mr. Speaker, because of the exorbitant amount that Duck Lake citizens pay for clean, safe water, up to close to \$200 per month

for drinkable water. And the prayer reads:

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.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by good folks from the town of Duck Lake. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of rural residents who have been directed by a government ministry that they may no longer treat potable water using methods approved by Sask Health, and that they have been doing so for over 30 years and have paid large amounts for the domestic systems and in-home treatment equipment. And the alternative water supply referred to by government ministries is a private operator offering treated, non-pressurized water at great cost, with no guarantee of quality, quantity, and availability of water. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, are signed by the good residents of Furdale and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition in support of protecting Saskatchewan workers. Mr. Speaker, according to the Workers' Compensation Board, 34 people were killed in the workplace in Saskatchewan in 2010. Alone over the number of years, 52 potash workers have been killed on the job, and, Mr. Speaker, the working people of Saskatchewan should never be expected to put their lives at risk when doing their job. And the prayer reads as follows:

Cause the government to immediately recognize the importance of creating a safe and healthy working environment for all people of Saskatchewan, and in so doing cause the government to support the hard work and integrity of occupational health and safety officers and

respect their authority by supporting them in the performance of their duties. And in so doing create a culture and atmosphere of respect for working people by upholding the high standards of occupational health and safety and by honouring those workers who have been killed in the workplace in Saskatchewan.

I so present. The petition is signed by people from Esterhazy, Tantallon, and Saskatoon.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of the city of North Battleford. I so present.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan concerned about this government's disregard for people's 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 obligation to provide all couples with civil marriage services.

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

Today's petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon and Moose Jaw and I so submit.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise once again here today to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive \$1 billion deficits put forward in two years and billions of dollars of debt growth under the Sask Party. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly condemn the Sask Party government for its damaging financial mismanagement

since taking office, a reckless fiscal record that is denying Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses the responsible and trustworthy fiscal management that they so deserve.

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

These petitions are signed by concerned residents of Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of the Saskatchewan film and television industry. This petition is signed by concerned citizens who are worried that this government has let the film and television industry languish for two and a half years and then has dealt a death blow or near death blow to the industry with the closure of SCN, based on ideology rather than good public policy. 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 Moose Jaw and Regina. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Fellowship for Reconciliation and Peace

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fellowship for Reconciliation and Peace is a group of Jews, Muslims, and other individuals in Saskatoon. The group dedicates to itself to help bring about reconciliation and peace locally and, by extension, to their sisters and brothers in the Middle East. The Fellowship for Reconciliation and Peace organizes support for Muslims and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians who are concerned about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In particular, the fellowship promotes understanding and action through dialogue within and between those communities. The fellowship emphasizes the human cost of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, taking a strong stand against all violence and working for peace.

The Fellowship for Reconciliation and Peace has an eight-year history. It has hosted a number of public memorials for the innocent victims of the violence in the Middle East and it's

given presentations on peace and justice issues in Saskatoon and Regina. It has organized a number of interfaith dinners, enabling the Jewish population to attend a mosque, the Muslim community to visit a synagogue, and for each group to learn first-hand about the traditions and beliefs of the other.

The Fellowship for Reconciliation and Peace is part of a global civil society movement seeking to advance justice, reconciliation of peace for all the peoples in the Middle East. I ask all members to join me in commending the Fellowship for Reconciliation and Peace in Saskatoon for its continued efforts in this regard.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Swift Current.

Swift Current Fire Department's 100th Anniversary

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On Friday I had the opportunity to attend the open house hosted by the Swift Current Fire Department in honour of their 100th anniversary, Mr. Speaker. The construction of the first Swift Current fire hall was completed in 1910, even before the city was incorporated and, Mr. Speaker, it was a hub for the entire community and served as the town hall, the weigh scale. There was a bell tower that was tested four times daily.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the event, the firefighters with the help of some volunteers brought back one of the earliest fire trucks in the community — a 1927 pumper truck that was used through till the 1960s. I had the chance to ride on the truck — not operate it, I want to be clear, Mr. Speaker. It's currently now housed in a museum but everything seems to be in working order. In addition to the open house, there was a plaque unveiled to help commemorate the anniversary. The firefighters had a gala dance and dinner on Saturday for the past and present members of the fire . . . that the member for Cypress Hills attended, Mr. Speaker. The government helped mark the occasion with a grant under the Building Pride program. And Acting Fire Chief Pilon and his staff really made this possible, a celebration for the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, we want to acknowledge the 100th anniversary. We want to acknowledge the firefighters in Swift Current, past and present, indeed firefighters — volunteer and career — right across our province who continue to make Saskatchewan as safe as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Festival of Words Launches Program and Honours Moose Jaw Couple

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I along with the member from Moose Jaw North were in attendance at a very important event on April 22nd. The Saskatchewan Festival of Words announced their lineup for their 14th annual festival to be held in Moose Jaw. This year the festival will run from July 15th to 18th and will feature more than 60 events. Several award-winning authors will be in attendance along with a poetry slam, a songwriting workshop, a musical production, and programs for children and teens. Each year the Festival of

Words attracts people from far and wide, and I am certain that this year will be no different. The exciting list of presenters and activities promise to appeal to literary fans of all ages.

But not only did the festival launch this year's program. They also paid tribute to two well-known citizens of Moose Jaw. Leith Knight and her late husband, Cy, were the recipients of the Moose Jaw Honours Award. Leith and Cy have been dedicated members of our community for many years. Cy, as the host of the *Mailbag* show on CHAB, was known by many in the area. And Leith continues to provide insight into our history in a Moose Jaw *Times-Herald* column as well as presenting to local groups.

The honour was certainly well placed, and I ask all of my colleagues to join with me and the selection committee and countless Moose Jaw residents to thank the Knights for their service to our community and to join me in congratulating the Saskatchewan Festival of Words on the launch of their 14th season.

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

Spring Fling Supports Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This previous weekend I had the pleasure of attending Regina and district's annual association community fundraising Spring Fling. This association was founded in 1952 by a group of parents with children with disabilities. Now these parents shared the belief that children with mental disabilities should be included in society rather than institutionalized. These children are capable of amazing feats.

One example is the Best Buddies Blues Band from LeBoldus High School in Regina. Now this band is made up of singers and musicians with intellectual disabilities. Mr. Speaker, they sure do know how to sing the blues and bring a crowd to its feet.

I would like to recognize Ms. Iris Miller-Dennis, who did an outstanding job of coordinating the banquet. Now the tireless effort of Iris and the banquet committee made the evening a resounding success. The evening was emceed by Elizabeth Popowich and her son Nick. Now Nick has Down's syndrome, but with a little help from his mom he did a magnificent job as master of ceremonies for the event.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the Assembly to recognize the Regina & District Association for Community Living for helping those with intellectual disabilities live life to their fullest. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Prince Albert Resident to Head Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce will soon have a new chairperson. Prince Albert's own Richard Ahenakew will take over the reins in May when

the chamber holds its 2010 conference, fittingly in Prince Albert.

Ahenakew is currently a Vice-Chair of the provincial chamber, and will be the first First Nations citizen to head up the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. And Mr. Speaker, his hometown could not be more proud.

Richard Ahenakew is a member of the Ahtahkakoop First Nation. He has been the general manager of the Northern Lights Casino for five years, and has worked there for a total of 14 years. He's well known throughout our city and contributes tremendously to our community.

Richard is instrumental in organizing the perpetually successful Thanksgiving Day powwow each year in Prince Albert. He supports a number of other organizations as well, such as this year's Tim Hortons Camp Day fundraiser. And in his capacity as general manager of the Northern Lights Casino, Richard is often seen presenting cheques to organizations such as the Victoria Hospital Foundation, local schools and charities, and community organizations.

It seems that where there is a need in Prince Albert, Richard finds a way to help out. I know that he will do a great job as president of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. His tremendous people skills and his acute business acumen will serve him well in his new position. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating Prince Albert's Richard Ahenakew, the next president of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Saskatchewan Party Nomination in The Battlefords

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night the Saskatchewan Party nomination was held in The Battlefords, with two great candidates seeking that nomination. It is certain that The Battlefords will be a hotly contested seat during the 2011 election and I am proud to announce that the Saskatchewan Party will be aptly represented by Herb Cox in 2011.

Mr. Cox said, "I think our chances of winning this seat this time around have increased substantially." Mr. Speaker, I think he's right. The current NDP representative is seen as part of a tired, old government that has lost touch with the people of Saskatchewan. The NDP member for The Battlefords is even publicly against \$700 million investment in a natural gas power plant in his area. It is no wonder more than 400 people came out to choose a candidate that will win in The Battlefords.

The people of The Battlefords have grown tired of his increasingly tired rhetoric and inability to deliver on promises. The people of The Battlefords have seen that the Saskatchewan Party can deliver well in government and are excited that in 2011 they will be served by a Saskatchewan Party MLA. I would like to congratulate Herb Cox who is part of ... the Saskatchewan Party candidate and believe that he will serve his constituents well after 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Coyotes in Saskatchewan

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, 37 coyote carcasses were found last week in Alberta with their paws cut off. According to a spokesman for the Alberta government it's "possible the hunter was hoping to cash in on a bounty offered by the Saskatchewan government."

As of March 15th, 3,500 coyotes have been killed as a result of the Sask Party government's coyote killing program. This means that the Saskatchewan taxpayers have paid \$610,000 of their hard-earned money for an ill-thought-out and short-sighted program. And now we find out that the money is going to Alberta.

Instead where has this government turned to save a measly \$610,000? They cut funding to the domestic outreach abuse program. They cut funding to the Dutch elm disease program. They tore up the bilateral agreement that marked the remaining shred of consultation between the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] and the Ministry of Environment. Instead we're paying Albertans to kill coyotes in their province, leaving the carcasses in a provincial park, chopping off their paws, and driving across the border to collect a quick 20 bucks. And to top it all off, is this program even a little bit effective?

According to an article in *The Globe and Mail* last weekend, and I quote, "Animal scientists are virtually unanimous in saying no . . . Dalhousie University ethologist Simon Gadbois says taxpayers are putting out money for something with no positive outcome."

Mr. Speaker, this Sask Party government is asking Saskatchewan people to pay the price for their short-sighted, ineffective, and ridiculous proposals.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — With leave, Mr. Speaker, to introduce guests.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Joining us I see in the gallery is a delegation from India. They come from Chandi. They're here hosted by Mr. G.V. Shankar who is a successful business person in Saskatoon. The Minister of Energy and Resources and myself look forward to meeting with the group.

And we can't stress enough the importance of trade missions

from India and the trade that takes place with Saskatchewan and Canada. Mr. Speaker, a stat that I know all members are very proud of, 46 per cent of all trade between Canada and India originates here in Saskatchewan, and that's something that we pay tribute to the delegation, and we look forward to your meeting. I ask all members to join with me in welcoming this delegation to our province.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from The Battlefords on his feet?

Mr. Taylor: — With leave to introduce guests.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I want to join the Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan in welcoming the delegation from India. The New Democrat opposition agrees that international trade is very valuable to the people of Saskatchewan and to those we trade with. We recognize the value that India provides to Saskatchewan traders, Mr. Speaker. And we hope that the delegation enjoys their time in Saskatchewan and that it is a very productive time while they are here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce a guest.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this House, I'd like to introduce Dr. Janusz Koziński, the Dean of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. He's joined us this afternoon. Dr. Koziński also plays a vital role as far as serving the people of this province, as he serves on the board of Innovation Saskatchewan. And I'd wonder if all members of this distinguished Assembly could join me in welcoming the dean to his Assembly.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Melville-Saltcoats on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery I'd like to introduce Helen Finucane from Carlyle. She's on the board of directors of the Stock Growers. Also with Helen today is Chad MacPherson who is general manager of the Stock Growers, Mr. Speaker. And they're here today taking in the proceedings of the legislature with great interest in *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* that's going to be debated later today and hoping that that Bill pass. So I'd like everyone to welcome them to their legislature.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Interprovincial Agreements

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, on March 30th a notice of motion was put forward in the British Columbia legislature, and on April 10th a debate was taking place and part of the motion introduced by, or the speech by Mr. Horne was, I move, "Be it resolved that this House support the creation of the New West Partnership".

My question to the Premier is, in light of the fact that this is being debated in other provinces in western Canada, is the Premier planning to sign the new West partnership/TILMA [Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement] later this week?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — No, Mr. Speaker. We wouldn't be signing a document as referenced just now by the Opposition Leader. We've said pretty clearly prior to the election, we've said since, that TILMA was not on for the Government of Saskatchewan.

We also said we did seek a improvement in internal trade, improvement in internal labour mobility. We wanted to build on the success of former Premier Calvert and former Premier Doer in terms of their national efforts on labour mobility. And ours was a focus nationally, but yes, also regionally.

There are the three have provinces in western Canada: Alberta, BC [British Columbia], and Saskatchewan. They represent a significant gross domestic product market that we wish our people to be able to access with as few barriers as possible. Mr. Speaker, November of '07, the people of Saskatchewan got rid of the biggest barrier to economic growth in the province — members opposite as the government.

But if we can, but if we can sign an agreement, Mr. Speaker, that accommodates what we said prior to the campaign, Mr. Speaker, we said we would do that. We signed the agreement in principle September of last year. It's not much of a story, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I know that the Premier signed a memorandum of understanding. The question is whether he's going to sign the actual agreement this week because many people are concerned, including his Deputy Premier who while he was in opposition, in a letter to the *Leader-Post* made the following statement. And I quote:

Given the impact of TILMA across the province, we also believe the provincial government has an obligation to consult with stakeholders and the public prior to accepting or rejecting Saskatchewan's participation . . .

My question to the Premier is, on what day does he intend to start the consultation with the public in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I can understand how the member opposite is unaware of the significant consultations that already happened in the province of Saskatchewan, when a joint committee of this Assembly — well he wasn't home, he wasn't back home yet — but a joint committee of this legislature had wide-ranging consultations with respect to TILMA.

As a result of those consultations, the Saskatchewan Party, then in opposition, said while we support the principles here of an agreement to reduce barriers to create this large economic trading region, maybe the largest in the country, we had concerns with respect to TILMA's impact on municipalities, on tax abatement programs for municipalities, and on Crown corporation subsidiaries. Mr. Speaker, we will not sign any agreement that does not accommodate the concerns we had prior to the election.

We will, though, endeavour to partner with Alberta and British Columbia and build what will be a very powerful economic force in Canada. We will endeavour to make sure that Saskatchewan continues to lead in the new West and lead in the country, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, again my question to the Premier is along the line, is where is the document that he plans to sign? At the very time where in most jurisdictions in Canada and really around the world are really very concerned about consultation and working with Aboriginal groups to have meaningful dialogue, and this is true everywhere, if an oil company's going to drill wells, they go and consult with the community.

My question to the Premier is this: on what day does he plan to meet with groups that we're getting calls from, people from environmental groups who say that we're signing an agreement with common airshed so that pollution coming from other provinces will not be able to be dealt with in the future, tying the hands of this government and future governments? My question to the Premier: when will we see the document here in this Assembly?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is benefiting right now from a growing economy. That economy is very dependent on trade. That economy is very dependent on us ensuring that we are removing barriers, access to various markets.

Mr. Speaker, if we can, for example in an agreement, in an agreement if we can for example ensure that businesses who are registered to do business in the province are automatically registered right across Western Canada, if we can remove barriers to growth, other than the previous government, Mr. Speaker, if we can do all of these things while being consistent with what we said in opposition, we're going to look very carefully at that, Mr. Speaker.

There may well be developments happening very soon. They'll be consistent with the consultations that have already happened, Mr. Speaker. And they will be consistent with Canada's, with the aspirations of Canada's leading economy continuing its leadership position in the new West and right across the country, Mr. Speaker.

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

Conflict of Interest and Changes to Legislation

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice. At the time the PC [Progressive Conservative] trust fund was created, was he one of the board members responsible for the ongoing operations of the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — Order. I remind the member of the rules of the Assembly that questions should be related to ministerial responsibility, and anything related to parties outside of the Chamber are unacceptable. I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we know that, we know in fact that the Minister of Justice was. Mr. Speaker, *The Trustee Act* falls under the responsibility of the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice has brought forward changes to the Act that included changes to the conflict of interest provisions within *The Trustee Act*.

To the minister: is this not a conflict of interest, considering he was one of the board members responsible for the ongoing operations of the PC Party of Saskatchewan when the PC trust fund was created?

The Speaker: — On many occasions it's difficult for the Speaker to determine exactly where the question is going or whether it fits within the rules, but this question certainly seems to be directed around the Conservative Party of Saskatchewan, so it's difficult to determine whether or not the question relates to the minister responsible. So I'll allow minister to respond as they so wish.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, *The Trustee Act* was amended last year, routine amendments that were recommended by the Law Reform Commission. In fact, Mr. Speaker, those amendments had the effect of making it easier to determine

when there was a conflict of interest and making it easier to disqualify people.

Mr. Speaker, it raised the standard for trustees, both professional and non-professional. It deals with the process for removal of trustees and, Mr. Speaker, I can advise the House that that was a routine update of that legislation, and it was legislation that had in fact existed for nearly 100 years without any significant amendments. So it was a makeover recommended by the Law Reform Commission, and in fact, Mr. Speaker, the changes that were made were made in nearly every jurisdiction in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, over a week ago I asked the Minister of Justice, before proposing the changes to *The Trustee Act*, did he receive a legal opinion that said that this will not interfere with the PC trust court case before the courts, and if he did, would he make that opinion public. To the Minister of Justice: has he made the legal opinion public?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I can advise the House that there was nothing untoward with this piece of legislation. There was no personal involvement on my part or on the part of anyone else. It was a routine amendment that was brought forward by the Law Reform Commission as in fact, Mr. Speaker, it was done in most jurisdictions across Canada. Nobody focused on anything else other than updating legislation as is the mandate of this government.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the House and the members opposite that where it is appropriate to bring forward amendments and to update our legislation, it is the role of this government to do it. And we will continue to do it in an aggressive and appropriate and fair manner. This Bill was dealt with as was every other Bill that was brought forward, Mr. Speaker.

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

Habitat Protection and Sale of Crown Land

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: why is the government changing the law to allow it to sell off specific wildlife habitat protected lands without first consulting with the public or debating those sales in the legislature first?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, on numerous occasions, there have been requests of the government for people who are leasing Crown land, such as renters, to be able to purchase that land. It is currently under wildlife habitat protection, the land that was originally set aside for habitat protection. It has since evolved, Mr. Speaker, to include other things such as species at risk.

I asked the ministry, when I became minister, if there was a values inventory done of this land. There was not, Mr. Speaker. We held all this land. We didn't know what kind of ecological value it actually had. We have now completed the modelling. It's a science-based modelling approach to determine what kind of land we actually hold.

Some of that land, Mr. Speaker, will be available for sale. Other land will be able to be sold under a conservation easement plan, and the rest will stay under wildlife habitat protection, Mr. Speaker. And a vast majority of the land will be protected under current legislation such as *The Ecological Reserves Act*, Mr. Speaker, which would have to come before the House for full debate if any changes were to be made.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, many lands are included under the Act as a result of public debate. Now this government wants to make decisions to sell off specific parcels of land behind closed doors. No one objects to a science-based ecological assessment of lands currently protected under the Act, but that information should be part of a public debate on which land should be protected or sold off, not information for the minister's eyes only.

To the minister: why is she selling specific parcels of land without debating those sales in the legislature first? Why is she refusing to be accountable to the public?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite would know, Crown land that does not fall under wildlife habitat protection is sold through an order in council process, exactly the same process that the NDP [New Democratic Party] had in place except, Mr. Speaker, the difference was they put a freeze on land sales, took people's money and didn't hand their land over. We've changed that process, Mr. Speaker.

So some of the land under wildlife habitat protection, when its value is on the lowest end of the scale, will be available for sale under the order in council process as it is currently, Mr. Speaker. But I would point out to the member opposite, there are many very specific sites within our province which will continue to have full protection of the legislation and regulations currently in place. These include the Assiniboine Slopes Provincial Ecological Reserve, the Buffalograss Provincial Ecological Reserve, the Qu'Appelle Coulee Provincial Ecological Reserve, migratory bird sanctuaries, recreation sites, Representative Area Ecological Reserves, and others, Mr. Speaker. This land will continue to be protected through legislation in this House.

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

Ms. Morin: — Well, Mr. Speaker, here's what's cold comfort to the people of Saskatchewan. Here's *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. Here's what's going to remain from the Act, and the rest of this is the land that is going to be under the

minister's discretion after this Bill goes through.

Mr. Speaker, the minister says that these changes won't compromise wildlife habitat protection on lands important to Saskatchewan people, but yesterday the minister said that her legislation would allow her government to sell protected lands without a full and open public debate. And, Mr. Speaker, we've already started to receive calls from people who are concerned that habitat for owls, badgers, moose, and deer could be turned into landfills at the stroke of the minister's pen.

Mr. Speaker, too many people worked too hard to protect these lands to let this government sell them off in a fire sale brought on by its financial mismanagement. Why are the years of hard work by people concerned about wildlife being put in jeopardy by this government's financial mismanagement?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for her question. And she could either continue to fearmonger on this legislation in this House, or they could pass this legislation into committee and she can ask as many questions as she wants, over a course of hours instead of minutes, and get some answers to her questions, Mr. Speaker.

But as an example, the Great Sand Hills falls under *The Ecological Reserves Act*. That land cannot be touched unless it goes through this House as a change to legislation, Mr. Speaker, with full openness and transparency that this House affords, Mr. Speaker. And as far as the land that we want to sell to people like ranchers, Mr. Speaker, we know that the NDP has a complete disconnect from rural Saskatchewan. And I would like to read a letter from the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association. It says:

Dear Mr. Lingenfelter:

Ranchers and farmers in Saskatchewan have been excellent stewards of the native prairie ecosystems for generations and will continue to do so, along with the conservation easement and past care given to this land by ranchers and farmers.

Mr. Speaker, the people who use this land for their livelihood are the best stewards of this land. We agree with that. The NDP do not.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, by no means are we worried about the ranchers and the Cattlemen's Association. We trust their judgment. What we don't trust is the judgment of that minister and that Premier, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday the minister said that it would be her preference that lands like the Great Sand Hills would not be sold without being first debated in this Assembly. But as I've said before, Mr. Speaker, the real test of a government's sincerity is whether they're prepared to make a legally binding commitment. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will she amend her legislation to

ensure that the minister can't sell wildlife habitat protected lands without debating those sales here in the legislature first?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I will restate for the member opposite because apparently she didn't hear my answer. I just said, in my previous answer, the Great Sand Hills is protected under *The Ecological Reserves Act* . . .

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — As an example, Mr. Speaker, the Great Sand Hills falls under *The Ecological Reserves Act*. Any changes to that legislation will come before this House in an open and transparent debate, as it is currently, Mr. Speaker. That hasn't changed.

But, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite just said she trusts ranchers. Who does she think uses the land now? All they want to do is own it, Mr. Speaker. They have leased this land for generations. They have taken care of this land. They have received national and provincial awards for their management of this land. All they want to do is own it, Mr. Speaker. We agree with that. The NDP does not.

From the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Mr. Speaker, and I quote:

Dear Mr. Lingenfelter:

The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association strongly supports the transfer of Crown land to individual private ownership. We feel that farmers and ranchers are the best stewards of the land, and it is due to the responsible management of producers that the remaining native prairie and ecologically valuable lands in Saskatchewan have been preserved.

Mr. Speaker, we agree with . . .

The Speaker: — The minister's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Financial Management of Crown Corporations

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to hear the minister actually read her briefing notes after her answers in the rotunda yesterday.

But, Mr. Speaker, in a desperate attempt to hide this government's deficit and growing debt, the Premier has not only drained \$700 million from the rainy day fund, he's also stripped over \$1 billion from our Crown corporations. Mr. Speaker, why does the Premier think it's okay to put our Crown corporations at risk in order to hide his own incompetence and fiscal mismanagement?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for

Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the people of the province own the Crown corporations. The money that is available through the Crown corporations is also available when it comes to the needs for education, for highways, for health care. And when there is money available and there is a need in the General Revenue Fund, then the people would expect to spend the money — their money — to make sure that our province continues along the economic recovery that the rest of the world is looking forward to.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we have the opportunity to use our Crowns to make sure that our budget is balanced and that we continue to lead the provinces.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if we listen to that minister, that's like selling the farm to pay for the tractor, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't make a lot of sense.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier once said this about his time serving Grant Devine, and I quote, "You look back on that time, and I think that it was an asset that I was involved in a government that lost its way on these issues." Well it's clear what lessons that the Premier has learned from his time with Grant Devine. The surplus is gone. The deficit is mounting and the Crowns are being stripped. History does repeat itself, Mr. Speaker.

And again to the Premier: why is he putting the Crown corporations at risk to cover his own mismanagement and fiscal incompetence?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the people of the province are pleased that we have strong Crown corporations. In fact the annual reports that have come forward in the last few days prove that our Crowns are strong, and that they are not only maintaining their own businesses, but they're able to put dividends towards the General Revenue Fund of the province.

In the last 10 years of NDP government, they averaged about \$500 million a year towards rebuilding the infrastructure of the Crown corporations. You know, we have done as a Sask Party government, \$1.3 billion in the last year as we continue to build the infrastructure. Our Crowns are strong. We're proud of them, and the people of the province are proud of them.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I think if the minister will go back and look at her document, she'll see that the Crowns borrowed that money to build infrastructure. It wasn't we that did anything.

But, Mr. Speaker, in the 1980s Grant Devine stripped the Crowns just like the current Premier is doing. But there is a big difference. Grant Devine at least had some megaprojects to

show for the billions of dollars in debt that he left behind. Not this Premier. The surplus is gone, the rainy day fund is just about drained, and now the Crowns are being stripped, and the Premier has nothing to show for it.

Mr. Speaker, why is the Premier following the Grant Devine model of budgeting when we all know that it leads to financial disaster?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, our government is more than proud of the work that we have done, not just in the Crown corporations but when it comes to the work that we're doing right across government. We actually are looking at the fact that our debt has decreased in the General Revenue Fund by \$2.4 billion. Forty per cent of that debt is gone, Mr. Speaker.

At the same time, our Crowns are making sure that they are building the economy for the future, Mr. Speaker. They have the opportunity to maintain not only the work that they're doing, but building. And, Mr. Speaker, the previous government had the opportunity to make sure they maintained their Crowns, but instead they decided to take the money and invest it outside of our province.

They decided to invest money in Channel Lake. They decided to invest money in Guyana. They decided to invest money in Retx and tappedinto. They weren't investing money in the people of our province or their Crown corporations. We believe in our Crown corporations.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, the sad part of this is that for years to come Saskatchewan people will be paying the price because this Premier has stripped everything from our Crown corporations to hide the fact that he can't balance the budget.

And, Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is look at the government's own budget documents, and it shows that Crown debt will increase almost 98 per cent by 2014. With skyrocketing debt and every last cent of profit being stripped to cover the Premier's incompetence, our Crowns will be a lot weaker and Saskatchewan people will pay a lot more.

To the Premier: why should Saskatchewan people pay higher utility rates for years to come just because he can't manage the budget?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I believe that the members opposite aren't listening at all. They're listening to their own rhetoric, but they're not listening to the facts. The fact is that over the last 15 years they allowed our Crown corporations to deteriorate to the point that it was difficult for them to actually work with our economy. There was little money spent on the Crown corporations, and we're proud of the fact that in the last two years . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, and there was little money spent on actually building, and in fact the money that was spent was just maintaining the status quo.

Mr. Speaker, when there is money spent on our Crowns, the debt to equity ratio increases. We're proud of the fact that our Crowns have more value now because we're actually investing money in them, and the people of the province can count on them.

Think of the money that we've spent in the areas like . . .

[Interjections]

[14:30]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The members want opportunity . . . I'll ask the Leader of the Opposition to come to order. I ask the minister to wrap up her comments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very . . . It's interesting that the members opposite obviously knew nothing about rural Saskatchewan and had no faith in them, were not willing to put the type of money that we are into rural Saskatchewan when it comes to SaskTel — our wireless connections, cell coverage connections. We know that rural Saskatchewan has to be provided a service by our Crowns, and we are doing that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to have to wait till *Hansard* comes . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I ask the member to allow the member to place the question without interference.

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to have to wait till *Hansard* comes out and read that answer because I believe the minister said that as a debt increases, the value increases. I'm not quite sure. It sounds a little suspect.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would remind the minister, or maybe suggest to the minister, that she looks at her own financial documents coming out of the Crown corporations. Yes, they're doing very well. Yes, they're providing good service for the people of Saskatchewan. But yes, the Saskatchewan Party government is stripping every bit of revenue out of the Crown corporations to cover your own budget deficit and increased debt.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan will be the ones to pay through higher utility rates. How does the Premier explain that to people, that to cover his incompetence, taxpayers will be paying more?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite obviously are not reading the people in the province.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I would ask the opposition members now to allow the minister to respond without interference. I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Obviously the members opposite don't understand.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I just ask the minister to respond to the question.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, we have a growing economy. In order to accommodate a growing economy, we're going to need infrastructure within all of our Crowns — SaskPower, SaskTel, SaskEnergy, SaskWater. We have them there making sure that, when we invest our taxpayers' money, they'll be invested in a growing economy for all the people in this province and we are proud of these Crowns.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Before orders of the day and pursuant to section 25 of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, I'll lay on the Table the annual report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. As well, in accordance with the provisions of section 14.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, I lay on the Table the *Report of the Provincial Auditor*.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Speaker: — Member may state his point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During petitions this afternoon, the member from Saskatoon Nutana was using an exhibit or a prop as a backing for her petition that was plainly visible on television, Mr. Speaker. I ask that you review the tapes and chastise the member for breaking the rules, Mr. Speaker, of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney, the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To respond to the point of order.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Yates: — Clearly the member stood and read from a petition with a number of papers in her hand. If the member saw

something on the back page of the paper she was speaking from, Mr. Speaker, members routinely stand with papers, Mr. Speaker, and they may or may not have something on the back, Mr. Speaker. I think that this . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The member from Regina Dewdney is trying to respond to the point of order and is having great difficulty because of the noise around him. I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, there are times when members stand in this House with a group of papers. There's often on the back of papers a picture or some other writing, Mr. Speaker, that could be construed to be anything, Mr. Speaker. In fact I can look today and see a sticker on the member from Cannington's laptop, Mr. Speaker. I think that perhaps that's a prop that he's using, Mr. Speaker, to try to indicate some form of intimidation to the members in this House, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to say from here. And I think these matters are somewhat trivial in nature, Mr. Speaker, and should be dealt with in that manner.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I've listened to the point of order. I've listened to the member from Regina Dewdney. I was observing the proceedings this afternoon. From what I observed, there was nothing that stuck out in my mind that certainly impeded the work of the Assembly. And I am more than prepared, if so, to bring a ruling, but as I've already said, if there's nothing untoward, this is the last of the debate.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 132

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

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was up this morning talking on this Bill, and I have many more things that I would actually like to add to it that I didn't get a chance of talking to this morning. And having listened to question period and again some of the minister's answers, I'm still not at all reassured that anything will change from my concerns from this morning. But I do want to read into the record and, for those people who weren't listening this morning, to talk about the status of the wildlife habitat in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan contains one of the most modified landscapes in

North America. Because of our extensive agricultural industry during the past century, we have seen over 75 per cent of our natural areas in the agricultural region disappear to cultivation and other developments including roads, towns, and cities. Now that suggests, Mr. Speaker, that if you sell the land for agricultural use or leave it unattended, it deteriorates and we don't have it for wildlife habitat. And this has been proven over the years that 75 per cent of our natural areas in the region have disappeared to cultivation and other developments such as I've mentioned.

And between 1976 and 1981, we lost 2 million acres of natural landscape, and as more land is broken, natural habitat disappears and it continues to shrink. And as I said this morning, there are many ecological . . . and there are species, endangered species that are in Saskatchewan that are protected by this wildlife Act and by these protected areas.

Animals like the whooping crane, the piping plover, the burrowing owl, the sage grouse, the swift fox, the black-footed ferret, the plains grizzly bear, greater prairie chicken, and the Eskimo curlew — these are some of the animals that are in danger if we let some of these lands go back to the evolution of cultivation and then they lose their natural habitat.

Conserving natural habitat of course provides food, water, and shelter for all these species. And as I said this morning, we are in a connected ecosystem, and as humans we rely on the land and the other species to maintain our quality of life as well. And it would be a shame for us to forget that in our rush to do whatever the minister has intended to by putting these lands up in jeopardy, the 3 million acres that are protected under this Act, putting them in jeopardy of being sold without any scrutiny. I know she was speaking of that in question period today. But under regulation, it certainly seems like, in that Act, that the regulation would not require the government to bring anything to the legislature. And I'm pretty sure that being not required, they will not do it, since even the rules that do require them to do things, they break or change.

So I think that conserving the habitat that helps provide food, water, and shelter here for all the species that I've mentioned and might even contribute to taking some of those species off the endangered list if we take care of them. And the Government of Saskatchewan has been committed to completing identification and designation of sites within each of the province's 11 ecoregions and have that done in a timely fashion.

The government will then meet its commitment to the rest of Canada to help complete a national network of protected areas. The establishment of a network of ecologically important land and water areas across the province is important to the Ministry of the Environment, or it should be important to the Ministry of the Environment. The legacy that we left as a government that it was of extreme importance . . . and it would be extremely disappointing to the people of Saskatchewan and to us as legislators to see that stewardship erode.

We have systems in our province that include national and provincial parks, wildlife refuges, ecological and other reserves in the province, and this is known as the representative areas network or RANs. And *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* is

part of the provincial government's answer to conserve vanishing native ecosystems in the agriculture regions of the province. So that's why we have 3.4 million acres which amount to only about 5 per cent of Saskatchewan's agriculture region and about 80 per cent of this region's total protected natural areas, and that includes the parks and protected wildlife and ecological sites.

And protecting these lands has been found to be the best preventative medicine to ensure habitat for the survival of endangered species and spaces for the species. And when we were in government, if there was any sale of Crown land, we had a net loss policy that if any Crown lands were taken out and sold and the habitat was lost, then we would find other land to replace that, so there was a net loss policy. I see no mention of that in this legislation. So there's contemplation for lands being sold, and I understand that ranchers and cattlemen that are the lessees of many of these acres would have an interest in buying the land. But I see nothing; there's no onus on the government or no contemplation of maintaining the policy of net loss. So I saw . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No net loss. Thank you. So no net loss.

And I think that that is a significant gap or omission in this legislation, and I do think that we would have to see some assurance that any land that was sold for whatever reason . . . I'm not sure exactly what the contemplation is of the minister of why land would be sold, other than the fact that there is some history of lessees wanting the land. But I think that in past practice that has been what has fallen under the no net loss policy. And I think that we need to absolutely have assurance that that will be continued as the policy of this government.

I think that we are, as legislators, the stewards of our land and this doesn't reassure me or assure me or the public that that stewardship is being taken seriously. We do have some of the . . . What has happened in Saskatchewan is we have Fish and Wildlife Development Fund lands, and they're managed to provide the best possible wildlife habitat year-round for the greatest number of species. Wildlife lands are not reserves or sanctuaries. These natural areas have been bought with hunter and trapper dollars and can be used by everyone.

Some people have donated their land to this three million acres and have left it in trust to the government to keep for the people. What happens to that land? Who determines whether that can be sold or not when it has been left in trust in somebody's will, with expectation that that land would remain the natural habitat, a protected habitat, in perpetuity actually? And so we certainly don't see that.

There's a lot of issues about the use of land. If it's under a lessee, then there's restrictions and contracts and certain requirements of those people to use the land. If we sell it, then there are no such requirements or no such restrictions.

It isn't possible to actually have a great deal of faith in the government. When you put something in regulation, I think you have removed the accountability and the scrutiny portion of the work of the legislature. And that part of the Act has been significantly weakened.

[14:45]

The fish and wildlife . . . The ways that they say that you can support the sustainable management and use of the fish and wildlife resources includes supporting legislation that conserves wildlife habitat. This is a direct contradiction to what is exactly, actually on the government's own website. So I'm not sure how selling off the Crown lands without a no net loss policy does that, and I think it does fly in the face of their own Environment department's policies which are up on the website.

There are six national wildlife areas open to hunting in the province: Last Mountain Lake, Stalwart, Webb, Prairie, Bradwell, and Tway. And these are also areas where people can actually hunt. There's fishing can be done on some of them, and there's certain restrictions about no camping and certain things like that, but the land is actually used for the benefit of the people, and they can actually go and watch the native animals in their native habitat.

So I have a serious concern that we would see a weakening of the intent of the Bill. It has been many years in the making — since 1984 I think was the first Bill. It's changed its name and has had strengthening amendments to it. This, I don't think, is one of them. I think there's going to be significant sales happening. And without a no net loss policy, I don't see any benefit to the environment and to the people of Saskatchewan other than a few people who may have an interest in that particular acreage. And right now, those people are good stewards of the land, but they also have contracts that require them to manage the land in a certain way. Without those contracts, we then see a natural . . . what we've said, naturally 75 per cent of the land has gone back into . . . With construction and roads and cities and all kinds of other buildings and activities, we have lost the actual natural habitat.

So when the minister talks about fearmongering, I don't think people are actually . . . It's not fearmongering. It's actual, serious questions that people are asking. Although mentioning that the Great Sand Hills could be sold was certainly not something that would reassure many people who have a significant attachment to the environment and environmental issues. And we need those people to speak up in times like this because obviously there is some other agenda at play here, Mr. Speaker, and I don't understand why this would be an important Bill for anyone given the fact that there is such a huge connection to the land, a huge commitment, and a commitment to future generations that this land is maintained.

And I don't see how we can possibly say that 3 million acres, which is such a small percentage of Saskatchewan's geography, is something that has to be given up to sale. I think it's a specious argument and I don't think that people will actually think that that's something that is a reason for actually passing this. I know people are going to be coming to talk about this. And I think it's a good idea for us to listen to those that are affected, the Wildlife Federation, which has a lot of members around the province who have interest in this Act and certainly in protecting the wildlife and *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* itself.

I don't think anybody disagrees that the philosophy of the Act was to conserve wildlife habitat while enabling compatible, traditional uses to coexist. And I spoke of many of those where people have leases and are using the land for various uses, even

including oil and gas companies that can explore and drill, but they must ensure that they do very little damage to the surface.

So daily operations and routine developments such as . . . Daily operations such as grazing and that sort of thing are allowed. The routine development such as fencing and dugout construction can also take place. So the land can be used while it still maintains its habitat protection function. We certainly have, like I said, people who are using the lands now and that are good stewards of the land, and the land and the wildlife is benefiting. So I don't think anybody disputes that.

What is worrisome is the fact that to take out the sale of the land and put it in regulation is absolutely the wrong way to go. OCs, orders in council, are the only things that people will see if they see it at all — because it comes to the media and then it comes to the opposition — and the land sale will have been done without any scrutiny or any debate. I'm not sure exactly how the minister's going to commit herself to having every sale debated in the House when by regulation it doesn't have to be. So if the minister thinks that we should discuss every sale of land in the House, then the Bill is really of no value and should be withdrawn.

We do see that many of the people that are interested in this probably haven't had a chance to enter into the debate. And I know that there's many people who want to come and speak to the Bill, including when it gets to committee. And I think that we . . . I certainly hope that we have an opportunity to hear from them all. And I know there'll be different sides to an issue because there always are. And consultation means that you actually listen to both sides.

And I don't think we've heard from the Wildlife Federation. I know people are expecting to come and talk about this. I think it's interesting that we've heard from the stockholders and the cattlemen. I think that that's interesting because that's one side and one issue and one perspective. But I think that there are others who need to be heard, and I do think that they have significant and serious issues and concerns with this Bill.

It's interesting that many of the provisions that are expected to change or put out for change have just fallen under the, kind of, housekeeping sort of thing, which would . . . might be the intent to lull us into thinking there was nothing really of import in this Bill. Not so, Mr. Speaker.

When you talk about how the lands can be sold, that is the most important aspect of *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. That is its key. Its key function is to protect the land from being sold or being somehow other devalued or made not useful for wildlife protection. And we certainly have had a commitment for many, many years in this province that that is what we want to do. And we don't, I don't see us in any way giving up that connection or giving up that commitment. I think that commitment is still as strong.

And so those 3.4 million acres, I think, need to be our significant stay-in-place number of acres. And like I said, if we do sell, and we have done over the years, sell some Crown land, the policy was always to have the scrutiny of what was being sold, what for, and to who, and also then to do the no-net-loss policy. So there was a real stewardship of the land and the

protected wildlife habitat.

So I hate to see us even contemplate giving up that level of stewardship. And it certainly doesn't bode well for a government who is talking about doing the best for the people. It doesn't sound as if this would be the best for the people. And it's certainly not best for, not only the current people, but for generations to come. If you sell something and it erodes and it is no longer protecting wildlife, you can't get that back. Once you've done it, it's done, and you cannot get it back.

So what we do today really does have serious implications for the future. And I hope that we take this Bill seriously and have a discussion that encompasses all aspects of the debate and that we do what is best for the province and the land and the whole ecosystem, which includes us.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, those remarks . . . And I hope that I've covered the basic things that I said this morning and added in — because the only thing I actually did miss was the no-net-loss policy which I significantly wanted to talk about.

And I also want to just mention again and stress how some people in this province have left the land in their wills, in a trust, expecting that land to stay in perpetuity. And those people's wishes should be respected, and in no way should they ever, that land ever be sold because that is something that was willed. And that intent, I don't see any protection of that. From my understanding of the wording of the Bill, any regulation could sell any acre.

And I also know there's . . . I've heard that there's some issue around a certain area wants to buy some of the wildlife habitat to do something with it for their town, which is interesting too, but I don't think it should be the motivating factor behind changing a Bill and changing it to this magnitude. I really don't think we need to have that sort of using a bomb to kill a fly instead of the fly swatter. I think this is sort of what I see with this Bill. It's really a huge change to make some smaller thing happen. And it does worry me, and I think it will worry the people of Saskatchewan. So with those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Eastview has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 125

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Boyd that **Bill No. 125 — The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2009** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, to take part in the debate on Bill 125, *The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2009*. You know, again there's changes here, and maybe some of the changes that are being brought forward are positive ones. And

there's always going to be two sides to an argument. And on the government side, you read some of the stuff that they're going to do with having a new, web-based mineral registry system, and it's a new system, may give an opportunity to the industry and some savings and maybe a process for the ministry that deals with that industry to actually — the registry — to deal with some of the issues that the industry has.

But having said that, there's always a process that, you know, and be very clear that it's cost saving and it might be a quicker response time and can move it faster. And that's fine to say that. But I ask, who was consulted? And who did they talk with?

And really some of these points might be just housekeeping issues that have to be addressed, and they might've addressed them. And that might be all it is, and that's simple. And sometimes, you know, you hope when you read through.

But I know back home there's been some concerns. People are concerned with this legislation. Now I always say there's always pros and cons, but you have to make sure that you talk to the people and you go out. So I'm not sure who they have approached, who's given their input and who they consult. And there is a duty to consult to make sure that people that are being impacted are shared with.

But you know, I give examples. And in the North, I know that this may have a huge . . . We have a huge land base in the North this may impact. We have people who actually work in the industry, who make a living to provide income for their family and, Mr. Speaker, some of this legislation that's passed, these individuals will no longer be going on the line, will no longer be doing the actual work that they have been doing — and some of them second generation. They have worked up there in the North. They go out. Sometimes they're helicoptered out. They work in teams, and they do some important work.

But having said this, I don't know, Mr. Speaker. Who did they consult when they brought this legislation in and have they brought enough of the individuals with concerns forward? And that's going to be interesting.

But I want to use examples about duty to consult. You know, we passed a Bill, *The Northern Municipalities Act*, 110, got passed in this House. And some good work. I have to admit there was some good work, Mr. Speaker, with Bill 110, *The Northern Municipalities Act* that passed. But I also want to be very clear. In estimates I asked some questions and made it very clear. I asked the minister, when did this process start? When did they start to talk about addressing this Bill? Did it happen in . . . And out of *Hansard* I have it. It was October 2005 is what the minister said. Under the previous NDP government it started.

So it started with the ministry and they moved forward. And I gave compliments to the ministry for the work that they had done and with the communities, the leadership, and a group and a committee that came together. So I just want to show the example when you consult and you make sure the stakeholders are involved and leadership and community members get a chance to talk. So I gave the minister, you know, and his ministry with Municipal Affairs, to be honest I said this was a good job, a good tool you could use to go out to consult with

the rest.

So in 2005, October, they started that work. 2010 it got passed. So under the previous government, the ministries worked with the communities. And I mean there was a lot of work. And I gave compliments out there to the ministry because of the hard work and to the people in the committees in the North. They took it serious. They came together and they were consulted and they wanted this Bill to pass. They put the time and the effort into it. That is some good work. People were consulted and it works. And I think that's very positive.

Unfortunately sometimes people want to use that in a negative way and that's sad, but that's okay. That's the game. I'm learning. I'm learning. But you know it's unfortunate. And I'm going to make it very clear. When I gave those compliments I wanted to make sure. But I want to talk about the duty to consult, and that's what I said, the opportunity to make sure that people have an opportunity to share their views and points.

[15:00]

So you have a Bill 125. It's the same thing. You want to be very clear, Mr. Speaker, and I think we need to be very clear. Who did they consult with? Did they go out? Have they heard from the people that are most impacted very clearly? And the minister can sit there from his side of the chair and say whatever he wants. It doesn't matter. The people are tired of not being heard, not being consulted. I gave him a tool, if you want to say, a suggestion to use that duty to consult, and to use a tool, that Bill 110. That worked very good. Five years to get here. There was some good work done there. It's a very thick document but I think it served a purpose that was required and it's going to be an excellent piece of legislation for the people back home. Obviously there was input.

Now I'm going to go back to Bill 125 and again, why isn't it so easy to ask? And I question like this. You should hear from everybody out there, saying yes, we had an opportunity to hear about this information. If we wanted to have our input, we were invited to a meeting. Did that happen? Probably not. That's not this government; they don't do that. They don't invite you to the table. They make Bills and they bring legislation in and they do different ways.

And you know, sometimes it's not very pleasant to watch what goes on. But you know what? I guess from their side, as they say, I've heard some of the members opposite say, you know, the people elected us and we're going to do what we're going to do. Well that's fine. I think people will clearly send a message.

You know, and you go back to that because there is so much frustration out there. And sometimes it's just feeling like people have an opportunity to have their opinions heard, their views heard, and sometimes they have real issues and concerns. And that can affect anywhere, whether you have trappers, we have commercial fishing, where you have traditional land users, where you have outfitters, where you have recreation people that have used an area for a long time, whether you have . . . And I guess trappers are a huge one. They're the one that gets impacted lots. But they don't feel like they get the opportunity to be heard by this government, and that is unfortunate.

So when I talk about that process that has to happen and they want to feel . . . First Nations, Métis want to feel like they're being . . . their input.

And you look at the Supreme Court of Canada, Mr. Speaker. Very clear. Didn't say the government may want to, the government may, the government if it wishes to. It said, the government will. Make it very clear — Supreme Court of Canada said the government will consult First Nations and Métis and people most impacted when they go on to land. So I mean it's very clear and I think sometimes, you know, the government doesn't take that ruling for whatever; I don't know.

To me what I'm hearing, the frustration, people are not feeling like that opportunity's happened, that that is not being fulfilled. And we know that there is different process that they can use. The option's theirs. The ministry, the minister, he can or she can, whichever, can make a decision, can take . . . Like let's take this serious; let's start doing the right thing. And I encourage them to make sure. People want to feel like they're heard, and this government is not hearing. And that's unfortunate.

So you see Bill 125, like I said, it might do some good things for the industry and it might move the ministry's opportunities for getting revenue in and save some costs to the industry.

But back home when those individuals went to work and now when we use an electronic system like this — whether it's satellite or however it's going to accomplish that — when we had individuals going out on the actual . . . and making out the lines and making very clear, making the mark and marking out a territory, where now that may not happen. That may not happen. And those community members that are going to be impacted do not have that revenue for their family to come back and generate the revenue back home.

And I know there's been some individuals with concerns about this Bill. And I hope that, you know, they were consulted, and I hope that the government went and talked to them, that industry. When you bring legislation like this forward, the onus isn't on the community members and shouldn't be on the stakeholder. It's on the government to make sure people had a chance to be heard, that the government took the information and made a decision — but an informed decision, Mr. Speaker. That's crucial.

Bill 125, here it is. And I hope when I go home, they say oh no, we got all invited and, you know, the ministry invited us to a meeting to share our views. We heard about this legislation. It's the government's responsibility to go out and share that information to make sure that the people know that this Bill is going forward. They have an obligation to the people.

And it's very clear. The people take that seriously, supposed to trust the government. It's a trust thing, that your government will make sure you know what they're doing. And they will come out and they will make sure that you get to express yourself. And they will have meetings.

And when they don't do that, and legislation passed, we will do what we need to do as official opposition to try to make sure that the government is held accountable, that the government

made sure it went out and consulted and worked. And you know, you have the Supreme Court of Canada to make it very clear. They didn't make that decision just to say, you may if you feel like it. It's very clear.

So we see things happening that are impacting First Nations and Métis. And to be honest with you, that is appalling, that they would even . . . And I don't know, you know, did they consult with First Nations and Métis? Like clearly I'd like to know, did the ministry invite them to the table? Did they ask them, here's what we're doing; we're making some changes. Did they talk to the people that would be impacted by this, whether they're northerner, whether they're Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, the industry, the people that are, you know, doing subcontracts?

It's very clear, but you have to make sure that you go to the people that are most impacted. And this government doesn't like doing that. It likes to create legislation. It doesn't want to consult and talk. But I encourage them to do that. It's a right. They have an obligation to make sure that the people feel that they have an opportunity to express themselves to the government that's making legislation.

We can fight on behalf of the opposition. And we will. We'll do all we can to make sure that we hold the government accountable. The people expect that. But on the other side, I think people in the other members' constituency, I think it's very clear, very clear, very clear that they hold this government accountable and that is important — very clear.

You know. And the members can, from their chair, say what they want. They try to move away. But remember this: the Supreme Court of Canada didn't say the government may. The government ought to. It's very clear. The government made it very . . . The Supreme Court made it very . . . It is the government's obligation to do this.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we've seen, we've seen and the people have seen exactly what this government's willing to do when they pass legislation, exactly what they're willing to do. They're willing to push whatever they want as long as it's theirs. So you talk about being bully. You talk about the process of consulting, of involving the community members, stakeholders. You know, the obligation isn't on the stakeholders and the community members to bring this information. The obligation's on the government. The Supreme Court of Canada made it very clear. So sometimes I wonder.

You know. And some of these things might be just minor housekeeping issues that they're dealing with. And I've said that it might be. But some of these might be impacting the industry, the communities. And when you look at it, Mr. Speaker, if that is happening, then truly I hope that the government has put their hand out and has invited them out to come and share their views. That's important. People want that. And it's fine at the end of the day, people expect that, we know that, you'll go through . . . We'll debate things. And at the end, Mr. Speaker, make it very clear, if it's an informed decision, people will accept that. But you have to make sure that they've made an informed decision.

And sometimes it's bully tactics. Sometimes they do it the way they want. It's not that they want to consult anybody. Like I

said before, it isn't consult, it's insult. And sometimes that is the nastiest thing you can do to people. You don't want to consult. You don't call them. You don't involve them. You'll pay a price for that.

And I know some of the members opposite, they chuckle at it and think it's funny. Well you wait. That's all right. Let them have that. That's good. Keep that attitude going. See how it works for you.

But Bill 125, Bill 125. Bill 125. Very clear. Bill 125, Crown minerals. So they're making a change to the mineral. So here they are with changes, and again I go back to this, Mr. Speaker. Who was consulted? Who was talked to? Was it just the industry or did you talk to everybody out there — stakeholders, people that were impacted? Did you have meetings, public meetings? Did you go out? Did you involve?

So you know, you have a process like that and you have some people that are not happy and they want to be able to express themselves and they want to make sure the government hears their concerns. It isn't that . . . Legislation has to be passed. The government has a job to do. Everybody knows that. But it's their track record that people are scared of.

It's the honesty that a person has to make sure you trust. There's a trusting and people have to trust the government will do the right things. And sometimes the people aren't feeling that way, and it's very clear. They're making that known to many of us on this side, and I think members opposite will be hearing that from their constituencies that the frustration . . .

So, Mr. Speaker, just want to go back and I can refer to the work that was done previously. And there has been, you know — Bill 110 — a lot of work back at home and I commend the people back home for the work they put into that Bill. They spent a lot of time discussing the issues around it. They had many meetings, many opportunities to have input into the chain. And it was under the previous NDP government that that process started. They wanted it, they asked it, and that was done.

And I think that process was great. It did what it needed to do and the people spoke, and that is exactly what we are talking about. That is a good piece of legislation that the process of duty to consult was done. That is good. I'm not, I'm not . . . And I said that before. I complimented the communities, the way they worked, the leadership, the mayors. They've done an excellent job of making sure that legislation will work for them. And they worked, and they had their input, and I commend that. So I want to be clear on that.

I know people will have other things they would like to say about this Bill, but like I just want to be very clear. You know, the minister across says, oh yes, they were all talked to. Oh yes. From his chair said, yes, you know, oh yes, you know we consulted them. We had community meeting; we talked to them. You know, he's shaking his head yes and making his comments. That's good; I'm glad. That makes me feel better about that. So on that note that that happened, I'm actually prepared at this point to go ahead and move this Bill into committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the committee is the motion put forward by the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources that Bill No. 125, *The Crown Minerals 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: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill 125, *The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2009* be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Bill No. 135

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

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again it gives me a great deal of pleasure and I want to express the honour it is to have the privilege of rising in debate in this House and to do so on behalf of the fine people of Regina Northeast.

Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting Bill which we have before us here, the Bill 135 — just trying to find my notes here to give the correct title — Bill 135, *The Act to Amend the Prescription Drugs Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, in principle I think this Bill has some parts of this Bill that certainly is worthy of the changes to the Act and the amendments to the Act. And I think they are forward-looking, and that is unique, I suppose, as many of the Bills that come forward from the government have not necessarily fit that category.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think, as it's outlined, that currently pharmacists in Saskatchewan here can't sell more than 50 tablets without a prescription and must record all sales in their store, but are not required to share that information. And I think, Mr. Speaker, there is a real need to establish some type of a central agency here where prescription drugs can be registered, I guess you would say, to ensure that the health care professionals within our province have access to that information in a timely fashion.

There's also a need, Mr. Speaker, to be able though to have that information held centrally so that we can ensure that there is no abuse or misuse of our prescription drug systems by any individual or individuals, so that we have a record, have an

ability to keep track of what is happening as far as prescription drugs are concerned.

And I know myself, Mr. Speaker, recently having had some medical procedures, I was surprised that when I was being admitted to the hospital, the amount of information that was available to my health care professional as far as my past use of prescribed prescription drugs. And, Mr. Speaker, I was impressed. I was really impressed that what, a small amount that I have used over my life, that was available to that professional. And I was pleased it was, because, I mean, I think we want to have all our health care professionals have the best of information on our history as possible and have that information available to them as quickly as possible.

[15:15]

Of course, Mr. Speaker, there is the concern over privacy. I think we want to have that information held centrally. We want to have that information held in a way that would be available to health care professionals when it's required for medical purposes. But we also want to ensure that we have a system that ensures a privacy that my health records, or anyone else's health records, and prescription drug records are being kept in a secure manner that is not available to somebody who is not a health care professional and/or is not being misused by those who may be health care professionals but for whatever reason believe that they need that extra information for purposes other than that which'd be in my best interests of my health.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that is part of the concern that we have with this Bill is the degree of privacy. Where is the privacy? What is the privacy levels that will ensure, ensure that that information is kept private and is kept secure in a manner that will cause us to be able to be relaxed in knowing that that information is there in case our health care professional needs it? In case there was ever an incident, perhaps something that's medical that wasn't planned, an accident, or something along that line, and a health care professional treating a patient would have the ability to be able to immediately, immediately call up those records and know that the past history, as far as prescription drugs is concerned, of the patient was, and be able to add that to the information that is used to make the proper decision as to the treatment for the individual.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that's very important. And I think it goes without saying. It will be helpful to be able to share that information between pharmacies and pharmacists, doctors, hospitals, and to provide the patient with the best of health care services, the best of services, and to do so in a safe atmosphere to ensure that there is no misuse of drugs, I guess you would say, or misapplication of drugs in the event that there is an incident that does take place.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that is of a much of a concern in this Bill, is that we are able to develop that system that would be best to serve the people of this great province of ours, but to do so in a fashion that provides the security of privacy within that system so that we can, quite frankly, simply relax and know that our information is going to be kept private and is not going to be available to people who are not within the health care system or who simply don't need that information.

Mr. Speaker, once again we wonder what level of consultation has taken place. Who has this government talked to? What level of consultation did they do? How did the . . . What form did that consultation take, if any? And what was the feedback? What did those people they talked to . . . First of all, who did they consult with? Who did they consult with, we need to know that.

After we know who they consulted with, we would like to know in what manner did that consultation take place? Was it done one-on-one? Was it done through perhaps telephone contacts or was it done through a newsletter or was it done through a questionnaire? What method was used to gain information or gain comments from the stakeholders involved and those who are involved within the system? And who will be affected by the changes to this Act?

What system was used to contact them, to discuss this issue with them so that we could glean back the information required, so that the government would be in a position to be able to make a good sound decision on the recommendations for amendments to the Act to ensure that this Act will do what we want it to do, and that is to act in the best interests of the patients or the best interests of Saskatchewan people who find the need to, on occasions, to use a medical system, find a need on occasion to use a prescription drug.

So, Mr. Speaker, we want to be able to ensure that that information that was gathered by the government was gathered in a manner that would be able to be incorporated into the changes to the Act, to best reflect the best benefit for Saskatchewan people. And, Mr. Speaker, that is just another question I would have in regards to the level of consultation and the method of consultation this government may have carried out.

Mr. Speaker, I think it goes on to say that we need to ensure that we have that level of privacy within the Act. And we do so by proper and correct consultation with the good folks out there, who many of them are on the front lines. Many of them are using prescription drugs. After all, in today's day and age — and I think perhaps as of a result of the marvels of modern medical science — that a lot of drugs have been developed that go a long way in relieving medical problems and causing perhaps a relief in medical problems. Perhaps even saving surgery, in a lot of cases for a corrective surgery where drugs today and modern medicine today will have a long ability to be able to address some of these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, we have to be concerned about the direction of this government, particularly when it comes to the drug plan. Somebody once said that putting the Sask Party government in charge of prescription drugs is a little like putting Colonel Sanders in charge of the chicken coop. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that is a reflection of this government's inability or lack of desire to be able to provide drug plans that will be beneficial to the people of Saskatchewan as a whole.

In fact, Mr. Minister, we see that the drug plan that does exist here in Saskatchewan, this government has taken it to a level where seniors — and the quite active seniors, Mr. Speaker, the people who have built this great province of ours, people who worked in this province, sacrificed in this province to build this great province that we've inherited — will now find themselves

subjected to a means test in order to qualify for a prescription drug program.

Mr. Speaker, that's unfortunate because after all it's the seniors, it's these people that should enjoy the better part of their golden years with some degree of security. And to do so, Mr. Speaker, they don't have to be subjected to a means test simply to be able to receive some support on a prescription drug program. Mr. Speaker, I wonder why this government would treat our seniors with that degree of meanness, really. It's because it's . . . It's a means test. It's a mean means test, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that we have to be concerned when this government is introducing amendments to the prescription drug program here, and amendments that may reflect on the privacy of drug information that's provided to, essentially to our health care professionals. Because, Mr. Speaker, this government has clearly demonstrated their inability to manage, they've clearly demonstrated over the last three years their inability to manage the affairs of this province. They've clearly demonstrated their inability to manage the financial affairs of Saskatchewan, taking the province from a position that they had inherited of over \$2 billion — a \$2.3 billion surplus, that's what they inherited when they became government — and within three years, Mr. Speaker, they've taken this government to a point of being \$1 billion in debt. A billion-dollar deficit, Mr. Speaker. In three years they've blown \$3 billion.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, if all the numbers were added up in a proper method, it would be even greater than that because to lessen the debt, to lessen the deficit this year to a mere \$1 billion, to lessen that deficit, they stripped all of the revenue from the Crowns. They stripped all of the revenue from the Crowns, all the profits from the Crowns, Mr. Speaker. They stripped that away from the Crowns, forcing the Crowns now to not to be able to use their own cash to reinvest into their companies. But now they're forcing them to go out and borrow that money, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has clearly demonstrated that they can't manage the affairs of this province.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, in most recent days, recent hours in fact, they've clearly demonstrated they can't even manage the affairs of this House, Mr. Speaker. And that was very evident yesterday with their motion to extend the hours, making it much more difficult for the opposition members to be able to consult with the stakeholders across this great province — those who are going to be affected by the changes to the Act, those who are going to be affected in this Act also, Mr. Speaker, those changes. Mr. Speaker, we need to be able to consult with those stakeholders, and you need the time to do that. And you can't be in here, Mr. Speaker, and be out in your office and be contacting your contacts throughout the industry.

So that, Mr. Speaker, simply adds to the lessening of the ability of the opposition to do its job, and that is I think what the government wants. I think the government wants to be able to restrict the opposition from doing its job. And why? It's quite simple, Mr. Speaker, they're losing. They're losing the debate. They're losing the issues. They're losing political ground across this great province.

That became very evident in the last session, and it's compounded in this session. And what they want to do, Mr. Speaker, is they want to get out of this House as quickly as possible. They want to get out of this House quickly as possible because they're losing. They noticed the trend line is there, the trend line is down. Their popularity is sliding. Mr. Speaker, it's only a matter of time, it's only a matter of time until the trend lines are down, their popularity is down. The only thing that's going to be out, Mr. Speaker, is going to be those members over there after the next election. They will be out of this House, and they will be out of government.

And, Mr. Speaker, that is something that is becoming more and more evident that they would just as soon — they meaning the government opposite — would just as soon not allow the process of democracy would take place. And perhaps if they need more time to get their work done to get legislation through to extend the number of days that this House sits so that there would be a number of more opportunities for the opposition to be able to ask questions of the government, they want to curtail that. They want to suppress that, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, there is a number of issues that of course come out of, not only perhaps the amendments to this particular Act, but are certainly related to it. And that would be of course the decision made by this government to de-insure the chiropractic services, services that have been insured through our health care system or co-insured for some time now. But, Mr. Speaker, this government for whatever reason, and I would think perhaps it was trying to save a few dollars here and there, but they really didn't care who they hurt to do the saving. They picked on the people who are vulnerable — people who need medical services, people who need chiropractic services — and they are saying to them, you're no longer going to get any support or assistance in receiving that service. You're going to be on your own.

What that means quite simply, Mr. Speaker, is that these folks, many of them won't be able to afford a chiropractor on their own, so they will turn to our medical system. They'll turn to our emergency wards. They will turn to our emergency centres. They will turn to our health care clinics. They will turn to our medical professionals for that help which increases the cost of health care in this province, puts greater pressure on our health care system.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's a case of being a penny-wise and pound poorer. And that's what this government here . . . They saved a penny, they saved a few pennies by de-insuring the chiropractors, but it's going to cost the people of Saskatchewan a lot more money just to be able to provide the pain relief, in many cases, and medical services to those people who previously were receiving that from their chiropractor.

Mr. Speaker, we're seeing their record, their record on rural health care simply shrinking. The number of rural doctors in Saskatchewan has shrunk under their governance. And, Mr. Speaker, there is no plan in place. There is no plan presented to the people of Saskatchewan, presented to this legislature to address that problem, the problem of rural doctor shortages.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of that, we're seeing hospitals go on bypass on a regular basis. A hospital in Kamsack is on bypass

almost half the time. Yet, Mr. Speaker, when that would happen on occasion previously when we were the government, the member from Canora-Pelly would make a big issue out of it. When he was in opposition, he would be very concerned because Kamsack Hospital would be on bypass on a certain weekend. And now, Mr. Speaker, if you listen to the news out there, and I get a number of reports from folks who live out there that they are very concerned because the Kamsack Hospital is on bypass most of the time.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing is a deterioration of our health care services throughout Saskatchewan under this government. And, Mr. Speaker, those are some of the reasons that we have concerns over Bill 135 and that we need to further discuss those concerns. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, the best place for those detailed discussions to take place, would be to take place in the committee. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 135 be moved to committee.

The Speaker: — 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 Health that Bill No. 135, *The Prescription Drugs 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: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 135, *The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act, 2009* be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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

[15:30]

Bill No. 107

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

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

Mr. Speaker, with this piece of legislation, like many others, there are aspects of the Bill that are definitely positive, both for

producers and for municipalities across the province, Mr. Speaker. But there's also a number of concerns that any piece of legislation raises in the public, issues that we need to take into consideration when reviewing the impact of this particular Bill on the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill addresses a problem that may or may not be relevant in municipalities across the province, but it definitely is in certain municipalities, Mr. Speaker. And it gives new powers to municipalities to deal with weed control within the municipality. The problem is, Mr. Speaker, what one producer may feel is a noxious weed or a problem, another may not. What a RM [rural municipality] may feel is a noxious weed and the producer believes is a noxious weed may not be the same.

And so, Mr. Speaker, although this legislation I believe is intended to deal with a problem in municipalities across the province, Mr. Speaker, it may not always be without some hardship, some disagreements and in some cases, Mr. Speaker, perhaps even the difficulties that remain for several years into the future, Mr. Speaker. Because there's nothing that a producer guards more closely than his own fields, his own land, Mr. Speaker. And to have somebody say what he can and cannot grow on his land, or that he should lose a crop due to a noxious weed, Mr. Speaker, is very significant to a producer. Producers work very hard to produce a crop and to work their land, Mr. Speaker, and to have somebody come from the outside and say, well you have to spray this or you may lose a crop as a result of it, Mr. Speaker, is something that producers wouldn't take lightly.

I also feel relatively secure that RMs wouldn't take that lightly either, Mr. Speaker. Municipalities need to work seriously with producers to deal with the issue of noxious weeds in their communities and in their RMs across the province, Mr. Speaker. But it's that co-operation between the RMs and the producers and the RMs and landowners, Mr. Speaker, that would make this Bill be successful.

Mr. Speaker, where there are disagreements . . . We hope they're few, Mr. Speaker, but inevitably there's bound to be disagreements between producers and landowners. It wouldn't matter what piece of legislation was passed in the legislature, Mr. Speaker, there is always some disagreement and some agreement with it.

Mr. Speaker, this Act allows for some very aggressive steps to be taken against an individual who is deemed to have noxious weeds and is not taking appropriate steps themselves to deal with it or to look after the problem, Mr. Speaker. Some may argue too aggressive a step, Mr. Speaker, that there should be a greater emphasis on co-operation versus the enforcement.

But, Mr. Speaker, in the end of day, if there is a problem that's affecting your neighbours, affecting the municipality, Mr. Speaker, at some point you have to act. And this particular Bill gives the authority to act, Mr. Speaker, and deal with the problem. It has penalties attached to failure to comply. And, Mr. Speaker, it will inevitably at least have some impact on the spread of noxious weeds throughout the province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I look at this particular Bill and look at its

subparts, Mr. Speaker, it talks about powers to enter an individual's land. It allows a weed inspector to enter land or enter premises, other than a private dwelling, for the purposes of performing the duties of exercising the powers determined in this Act.

So, Mr. Speaker, this particular Act will give powers for weed inspectors to enter an individual's land — not their personal homes or dwellings, Mr. Speaker — but onto their farm land or onto their pasture land and to in fact inspect whether or not a claim of noxious weeds is in fact valid, Mr. Speaker, and to determine the extent of the problem. Hopefully first the weed inspector would work with the producers or the landowner in order to try to deal with the problem in a co-operative way, but there are measures to be undertaken when and if there is not co-operation with one another.

It goes on to talk about consultation with the landowner — the positive things we like to see. It talks about orders in order to force the landowner to take certain actions, Mr. Speaker. And in the extreme circumstances, you can order up to the destruction of a crop. But it also has some criteria listed that have to be met before a weed inspector could actually order the destruction of a landowner's crop, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it also says that rules or orders must always be in writing, they must be in the form prescribed in regulations, Mr. Speaker, and it must be served in person to the owner of the land or property.

So, Mr. Speaker, although there is some concerns about this Bill and its application as it would pertain to landowners in the province and to rural producers and to municipalities, Mr. Speaker, on balance we see the virtue of this particular piece of legislation for the overall well-being of the province, Mr. Speaker, and in moving forward the concerns of the people of the province in regards to handling and dealing with noxious weeds within our province.

So, Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation allows for an appeal mechanism as well, if there's a disagreement as to what would be the appropriate step to be taken. The appeal is to the Municipal Board, Saskatchewan Municipal Board, Mr. Speaker, and so it, this particular piece of legislation covers what I would say are the fundamentals of an individual's rights.

If you don't agree with the decision of the weed inspector and the orders which the weed inspector puts forward, you have the right to appeal that to a municipal board. And the Municipal Board has the right to pass judgment on whether or not the weed inspector has overstepped his authority, whether he's overstepped what might be the best course of action to deal with the problem, Mr. Speaker. But we need to keep in mind that this particular legislation first and foremost requires consultation and working with landowners to deal with the problem.

Mr. Speaker, we would hope that the particular situations that result in controversy around this legislation would be few and far between, requiring very few, if any, appeals to the Municipal Board. But inevitably, as with any piece of legislation that could have as significant an outcome as destruction of a crop, Mr. Speaker, we would expect that there would be from time to time disagreements. And when you're dealing with potentially thousands or tens of thousands of dollars as a result of a destruction of a crop, Mr. Speaker, that's

important to that landowner, important to the individual.

But, Mr. Speaker, it might also be just as important to the neighbouring landowners to stop the spread of that noxious weed. It may be just as important to the municipality to stop the spread of that weed across a much broader spectrum, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, having spent some time on this Bill, many of my colleagues having spent some considerable time reviewing this Bill, Mr. Speaker, and the fact that the questions that we have would most appropriately be placed in committee, Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would move this Bill to committee, which will give us the opportunity to ask those more refined questions, as we want to scrutinize this legislation in committee in the near future, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Agriculture that Bill No. 107, *The Weed Control Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 107, *The Weed Control Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Deputy Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to rise and speak about *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*. And this is legislation that has a substantial size in the sense that it's got many, many pages to it. But it effectively, it's a consolidation Bill.

Now I want to make one comment about the speech made by the Minister of Justice for this particular Bill, and he rose in the House on March 8th to present the second reading speech for

this particular Bill. And I only make the comment that this speech also fits with a number of the other ones that have been made by ministers in this session, which is that there's not much substance to the speech.

And what we know is that when the courts have difficulty interpreting legislation, one of the first places that they go is the second reading speech of the minister to provide some further judgment or further information for any judgment that they might have to make in the court. And the information that was provided by the Minister of Justice on March 8th was quite short, quite cursory. And unfortunately, I think there was a missed opportunity to actually set out a number of the principles that were involved in more detail so that subsequent years, when people are looking at this particular legislation, they would have some guidance.

Now the reason I say that is that this legislation is a consolidation of quite a number of different pieces of legislation that have been around for many, many years. And so the net effect of this judgment is to repeal *The Executions Act*. Now that's kind of a harsh name but basically it means an Act that allows for the execution of a order or a judgment. It also eliminates *The Exemptions Act*, gets rid of *The Creditors' Relief Act*, *The Absconding Debtors Act*, and *The Attachment of Debts Act*.

Now those old names have a lot of meaning to lawyers but, for most people in the public, they don't have a whole sense of meaning because . . . unless they are the ones that are caught in these particular ones. And so quite often, *The Executions Act*, you would not have heard about it unless you happened to purchase some land, for example, and there's a writ of execution that shows up on the title based on the name of the person who you purchased land from. And all of a sudden, you're having to deal with paying for a judgment that you didn't know about.

The same with *The Exemptions Act*, and we'll talk about that a little later. That sets out the kinds of things that are protected for you if you are a debtor and the matter's being enforced against you. That provides some protection as to what things you can keep to allow you to continue to live and perhaps get to your job. And same with *The Creditors' Relief Act*.

The Absconding Debtors Act, that's the one that allows for special provisions to take place when you know that somebody's going to leave town or leave the province to get away from paying their debts.

And then finally *The Attachment of Debts Act*, I think everybody has a little bit of a sense of that. But that's basically the legislation that allowed for a judgment to be registered against your wages or other money that was owed to you. And all of a sudden, you find out that you're getting maybe 10 per cent of the amount you'd earned on your paycheque, and that would end up being obviously a major problem in your life.

And so all of these various pieces of legislation have now been lumped into the enforcement of judgments for the payment of money Act. And so effectively we've lost all those rich, old words and we've gone to words that talk about enforcement and judgment. And I thought it was quite interesting that, rather

than talk about a sheriff or some of these other terms that have a lot of history around them, we're going to now be talking about an enforcement officer and an enforcement proceeding and an enforcement instruction.

[15:45]

And I think it's probably fine to go with some new language, but clearly we miss out on much of the rich history that has us refer to the Sheriff of Nottingham hundreds of years ago or sheriffs in the Wild West in the United States of a couple of centuries ago, and now we're coming down to enforcement officers. And so that's what this particular legislation is about.

Now the key issue for us, when we look at this legislation from the point of view of the public, is what will the effect be on individuals? Well clearly the goal here is to provide a more rational, a more complete system for those people who are owed money to be able to collect their money from those that owe it to them. And that, if you're a business, that's good news to hear. If you're a person that is owed money, well clearly you want to have something that's simpler to use.

I think though there are also areas where money is now deemed to be owed which might not have been there a few decades ago. And one of these areas is the whole victims of crime issue and the issue where there's compensation for crimes that have been committed. And the minister has said that this, these kinds of orders that will be made in criminal proceedings or civil proceedings after a criminal conviction will be able to be enforced under this legislation.

So another positive aspect of this from the business community's side is clearly that it enables a much easier use of the electronic registries that we have in Saskatchewan or, for that matter, across the globe as judgments are enforced extrajudicially or extra-jurisdictionally. And so what we'll have in this legislation is legislation that ties in with the Uniform Law Conference recommendations for all of Canada and also the appropriate ties into the Uniform Commercial Code in the United States.

So let's talk a little bit about what the Bill deals with, and I will then point out a couple of areas where there are not necessarily concerns but where I think the public needs to be clear on what's being intended here because it will have consequences for a number of people in our community.

So when you look at the format of the legislation, basically we start out in the legislation in section 4, and effectively what this does is allows for sheriffs to authorize people to do their functions which are available in this. And this basically relates to the enforcement officer.

In the part 2, there's a whole section on preservation orders, and this basically relates to a number of issues that were located in quite a number of different pieces of legislation, but practically it relates to *The Absconding Debtors Act* where people would try to get away with their personal property and hide it away from the creditor who was looking for it. This also is a legislation that probably can be used in matrimonial property cases where one party may try to cover up or hide assets from the other party. It gives quite substantial powers to the court to

make orders that would allow for the tracking of property and doing other things like that. But it's all done in the new format of legislation.

Another aspect, the next section of this particular Bill deals with obtaining information from a debtor. And once again, it sets out some fairly clear ways that a creditor can ask questions of somebody who owes them money to find out what assets they have and what assets are available to actually pay the debts.

And this may be, I think, an important area to see that we're actually doing this, as we know that the subject of debt and the discussion of debt has become an issue in the province. And when we're in an economy like we are in right now, where people are incurring much more debt, there usually is a reckoning. And this legislation looks like it probably will be in place at the time that that reckoning comes. And so this will be one area where people will want to have their affairs in order if they're being required to provide information about their assets to satisfy a creditor.

The next area is the whole area of registration of judgments, and I think this is the area that allows for the electronic registration. What we'll have in Saskatchewan is pretty quick ways of finding out where judgments have been obtained, who they're against, and making sure that they are in a position to be attached to a whole number of assets that show up on electronic registries.

And this is an area that sort of butts up against the whole issue of privacy and information like that. But most often people who have borrowed money will have, in the contracts where they've borrowed the money, given up the rights to the creditor to go through all of these privacy protections to find any assets that they might have which would then satisfy the debt. I think the plan is, as I understand, that the judgments will be in an official judgment registry.

Used to be, when I first started practising law, that there were registries of judgments that were in all of the various land titles offices, and that was one way that you could figure out possibly whether somebody had some land assets or interest in a lease or something that you would be able to attach. But they were often not totally complete, and you'd end up having so many different land titles offices that you weren't always certain that you had checked every place. This will eliminate all of that uncertainty and allow for a common province-wide registry and effectively, I think, it will provide much more power there for, then, to the creditors. And I guess when I use the word creditors, probably the most common will be the banks and the credit unions, and they will end up having more power to deal with the enforcement of getting their money back.

So then you get into a whole next area of, well what happens once that you get a judgment? Obviously you have to go to court and go through all the procedures. But I'm not sure what the exact percentage is now, but I would think way in excess of half, maybe 90 per cent of the judgments that would be registered under this kind of legislation are what are called default judgments or judgments where people have not filed a response because they effectively have no defence and they don't want to incur any costs in fighting the claim that's against them. And that ends up also adding an added issue for the

people who then enforce it.

But you have a judgment. It can sit there for years on a registry, but until the creditor actually initiates or makes an effort to enforce it, it will just sit there. And so what the legislation then has . . . sets out the new rules about how you get the sheriff involved to actually enforce your judgment. And I think that one of the values of the new legislation is it will set out very clearly what kinds of things need to be done. I'm assuming that and . . . well I'm not assuming. I know that in the legislation they'll have the ability under the regulatory powers to set out forms that can be used and common procedures, and those will obviously be developed over the years to make sure that everything is done according to a format that will obviously allow for the enforcement of the judgment but more importantly, I think, allow for protection and fairness for the debtor.

And when you go through the legislation, then you get into a whole section on seizure of various types of assets whether they're securities or existing future accounts, and that obviously I think includes salaries, payments, those kinds of things. And so effectively we get rid of the old words like *The Attachment of Debts Act*, and we get into . . . I think the wording that's used here is seizure of employment remuneration. Well it's the same old thing, but it's got a new title. And I suspect that they will have received quite a bit of advice from the maintenance enforcement office about how to make sure that some of these procedures work efficiently and effectively because we know the success of our Saskatchewan maintenance enforcement office has come about because they've been very diligent in making sure that the rules are effective in collecting money, oftentimes from employment remuneration.

And so as you keep going through this, you start then dealing with what happens when a business goes into receivership where somebody else is managing the assets. That would also be the area where you'd end up talking about bankruptcies and what happens with judgments in bankruptcies, what happens with property that may be in the process of being seized and being dealt with. And we know that there have been a number of discussions in this legislature and in the public about bankruptcy or receiverships and what things have happened there.

I think it's also important to emphasize the fact that section 93 sets out what kind of property is exempt. And this basically is a compilation of the existing legislation, but I think what they've also done is gone through all the court cases that have happened over many, many years and attempted to describe in the legislation the kinds of exemptions that judges have allowed over the years to allow debtors to continue to live. And I think that there will also be some discretion for the court to deal with property where it may be unusual and it doesn't fit into any of the items listed here. But when you look at the legislation, I mean there's some very good things that are here, but basically it's about allowing a person to keep one motor vehicle so they can get to and from work, and it probably has to be a motor vehicle that is of a value that is not out of line with what's necessary.

[16:00]

It allows household furnishings, utensils, equipment, appliances, those kinds of things, clothing, some jewellery. And effectively they've removed some of the certainty in the Act itself by saying that the values will be of a prescribed amount. Now we'll give them the benefit of the doubt here and say that it's set up that way so that the prescribed amounts can change as the inflation takes place over the decades and so they can be adjusted without having to come back into and change this particular legislation.

It also talks about which kinds of investments might be exempt, and this is an area where this particular legislation will probably end up having to mesh with other legislation. We know that pension plans have certain kinds of exemptions. Some are set out here, but most often they're dealt with in other places, also registered retirement savings plans. And we know also that, for example, a major issue in Ontario over the last few years has been some of the pensions from some of the big automobile manufacturers because in their receivership or bankruptcy proceedings quite a number of the pension plans weren't exempt from enforcement and they were actually taken by the banks. And people who thought they had very secure retirement set out with regular income all of a sudden found that they maybe had 10 or 20 or 30 per cent of what had been promised to them.

And there's a very big social policy issue there that I think is subject of much discussion right across Canada, and I know in the States as well. And it wouldn't directly be dealt with in this particular legislation but it does fit in with this whole question of, well what kinds of assets are exempt? And in Saskatchewan the issue of a homestead, provided it's not more than 160 acres, has always been exempt property, and that's a direct result of many of the things that happened during the '30s in Saskatchewan. And we brought in legislation in this particular legislature in those years which would allow for an extra protection against creditors who were trying to take people's homes away from them.

It's quite interesting that in the last number of years, say in the last, you know, 15 years, that whole issue of homestead legislation — and this is the word that's still used in here — has been something that's been examined from other jurisdictions looking at Saskatchewan.

And in the United States right now, when they're having so many difficulties with people's homes being repossessed there, this whole issue around what kinds of exemptions, what kind of protections are there, is also a factor. And so what we've tried to do traditionally . . . And it's my hope that this particular legislation does that. It appears to protect a person's home and their ability to get to work and basically to live a fair but straitened lifestyle.

But if somebody has borrowed a lot of money and purchased a lot of toys or other things, those will all be picked up and sold and the money used to pay debts. And this particular legislation I think does a good job of making that process more straightforward and basically advantageous for the creditor.

It also, in this whole exemptions area, pulls in the exemptions as it relates to employment remuneration — in other words, the whole area of the attachment of debt. And that's appropriate

because then what can happen, you can see what kind of exemptions there are on the assets, whether it's real estate or the personal assets of the debtor, and also you can see what kinds of exemptions there should be on the flow of income that they have into that household. And this will allow for the court to set some of these amounts. And clearly the previous provisions around providing sufficient information to the enforcement officers will assist also in dealing with the whole question around the exemption for employment remuneration.

So we have legislation that's very comprehensive and it's dealing with an area where there can be a great deal of difficulty. I know once again I'll mention the Globe Theatre this week has the production of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. And at the heart of that whole play are a couple of situations around debt and the enforcement of the repayment of the debt and what kinds of personal hardships it puts on the people who owe the money and also the psychological hardships that are there.

And I encourage people to go to the Globe now and over the next two weeks and see this play because it's amazing how a play written, I think, in 1882 and modernized in its language can reflect what's happening in the year 2010. And I'm reminded of that when we're presented with this particular legislation.

Now the legislation is quite broad-ranging and as a result the consequential amendments to other pieces of legislation are fairly dramatic. And I'm not sure how many different pieces there are listed here, but it looks like it's probably about 43 other pieces of legislation that have been amended. And they're not amended in little ways. They're amended quite broadly to make sure that this legislation becomes the governing legislation in dealing with the enforcement of money judgments.

And that's the purpose for consolidating legislation, no matter when you do it, but a task like this one is, I think, a positive for everybody. And it's not just positive for the creditors who are trying to collect money. It's also, I think, helpful for the debtors who are in financial difficulty, many of the things that they look for to try to find an answer to. Before it was quite hard to go through all of the pieces of legislation, and so I'm assuming once this legislation is in place, there will be a rewriting of all of the educational materials that are provided to people who are in debt and also the various counselling services that assist people in debt so that they can make sure that they have the full benefit of all of the protections that are in this legislation, but also where they can fully understand that their duty is to provide information and clearly to repay their debts so that businesses or individuals who have lent them money will get their money returned to them.

So, Mr. Speaker, this legislation has some questions in some aspects of it that we will want to look at as we move forward here but I think it's probably more conducive to look at these questions in committee where we can ask the officials about why they made certain choices on certain aspects of the legislation and what were the compromises that they made to get to that point, because that's always what happens when legislation is written.

But I would have to say thank you to all of those people in the

Ministry of Justice and in the legislative area who have been working on this legislation. I think they've done an admirable job but we will continue to do the job as opposition and ask questions. So at this time I think it's appropriate to move it on to the committee. Thank you.

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

An Hon. Member: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 129, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 129, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to the committee responsible for intergovernmental affairs and justice.

Bill No. 130

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 130 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A pleasure this afternoon to join into the debate on Bill 130. Bill 130 is *An Act respecting consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to follow immediately after the member from Lakeview because, Mr. Speaker, I'm not a lawyer and I'm pleased that the member from Lakeview, who is a lawyer, who has served as Justice minister and who has practised law for a considerable amount of time over the span of his working career, was able to provide some information on Bill 129, the piece of legislation that he just spoke to and provided an explanation. And I say that, Mr. Speaker, that I'm pleased that he is able to provide some of the background because Bill 129 and Bill 130, the Bill that we are currently debating, are certainly linked together.

Bill 130, as the minister's statement in the House earlier suggests, he stated that it provides for the consequential

amendments to bilingual Acts affected by the introduction of this major law reform Bill. And the law reform Bill that he was speaking of when he provided his explanation is *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009*.

So, Mr. Speaker, as the member from Lakeview stated, there were a number of changes that occurred with modernizing or updating legislation that had been in place for a significant amount of time; updating with some of the language and how the different pieces of legislation are assembled into one package, and then how they are therefore applied to individuals being affected by the legislation.

So with those changes that came forward in 129, there were, as it was stated, a number of consequential amendments to bilingual Acts. So the piece of legislation, No. 130, is a piece of legislation that addresses a number of Acts that are affected by the legislation that I was speaking of.

And I will state, Mr. Speaker, that the minister's remarks on Bill 129 are rather brief and he touches a bit more on one area, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*, one of the Acts that amends that piece of legislation.

[16:15]

But there certainly could have been a bit more of an explanation for the other pieces of legislation that are affected by Bill 130 and 129. And I say that not for the benefit of the opposition. But I say that for the benefit of people in the public who may be taking the time to go through a piece of legislation, individuals in the future who in a historical perspective look back and see what this piece of legislation was doing.

I think if there was a bit more of an explanation provided by the minister when he had the opportunity to speak to this piece of legislation in the House, I think it could have been expanded a bit more because it was only three or four very brief paragraphs on this piece of legislation.

So I won't go into great detail with respect to the changes that are suggested in Bill 130. But I would like to state for the record a number of Acts and pieces of legislation that are affected by Bill 130 with some of the changes that are put into place.

Mr. Speaker, there is *The Commercial Liens Act* which is affected. There is also *The Education Act, 1995* is amended by this piece of legislation. There is also sections 44 and 45 of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*. There are some sections there that are repealed and substituted with new wording, Mr. Speaker. Also affected, amended is *The Family Property Act*. There are changes to *The Family Property Act* that are detailed in this piece of legislation, Bill 130. Another piece of legislation that is amended is *The Queen's Bench Act, 1998*, and the changes that are made to *The Queen's Bench Act* are detailed as well in this piece of legislation. Also affected, Mr. Speaker, there's a new section 5 as stated in this piece of legislation. It's section 5 of *The Registered Plan (Retirement Income) Exemption Act* that is repealed, and there is new language that is substituted for the repealed section of that Act.

So as you can see, Mr. Speaker, in the process of updating and changing the one piece of legislation, there are additional amendments that are required to be brought forward to the House, examined, and passed in order to make sure that the one piece of legislation is consistent with the other pieces of legislation that it affects. And that is essentially what is occurring here with Bill No. 130.

I will also state, Mr. Speaker, as it was stated in the minister's remarks on this piece of legislation, that it's for a number of bilingual Acts. So in this piece of legislation, as it is appropriate, the one page is English and that is mirrored by a page of French text, I assume holding the same information, Mr. Speaker. Being not fluent in French, I will trust the officials that it was all done properly as the work in this Assembly most often is done.

With that, Mr. Speaker . . . Well I would comment on one area that is perhaps the more lengthy change. And the member from Lakeview was able to speak to this for some time, and that's *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act*.

I know, as an MLA who has been elected only for a bit over two years, I can speak to the fact that over the course of time that I have been elected, there have been a number of individuals that have come into my office with a question about the enforcement of maintenance orders.

It's clear that life is sometimes complicated, and that certainly is the case with financial matters. When there are situations through breakdown in business arrangements or issues with a breakdown of a family arrangement, Mr. Speaker, there are situations where an order for enforcement needs to be in place, and this legislation does speak to that.

So I would state, as that is one of the more lengthy portions of the legislation, Bill No. 130, and it was one of the couple of short paragraphs that was provided by the minister, I would like to identify that that is one of the more significant parts of the change.

And as the member from Lakeview talked about the role of the sheriff and the ability of an individual to enforce the laws in a particular jurisdiction, it is good that that aspect of the legislative process and that aspect of the administration of law is in fact up to date and will help our constituents out, the people in Saskatchewan here, to the full extent that it ought to.

Because whenever someone is put into a situation where there is a dispute, and they follow the proper channels and the proper mechanism through the courts to receive an enforcement order, when they've played by the rulebook so to speak and that a enforcement order is in place, it's only appropriate that the process works for them right till the very end, and that means receiving the funds that are owed to them.

So speaking to that one issue in Bill 130, I'm happy to see the changes have been made there. But as I stated earlier on, Mr. Speaker, I'm not a lawyer and an expert on this type of legislation and many of the changes that are put forward in this legislation.

So echoing the comments from the member from Lakeview

with respect to some of the detailed questioning that needs to occur with this piece of legislation, how different Acts and different pieces of legislation interact with one another, and some of the implications when changing one piece of legislation, the implications of how another piece of legislation can be affected — as the member from Lakeview said — many of those questions, the most appropriate venue to discuss those questions will be in committee with officials from Justice who are able to provide background and answer some of the questions that members of the opposition may have on this particular piece of legislation.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks on Bill 130, *An Act respecting consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*, Bill No. 130. And at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would move this piece of legislation to committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question? The question before the Assembly is the motion put forward by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 130, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments 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: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 130, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009* be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to the committee responsible for intergovernmental affairs and justice.

Bill No. 117

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 117 — *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it's my pleasure to rise and speak to Bill 117, *An Act Respecting Hunting, Fishing and Trapping*. And I want to say that that's where there's a huge history of hunting, fishing, and trapping in Saskatchewan that dates back even pre-European settlers. There's just a tremendous people that have a history and have a tradition and they just know hunting and they know trapping and they know fishing like many of us know the back of our hands, and it's just incredibly important to those people. So for this reason alone, designating a hunting, fishing, and trapping

heritage day is a worthwhile endeavour.

But, Mr. Speaker, it should go further. It should go further because this is really amongst the very first things that was done in Saskatchewan. What we should really have is a statutory holiday on November 15th, and that would suitably recognize the Métis and First Nation hunting, fishing, and trapping that goes on in Saskatchewan and has for well over 100 years.

It also has the added advantage, you know, we're heading into a long winter, and you get into November, and November 11th is a statutory holiday, Remembrance Day. And that's a very, very important day in the lives of many people. I wish it was in all people. I wish we would all remember and commemorate and remember soldiers and, you know, war heroes and commit ourselves to never again. But we have November 11th as a statutory holiday, and if we had November 15th as a statutory holiday, we'd have back-to-back weeks bookcased with a statutory holiday, and we would be all geared up and set and ready for the long, cold winter. We could make it all the way to, we could make it all the way certainly to Christmas and New Year's as we waited for Saskatchewan Day in February.

There is one thing seriously this Bill misses. This Bill, if they really, if the government was serious, if the Minister of Environment and the government, the Sask Party government was serious about hunting, fishing, and wildlife, they would be designating more protected land. They would be designating more protected land, more protected rivers, they would be doing all of that. And that would truly honour trappers, fishers, and hunters, and it would help in so many ways with wildlife habitat, with making sure that the things that many of us take for granted today would be around in the future for our children, our grandchildren, and future generations. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's a very important thing.

This Bill comes out of the Ministry of Environment. In some ways, it reminds me of the federal Liberal gun control legislation, and here's how, Mr. Speaker. The federal Liberals said, my goodness we have a problem with service stations being held up. There's a problem. We must do something about guns and violence. So they did something. It's ineffective what they did, but they did something. They introduced gun control.

This is a do-something Bill from a ministry that is not doing anything with respect to CO₂ emissions, carbon dioxide emissions, which I argue is the biggest concern facing Saskatchewan people and the world out of the Ministry of Environment. It's the biggest issue, or should be today, but yet we see inaction, and even worse, we see talk that is just perpetually watering down the CO₂ emissions.

So, Mr. Speaker, Bill 117, *An Act respecting Hunting, Fishing and Trapping*, we have some questions around it. We'll be clearly having an opportunity in the committee of intergovernmental affairs, the committee that I sit on that's getting all of the work — it seems we're doing all of the heavy lifting these days — anyway we'll get the opportunity to be asking these questions.

This Act, before I take my seat, this Act really does deserve better out of the government and out of the opposition. This Act deserves public scrutiny. There are some parts of this Act that

are laudable, that are worthy of praise. There are some other things that could and should be improved but instead, Mr. Speaker, what we've got is a government that's determined to jam things at us.

And I know we've had, we've had some opportunity, I know that the member for Cumberland gave a very fine speech on this very Bill, a very impassioned speech about Métis and consultation, or actually the speech was about the lack of Sask Party consultation around this particular Bill with the very people that ostensibly the Bill is designed to recognize. And it seems to me that if you want to recognize Métis hunting, fishing, and trapping, you would want to consult with them.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, we've heard those speeches, and so I think it's time that this Bill goes on to committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to *An Act respecting Hunting, Fishing and Trapping*.

The Speaker: — 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 Responsible for the Environment that Bill No. 117, *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* be now read the second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 117, *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

[16:30]

Bill No. 106

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff that **Bill No. 106 — *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm quite interested to participate in this debate at this time before we move the Bill No. 106 on to committee. This of course is *An Act to repeal The Labour Market Commission Act and respecting certain matters associated with that repeal*.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if it was the fact that the word labour was in the title of the Act which is what had it marked for death with the members opposite or what. But having been around and had some experience with the Saskatchewan Labour Force Development Board and the efforts that were undertaken to bring a higher profile and higher attention to the issues around labour force development and the way that that fed into the launching of the Sask Labour Market Commission, in different meetings I'd had a chance to participate in, as Minister for Advanced Education and Employment, not long after this Act had gotten off the ground and the commission had gotten off the ground . . . It's with a certain sense of sadness but certainly not disbelief, Mr. Speaker, that I speak to this Act of repeal.

Saskatchewan works best when we bring people together, when we bring people from all different sectors together — be it labour and business, be it First Nations and Métis, be it from folks in the social economy. And if you can't bring those people together in an effective, meaningful way, it's always sort of telling what happens in terms of the way an agenda plays out, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly the way that we've seen the members opposite proceed with the Enterprise Saskatchewan debacle . . . They've got some really great people involved at different levels throughout that, but it seems that the irony there is apparent, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the work that they've done to stack committees upon sector teams upon, you know, intelligent groups upon task forces.

You know, for people that decry bureaucracy so much, it's most ironic to see the kind of galaxy of bureaucratic snarl that they've created with the formation of Enterprise Saskatchewan. And when Enterprise Saskatchewan comes forward with recommendations, they're not even heeded by the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. So I guess this is one of the single accomplishments of the whole thrust around Enterprise Saskatchewan is to kill the Labour Market Commission.

Now again in terms of revamping the Saskatchewan Labour Force Development Board, an institution that has had a long history, certainly throughout the '90s, in terms of trying to bring together the different sectors to do labour force development, there had come a time, Mr. Speaker, where there's a need for a relaunch, for a reboot, and the goal of the Labour Force Development Board certainly the validity of that remained but the means had come into some question, Mr. Speaker.

So there was a great deal of work undertaken to renew and to rebuild and to launch the Labour Market Commission, and a great deal of intelligence gathering done to gather from the best experiences in other jurisdictions how you can bring these different sectors together to recognize that common ground of developing a better labour force, of attracting and retaining young people, of better engagement of diverse sectors of the economy, and in Saskatchewan that particularly means First Nations and Métis people and all kinds of different people in the economy.

So what we've seen take place with the Labour Force Development Board, there was some good experiences there but we really wanted to get something that did a better job, that had

a higher profile, that had that buy-in from across the sector.

And I think it was a good comment on the work that had been done that this was an institution that was co-chaired by the president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and still, of course, Larry Hubich, and the president of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Holly Hetherington. And they're, you know, two individuals that did a tremendous amount of work in getting this institution off the ground and do a lot of good work for the province in different areas certainly. But that they brought their prestige and their different skill sets and their different networks to the table, I think, spoke to the job that was being done with the Labour Market Commission.

And again as recently as this weekend, Mr. Speaker, we've seen in *The Globe and Mail* a story about how the economy turned in Saskatchewan. And certainly there is a great front of initiatives deployed over the years by the previous government and certainly someone like Eric Cline is well equipped and certainly well credentialed to speak to those changes, was featured in that article fairly prominently this past weekend in *The Globe and Mail* and, you know, the boom and the good things happening in Saskatchewan's economy.

But perhaps something that didn't get as much attention but certainly deserves a lot of credit in terms of setting that table for a better uptake of the economic opportunity and expansion of economic opportunity in Saskatchewan and better engagement of all kinds of different people in the economy, Mr. Speaker, is the work that was done, that was very much encapsulated by the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission. And again, you know, bringing together labour, business, First Nations and Métis, social economy, the training system in government, providing strategic advice on labour market trends, issues, and strategies.

From time to time in this House, Mr. Speaker, we hear the members opposite talk about what's happening on saskjobs.ca. Well this was certainly an initiative that worked in very good alignment with the efforts of the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission, the investments that were made in trades training, Mr. Speaker, the monies that were put forward into apprenticeship to bolster that sector of the economy, the increases that had been made at that time in terms of health care professionals, and the then graduate tax exemption which at the time allowed new grads to earn \$100,000 free of Saskatchewan income tax over five years, a which I might point out, Mr. Speaker, included graduate students in its purview.

Now of course we've seen the government claw back the, you know . . . On the one hand it's a bit richer for undergrads than when they first brought it in. It wasn't that welcome mat home for students that were coming back to Saskatchewan or coming to Saskatchewan, you know, fresh out of their first degree or technical certificates. It was for students that were studying in Saskatchewan and graduated in Saskatchewan. Certainly an important sector, Mr. Speaker, but why you would limit it to just that instead of swinging those doors wide open to students from across the country and indeed around the world, particularly Saskatchewan students that had gone out to get their educations and were looking to come back home and looking for that edge to make that decision. That of course was not part of their program when they first brought it in, but

eventually they saw the error of their ways and they brought that in.

Now it's interesting, Mr. Speaker. One of the other aspects of course is the . . . We heard different things about the innovation economy and the knowledge economy from members opposite. But where we've last heard about that is from Enterprise Saskatchewan, the entity that was in many ways put in to replace different of the work of a body like the Labour Market Commission, and the fact that the Enterprise Saskatchewan is recommending that the graduate tax exemption, or the graduate tax credit program that the members opposite brought in be expanded to include, guess what? Graduate students. Just like the old NDP program used to include, Mr. Speaker. Not as lucrative as the program for, you know, initially just for undergraduates and then expand it after much urging to students coming back to the province.

But Enterprise Saskatchewan — what they chopped down something like the Labour Market Commission for, and which they sought out labour market advice from — they recommended that we should expand the graduate tax credit program to include graduate students. And again, Mr. Speaker, this would seem to be a fairly reasonable proposition. But of course what do they do? They ignore it.

So they chop down the Labour Market Commission and we're here talking about the final legislation to ultimately repeal that body and to wind it up completely. They replace it with Enterprise Saskatchewan which turns out to be sort of a death star of bureaucracy, you know, and a waste of a lot of highly talented people's time. And what do they do with the advice that it actually does come forward with in terms of something like expanding the graduate tax credit? Well they ignore it, Mr. Speaker.

So again it's always a privilege to rise in this House to take my place to have my say on behalf of the issues that interest me on behalf of the constituents that send me here, to say a bit on their behalf and to work on their behalf and work with them. But again you look at something like the Act to repeal *The Labour Market Commission Act*, and you can't help but shake your head, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the way that the members opposite like to just chase their tail it seems on some files ad infinitum to no great effect, to disservice of the people of Saskatchewan and the needs of our economy and of our labour market.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would conclude my remarks and move this Bill on to committee.

The Speaker: — 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 Responsible for Enterprise that Bill No. 106, *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act* 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. 106, *The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Bill No. 98

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer that **Bill No. 98 — *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak briefly on *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009*, Bill No. 98. Mr. Speaker, I was a little concerned when the Clerk read out a different Bill. I am relatively proud of being able to think on my feet but I was quickly trying to catch the name of the Bill that he was, that he had called out.

The Bill that we are actually continuing to debate on this afternoon is a Bill to amend legislation in respect to the Municipal Financing Corporation. And, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance in his second reading speech held out the need for the Bill as . . . the need for the legislation to arise and he seemed to imply from the Municipal Financing Corporation's infrastructure growth initiative, or the government's infrastructure growth initiative being a victim of its own success and there being insufficient funds within the Municipal Financing Corporation to allow for the \$160 million in financing still eligible to be accessed, Mr. Speaker.

And that's I suppose one way of looking at it. That might be a fair way of looking at it. Another way might be to suggest that the government either underestimated the uptake on its program or underfinanced the Municipal Financing Corporation with the initiative in its 2008-2009 budget, their last — perhaps last ever, Mr. Speaker — balanced budget, and of course a budget that was largely written prior to the 2007 election. And so in some sense it's the last NDP balanced budget, Mr. Speaker, to be followed by the first deficit budget of the Saskatchewan Party last year and then, of course, another one this year, Mr. Speaker. So perhaps it's a good thing that they underestimated the funds that they would need for the program in that last of balanced budgets, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

We acknowledge, as an opposition, the cost of building and maintaining our local infrastructure, and we understand that those costs have risen and understand that that is the primary

driver behind, first of all, the initiative that the Minister of Finance discussed in his second reading remarks and, secondly, the driver behind the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

As everyone in the Assembly knows, that strictly constitutionally speaking, municipalities in our constitution, which was drafted before there were hardly any cities in the Dominion of Canada, are creatures of the province and depend on the province for legislation enabling them to proceed in matters like this and, quite frankly, for funding, Mr. Speaker, because municipalities don't have a lot of options on revenue sharing and receiving income or revenue from any kind of tax, Mr. Speaker.

And you would think that, in all probability, if a constitution was being written, a much more urban Canada or much more urban United States — that contemporary Canada or contemporary United States of America — that such a constitution would have a constitutional level of government for municipalities with the powers to raise revenues and provide services because of the large number of services that municipalities do provide, but given the constitutional realities and legal realities, provide as agents for, practically, for the province.

That's the constitutional reality. The practical reality is that this is an increasingly urbanized country, Saskatchewan perhaps less so than say our sister province Alberta, but still increasingly urbanized country, and a city government and town government is increasingly important in peoples' lives.

And those of us who knock on doors in cities and large towns between elections, often end up referring almost every concern we hear to the city councillor because between elections it seems that people are concerned about their boulevards, they're concerned about their streets, they're concerned about drainage. And I'm quite happy to have a city councillor to pass those issues on to, but those are the issues that come to mind when a person is suddenly confronted with a politician on their doorstep and in a context in which they don't expect it, Mr. Speaker. And it's those issues of crumbling boulevards and potholed streets and bridges within municipalities and other municipal infrastructure that this Bill is intended to address, Mr. Speaker.

And as I think it will become clear very soon in my remarks, I've no wish to impede this Bill's progress through the House or to prevent the Municipal Financing Corporation to be able to access the funding and then provide that funding at subsidized interest to municipalities for important infrastructure work that has to be done by them for the citizens of those municipalities. So as I said, we acknowledge that these costs are there. We acknowledge that they rise. And we acknowledge that that is the purpose this legislation.

We do however remain concerned, and this concern has been expressed in respect to a number of Bills that deal with municipal government, municipal financing in the province of Saskatchewan that have come before this Legislative Assembly. That concern is about the government's commitment to municipalities as it relates to revenue sharing, Mr. Speaker.

The ability to borrow at a subsidized interest rate from the

Municipal Financing Corporation is no substitute. It is a complement to, but no substitute to regular, dependable, and entrenched revenue sharing, Mr. Speaker. And the government made a commitment to the people of Saskatchewan in the last election, which I think was welcomed and relied upon, Mr. Speaker, and that commitment was to provide one percentage point of the provincial sales tax to municipalities. The government has not done that. The government has provided a portion of that and again promised that in next year — in what was not any longer supposed to be next year country, according to this government — next year they might get to the full 1 per cent that was promised.

And the excuse for that, Mr. Speaker, was that potash revenues were not the wild expectations or they're not anywhere close to the wild expectations and predictions of the Minister of Energy and Resources. But of course, as many municipal leaders have pointed out, completely irrelevant.

The Saskatchewan Party did not promise a percentage of potash revenues to the municipalities. The Saskatchewan Party promised a percentage of the provincial sales tax to the municipalities. And again, Mr. Speaker, as I said in my remarks on the budget, a little bit of shell game about, oh where's the debt, Mr. Speaker? Where's the deficit, Mr. Speaker? Where is the revenue, Mr. Speaker? Where are these things? And the Government House Leader's obviously lost somebody else, Mr. Speaker.

And this, our second concern — and it does relate to where is the debt — is that as well as by increasing this borrowing limit by \$350 million, the government will be less inclined, will feel less pressure to fulfill its commitment of revenue sharing to the full 1 per cent that it has currently committed to, that it was committed to do long before now and has deferred, to use the government's term for things that haven't happened and may not happen, Mr. Speaker. The children's hospital in my home city of Saskatoon comes to mind.

But as well as being concerned about the revenue sharing, we are concerned about public debt. We have a Minister Responsible for Crown Investments Corporation who does not seem to appreciate that Crown debt is public debt. As a matter of fact, she doesn't seem to appreciate that Crown debt is debt. Today it seemed in question period that she was arguing that it was increased value to the Crown corporations to have equity stripped by this government away from them and to borrow more money. And that was what I would call, Mr. Speaker, Enron accounting, and it is not the type of accounting that looks very good for very long.

So we remained concerned about the debt as well, Mr. Speaker, because municipal debt is also public debt. It is also debt borne by the people of Saskatchewan — the debt of the health regions, the debt of municipalities, the debt of the Crown corporations, the debt of the government itself in a country and in a province where the governor of the Bank of Canada and others are concerned about the personal debt borne by Canadians. But you add on top of that the debt that is borne by Canadians, and people in Saskatchewan are our major concern, through their governments and really through no fault of their own but because of the inability of their governments to manage, Mr. Speaker.

And we saw during the last recession how a good financial ledger for a country or a province can sustain a jurisdiction through a very rocky time, Mr. Speaker. We would not want to confront the off-loading, well, but we have no choice, Mr. Speaker. We will not want to confront but we will have to, the off-loading that the federal government is going to have to do to deal with its deficit when we do not enter that circumstance with balanced books ourselves.

And that's a situation that this province was in in '95 when there was an enormous public debt, both the government and Crown corporation debt leftover from the Devine years. And the federal government dealt with its deficit situation by off-loading onto the provinces, Mr. Speaker. And the municipalities in the province of Saskatchewan of course suffered greatly at that time as well. And so we do not need deficits at the federal level, deficits at the provincial level, and greater debt at the municipal level.

Mr. Speaker, when the day of reckoning comes, as it's going to come in Ottawa at some point, these matters will have to be dealt with, either by the government that's incurred this debt or a successive government, Mr. Speaker.

So those are our concerns about the Bills. We may have some questions about more technical matters and about the sustainability of the corporation that can be best asked in committee. I don't believe that any of my colleagues have any further remarks on second reading, Mr. Speaker, so we would agree with this matter being referred to committee at this point.

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 Finance that Bill No. 98, *The Municipal Financing Corporation 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: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 98, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009* be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Order. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the House do now adjourn to 8 o'clock this evening for committees.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. This Assembly by orders . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. This Assembly, by order of the Assembly, stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 8 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:58.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	5099
Lingenfelter	5099
Harrison	5099
Chartier	5099
Duncan	5099
Bjornerud	5100, 5106
Iwanchuk	5100
Norris	5100, 5105
Morin	5100
Ottenbreit	5100
Cheveldayoff	5105
Taylor	5105

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Harper	5100
Higgins	5101
Atkinson	5101
Forbes	5101
Vermette	5101
Broten	5101
Furber	5101
Morin	5102
Iwanchuk	5102
Taylor	5102
Quennell	5102
Wotherspoon	5102
Chartier	5103

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Fellowship for Reconciliation and Peace	
Quennell	5103
Swift Current Fire Department's 100th Anniversary	
Wall	5103
Festival of Words Launches Program and Honours Moose Jaw Couple	
Higgins	5103
Spring Fling Supports Persons with Intellectual Disabilities	
Ross	5104
Prince Albert Resident to Head Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce	
Furber	5104
Saskatchewan Party Nomination in The Battlefords	
McMillan	5104
Coyotes in Saskatchewan	
Morin	5105

QUESTION PERIOD

Interprovincial Agreements	
Lingenfelter	5106
Wall	5106
Conflict of Interest and Changes to Legislation	
Yates	5107
The Speaker	5107
Morgan	5107
Habitat Protection and Sale of Crown Land	
Morin	5107
Heppner	5107
Financial Management of Crown Corporations	
Higgins	5109
Draude	5109

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker	5111
-------------------	------

POINT OF ORDER

D'Autremont	5111
Yates	5111
The Speaker	5111

ORDERS OF THE DAY
GOVERNMENT ORDERS
ADJOURNED DEBATES
SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 132 — <i>The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009</i>	
Junor	5111
Bill No. 125 — <i>The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2009</i>	
Vermette	5114
Harrison (referral to committee)	5117
Bill No. 135 — <i>The Prescription Drugs Amendment Act, 2009</i>	
Harper	5117
Harrison (referral to committee)	5119
Bill No. 107 — <i>The Weed Control Act</i>	
Yates	5119
Harrison (referral to committee)	5121
Bill No. 129 — <i>The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act</i>	
Nilson	5121
Harrison (referral to committee)	5124
Bill No. 130 — <i>The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009</i>	
<i>Loi de 2009 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act</i>	
Brotten	5124
Harrison (referral to committee)	5126
Bill No. 117 — <i>The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act</i>	
Trew	5126
Harrison (referral to committee)	5127
Bill No. 106 — <i>The Labour Market Commission Repeal Act</i>	
McCall	5127
Harrison (referral to committee)	5129
Bill No. 98 — <i>The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009</i>	
Quennell	5129
Harrison (referral to committee)	5130

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital
Commission

Hon. Rod Gantefoer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Municipal Affairs

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

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

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

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

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

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

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