



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

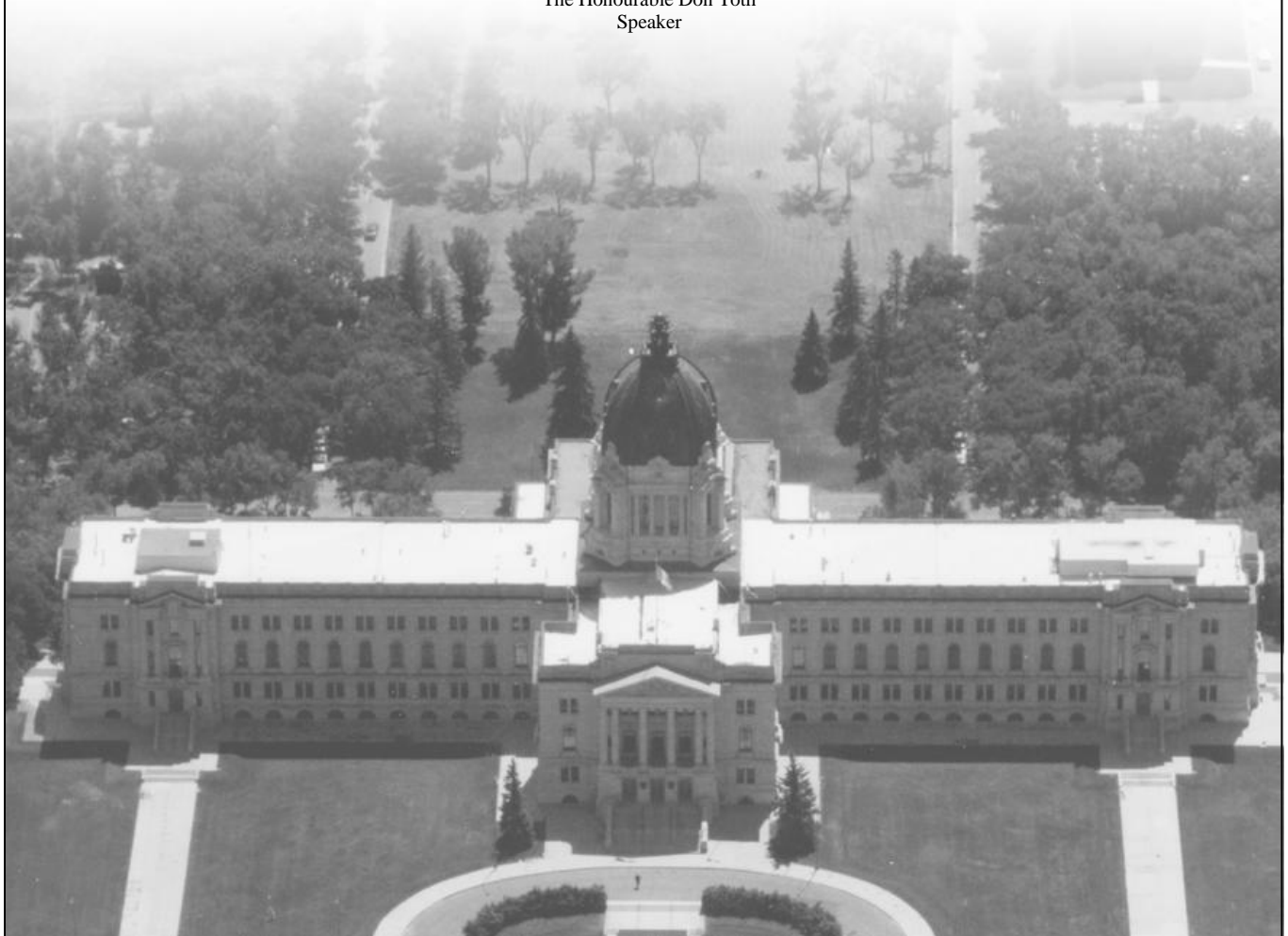
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — Before I recognize other members, I would like to acknowledge the presence today of our Acting Chief Electoral Officer, no stranger to the members, Mr. David Wilkie. And I invite members to welcome Mr. Wilkie to his Assembly.

I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has asked leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly, Kim Newsham sitting in your gallery. Kim is a Crown counsel for the Ministry of Justice, but today she is here in her capacity as a member of the board of the Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan or PLEA.

PLEA is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Since 1980, people have benefited from the assistance and information that PLEA provides. Through a variety of programs, PLEA empowers people by helping them understand the law.

To mark the anniversary, this week has been declared Public Legal Education Week in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that a lot of people see our legal system as a lot of medieval sorcery, however PLEA provides a lot of broad, general information on legal matters and goes a long way to demystifying the law. It is funded by the Law Foundation. Most of the presentations are provided on a volunteer basis by members of the Law Society. A number of years ago, I presented a series of lectures on behalf of PLEA dealing with wills and estates. I found it to be a particularly rewarding experience.

I would like to commend Public Legal Education Association and the volunteers and donors that participate in making this program successful and effective. I would like to ask Kim to pass on to PLEA and the members and volunteers, the thanks from all members of the legislature. Please join me in welcoming Kim Newsham to her Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the

official opposition, I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Kim Newsham and congratulating PLEA on its many years of good work and its anniversary.

Culturally, I think there's two types of law in our society: very dramatic, visible law around publicized criminal trials and legal dramas; and then there's the law that's less visible but much more important to our everyday lives, the law of the workaday world of our domestic arrangements. And that is the law that PLEA has helped the citizens of Saskatchewan with for so long and for so well — the law of leases and rental agreements, mortgages and wills, and consumer protection.

So the long-running series *Law & Order* is coming to an end, but the good work of PLEA I'm sure will continue for a long time in the future. And again, I want to join the minister in urging all members to welcome Kim Newsham here, and celebrate and congratulate on the celebration of the anniversary of PLEA.

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask leave for an extended invitation, please.

**The Speaker:** — The Deputy Premier has asked leave for an extended invitation. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the members for that extended introduction, and I apologize.

Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery is a large number of individuals from the Horizon School Division. Today, Mr. Speaker, we had the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of many students and teachers and the officials of Horizon School Division's on a project very, very worthwhile.

Mr. Speaker, high school students and chaperones from high schools in Wadena, Wynyard, Raymore, Punnichy, and Humboldt are in your gallery. I want to introduce the students if I might by name and ask them to stand or wave to be recognized. The students involved in this project are Cody Dale, Maria Weyland, Alberta Bear, Travis Morris, Keisha Desjarlais, Mark Desjarlais, Kaylee Andre, Alex Ferland, and Amber Chorney. One other student, Mr. Speaker, was unable to be here, and that is Matthew Lachica from Humboldt. And I also want to recognize him as well.

Mr. Speaker, today these students were recognized, and we're celebrating the Horizon School Division's new treaty education video. The production of this two-minute video reflects the Saskatchewan government's mandate to foundationally incorporate treaty education in the classroom in all kindergarten to grade 12 classrooms. The Horizon School Division brought together these students from across five communities to lead the

way and create a powerful and insightful video that highlights why it is important to learn about treaties.

Mr. Speaker, the students, both First Nations and non-First Nations, focused on treaty essential learnings, including the perspectives of elders and representatives of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. They were supported by teacher leaders and worked closely with the Indian Communication Arts program at the First Nations University of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, these students share their knowledge and perspectives about how, and I quote, “We are all treaty people in this video.” They are to be commended as leaders in creating such a successful production and also recognize their teachers, parents, families, and school officials.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members and the public at large to visit the Horizon School Division website to view this video at [www.hzsd.ca](http://www.hzsd.ca). Mr. Speaker, I want to also recognize all of the parents, the teachers, elder Mike Pinay, and all of the support of the Horizon School Division staff for making this project successful. And I’m sure once everyone has an opportunity to view the video, they will believe that that is just a tremendous job by a group of students in Horizon School Division. I ask all members to join me in welcoming this group.

Mr. Speaker, while I’m on my feet, I would like to introduce a group from the Canora-Pelly constituency seated in the west gallery. Today, Mr. Speaker, we have seven students that are in grade 7, 8, and 9 at North Star School in Hyas, Saskatchewan. Students are, and I’m just going to indicate their first names, Karlita, Amber, Courtney, Caitlin, Blaze, Jordan, and Jaymon. And their chaperones today, Mr. Speaker, are Stewart and Ruth Goossen, Bernie and Sherrel Warkentin, Sylvan and Andrea Penner, and Norman and Rosanna Fehr. I’d ask all members to join me in welcoming this great group from Hyas, Saskatchewan to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the Minister of Education in welcoming the group of young people, parents, teachers, and school administrators from the Horizon School Division to our Assembly this afternoon. I want to congratulate the students on the video that they have produced that will no doubt lead to greater understanding as all of us come to know what being a treaty person means in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I think I’d be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the contribution of my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Eastview, who when she was minister of Education worked with the Treaty Commissioner to do the curricula for treaty in the classroom. And no doubt with the work that’s been done by the students as we implement that curriculum in our classrooms across the province, we have greater understanding as Saskatchewan citizens.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the First Nations University of Canada. And I understand that several of the students are considering going to the First Nations University of Canada this fall, and they are now thinking about pursuing a university education. Mr. Speaker, the First Nations University

of Canada has graduated many talented and very progressive young people from that institution, and I’m pleased to hear that these young people are thinking of pursuing post-secondary education at FNUC [First Nations University of Canada].

So with that, Mr. Speaker, congratulations again to the young people. Their work leads to our understanding as Saskatchewan citizens, and I think their work leads to an understanding that make sure that we don’t have views that are old and that we have progressive views towards each other as First Nations and non-First Nations people. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Wood River.

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I would like to welcome a fine-looking group of students from the Wymark School. There’s 18 grade 8 students in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, and they’re accompanied by their teachers, Brad Gasper, Amy Satre, Tanya Hardenna and chaperones, Marg Leitch, Alyson Grose, and Cheryl Eaton.

Mr. Speaker, Brad Gasper usually brings his school group to the Assembly every year, and we’re very pleased to see that and the interest that they have in our legislative system. So I’d ask all members to join me in welcoming this school, people from Wymark, and their chaperones and teachers. And I’d ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to join with the Minister of Education and the member from Nutana in welcoming our guests here who are doing a great bit of work in terms of advancing the cause of treaty education in the classroom.

I want to specifically say hello to Elder Mike Pinay who’s, I don’t know how many double-doubles he’s consumed in the work he’s done zooming around the province, advancing this cause, but rest assured, Mr. Speaker, it’s a lot. But it’s good to see him here today in his Legislative Assembly.

And I want to say a particular word of welcome and congratulations to my sister, Annie Brass, her boy Lakota, and to my niece Kaylee. Kaylee’s mushom is Sterling Brass, the late Sterling Brass, and the great defender and promoter of the treaty. And it’s I’m sure with a lot of pride that your mushom is looking down on you with these days’ events in mind, Kaylee. So congratulations for being here. Ēkosi.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members I have the great pleasure of introducing some very dedicated and community-minded veterinary medicine professionals seated in your gallery today.

With us are members of the vet crew along with their families and friends. The team includes Drs. Lesley Sawa, Greg Harasen, Karen Harasen, and Lois Herperger; technician Jenna

Hysuik; and assistants Danielle Gauthier-Kratz and Chantelle Johnson, all from Regina; and Dr. Janna Schuer from Saskatoon.

Now together with some equally big-hearted colleagues who came all the way from Ontario, Team Saskatchewan volunteered time, equipment, and supplies to travel to the northern communities of La Loche and Ile-a-la-Crosse. There under the direction of Dr. Sawa they set up clinics, examined, vaccinated, and dewormed 200 dogs and carried out 160 spay and neuter operations all free of charge.

In addition, they provided seminars on the topics of dog bite prevention, parasites, and animal hygiene to local students who were also given tours of the surgical facilities and invited to observe the procedures.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this isn't the first time that these hard-working professionals have taken the time out of their busy schedules to provide free canine care in northern Saskatchewan. In fact the 2010 adventure is just the latest of many such trips. We owe these incredibly dedicated individuals a great debt of gratitude for their continued volunteer service, and I encourage all members here today to welcome them to their legislature.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join the Deputy Premier in welcoming the students and the staff from the Horizon School Division and the fine work that they have done to further the understanding of our treaties. Mr. Speaker, as one of the few Aboriginal members of the Assembly, I have half my family that are First Nations, the other half are Métis people, and I'm stuck in the middle there, Mr. Speaker.

But certainly understanding treaties is really, really important. We know that the UN [United Nations] has done a great amount of work to look at the rights of the indigenous peoples. We looked at the notion of the Supreme Court of Canada talking about the duty to consult. And certainly there is a notion everywhere that respecting and understanding treaty rights is paramount to the survival of many, many governments, but more so to the ability of the Aboriginal people, First Nations people to thrive in our province.

[13:45]

I think one of the messages that I got from many leaders in northern Saskatchewan, many of whom are First Nations, is that the treaty people are not just hoping to survive, they're hoping to thrive. And having people understand First Nations and treaty rights is so very, very important.

Now we need to continue to work to ensure that governments respect the findings and the direction and the leadership that the students have shown. And I think it's only fair that I get up and say thank you on behalf of the many First Nations people throughout Saskatchewan, through my constituency, throughout my family because I think this work is very valuable work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to make a couple of introductions. First and foremost, I'd like to recognize the president of the University of Regina student association. Kyle Addison is here. He's an impressive leader. He's done tireless work over a number of months, just beginning his next term. He was very, very helpful on issues relating to the First Nations University, and we just know how important that file is today and into the future.

He continues to, he continues to ensure that he's speaking on behalf of students, Mr. Speaker, and certainly he also focuses on the future for young people in Saskatchewan. And I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in welcoming Mr. Addison to his legislature.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I'm on my feet, I would like to add a number of individuals seated in your gallery who are here as we anticipate the passing of Bill 80 today. And certainly I'd like to include among those Michael Fougere from the Saskatchewan Construction Association; a number of individuals from PCL including Kris Hildebrand; as well others from Graham Construction, Erick Erickson; from Merit Construction, we know we have Karen Low, Drew Tiefenbach, and Harley Friesen; and from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Marilyn Braun-Pollon and Virginia Labbie; as well from the Christian Labour Association of Canada, Mr. Brad Bent.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Assembly to welcome these individuals to their legislature.

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join the minister of also welcoming the people from the construction industry, particularly Michael Fougere, the representatives from PCL, Graham, Merit, and CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] to their legislature for this very important day on Bill 80.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I would also like to welcome some members of the building trades who have to watch as well. We have Lorne Andersen, Gunnar Passmore, Kelvin Goebel. We have Larry Kowalchuk up there, Terry Parker, Dallas Rogers, Chuck Rudder, and any other people that are here. I'd also like all members to welcome all of these people to their legislature, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me, to you and through you to members of the Assembly, to introduce two special guests that are seated in your gallery behind the clock somewhere. I know that they're up there seated in the back row, and if they could give a wave when I introduce them, Mr. Speaker.

Joining us in fact from the Estevan constituency are Richard St.

Jules and my dad, Earl Duncan, and they are in Regina on business. They work in Halbrite at Dempsey Laird Trucking. In fact, Mr. Speaker, my dad has been employed by Dempsey Laird and the Laird family since before I was even born, serving as a truck driver for much of those years, and just recently making a transition into the office in a management position. And so I'll hopefully get to spend a little bit of time with them later this afternoon while they're in Regina. And so I would ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to join with the minister in welcoming Kyle Addison to the Assembly today. Always good to have student leaders in the province here in the Assembly. I'd ask all members to join me once again in welcoming Kyle Addison to the Assembly.

And I would also like to introduce, Mr. Speaker, two guests who are seated behind the bar on the floor here, Anita and Kenneth Hall. Anita is my aunt and Uncle Ken is my uncle. Both individuals, Mr. Speaker, are retired and live in Saskatoon, though they spent most of their working years here in Regina. Auntie Anita was a librarian with the Regina public system for many years. Uncle Ken was originally from Virginia, and though he's been in Canada for many decades is still very much an American in citizenship and accent if you have a chance to speak with him.

And I should note also, Mr. Speaker, that Auntie Anita, her father was Hans Broten, my grandfather, who served in the legislature. So I know it's been a number of years since she has been to the Assembly, but I know it brings back many fond memories for her. So I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Anita and Ken to the Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming Terry Parker and other representatives of the construction trades, Mr. Speaker. It's an opportunity to welcome them to their legislature and say how much obviously their work is appreciated right across the province. I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members in the Legislative Assembly, it gives me great pleasure to introduce in the west gallery, Penny Ward, Robin Schlaht, Steve Suderman, and Jess Boyachek. And sadly Heather Malek is not here today. I know we'll all miss her. Heather is actually on business in Calgary. But Penny, Robin, Jess, and Steve are all members of SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] Matters, a group that is concerned with the privatization of the Saskatchewan Communications Network and the manner in which this government has gone about doing it.

Just a quick note, both Steve and Jess are from rural Manitoba and have been in Saskatchewan for quite some time. They're all members of the film community here, but Steve and Jess are now in a position where they are sadly looking at moving back to Manitoba, not because . . . Well just to quote what Jess has said:

Those of us who are thinking of leaving are not doing so because we simply forgot about other resources like SaskFilm and the film employment tax credit. We're doing so because we understand our industry and SCN's vital role in it.

So with that, I'd like us all to join in welcoming the SCN Matters folks to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Estevan.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy in welcoming Earl Duncan and Richard St. Jules to this Assembly this afternoon. It's great to see you both here, and I hope you enjoy the afternoon. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to have all members give a special acknowledgement to Victor Sawa, who is in the gallery. He's obviously from the Regina Symphony Orchestra, but soon also to be from the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra as he provides advice around how to have the best music possible in our province. And I think all of us should acknowledge his role.

Also he is very willing and able to talk to people about music, about film, about video games, all those things if you happen to go by Starbucks in the afternoon, and I think that many times you can get into a very good conversation with Victor about all of these interesting things. But he's a great asset for Saskatchewan, and I ask all of us to acknowledge him.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake, the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to welcome in the west gallery two gentlemen from the town of Wakaw that are joining us today. Councillor Gary Harrison, long-time employee of the Ministry of the Environment and my uncle, and Rick Kindrachuk who's the administrator of the town. And also I had the chance to talk to Rick this morning at the RMAAS [Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan] convention. So please join with me, Mr. Speaker, in welcoming these two individuals to the legislature.

**The Speaker:** — If members would just permit me as well. In the Speaker's gallery we have two young gentlemen who will be going to Winnipeg very shortly. They are representing the Saskatchewan Youth Parliament at the 14th session of the Western Canadian Youth Parliament from May 21st to the 24th in Winnipeg. They'll be joining delegates from across the Western provinces at the Legislative Assembly in Manitoba.

And in the gallery we have with us today, Nolan Blackstock from Saskatoon has served as a Page, Sergeant-at-Arms, and a Government Whip and Brett Estey from Regina, current Speaker, past deputy leader of the opposition and has also served as minister of public relations and communications. I'd invite these two young gentlemen to stand and be recognized and invite the members to welcome to their Legislative Assembly.

I'd like to also acknowledge a few other delegates who will be going from Saskatchewan who weren't able to join us today: Mike Roche, who is the premier; Jordan Kostal, leader of the opposition; Daisy Martinez, deputy leader of the opposition; Tava Burton, minister of publications; Todd Blyth, Jordan Crawford, Laura Hochban, and Ardan Burton. We want to wish our delegates well at this year's conference.

Before we move to presenting of petitions, just a special welcome to all our guests and just ask the guests not to participate in any form, even in clapping, of the debate from here on in, in the Assembly. I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**Mr. Harper:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned over the conditions and the safety of our highways. This petition pertains to Highway No. 10 from Fort Qu'Appelle to the junction of No. 1. And the petition states that this portion of the highway is a main traffic route to year-round tourist destinations as well as this portion of the highway serves three major grain inland terminals. And the prayer reads 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 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of Highway 1 in order to improve the safety for Saskatchewan's motoring public.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Fort Qu'Appelle; Wadena, Saskatchewan; and even from Rainier, Alberta. 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, we know that *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* protects 3.4 million acres of uplands and wetlands, or one-third of all wildlife habitat lands in Saskatchewan in its natural state, and that the repealing of the schedule listing of these designated lands by the proposed amendments to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, will endanger the protection and designation of these lands. And, Mr. Speaker, there are many citizens that are concerned with the government's actions. And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully

request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by residents from Swift Current, Pennant, Cabri, Gladstone, Lloydminster, and Stewart Valley. I so present.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — I rise today to present a petition from people who would support maintaining quality health care services. They want the government to recognize the essential role of all health care providers as valued members of the health care team and recognize that the utilization and value of the full range of professional skills offered by health care providers, and hope that they promote them to addressing retention and recruitment issues and by ensuring safe staffing levels. And this can only be achieved through a commitment of active funding and the installation of good faith in the provincial collective bargaining process:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining quality health care services and job security for all public health care providers.

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

And the people signing this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Abbey, Assiniboia, Aneroid, Battlefords, Biggar, Balcarres, Brownlee, Balgonie, Clavet, Cudworth, Carmel, Cadillac, Davidson, Domremy, Duck Lake, Drake, Dysart, Dodsland, Eatonia, Elfros, Glenside, Foam Lake, Herbert, Hodgeville, Gull Lake, Guernsey, Humboldt, Kindersley, Kyle, Kenaston, Lanigan, Leader, LeRoy, Liebenenthal, Luseland, Kerrobert, Limerick, Macrorie, Maple Creek, Middle Lake, Moose Jaw, Melfort, Macklin, Montmartre, Lloydminster, Nokomis, Norquay, Outlook, Ponteix, Quinton, Regina, Rosthern, Saskatoon, St. Brieux, Simmie, Sedley, Sifton, Strasbourg, Shaunavon, Swift Current, Unity, Primate, Young, Wakaw, Waldeck, Watrous, Webb, Wilkie, Wishart, Wymark, and Wynyard. I so present.

[14:00]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for the reinstatement of the

domestic abuse outreach program. And we know that was a very good program that provided a number of valuable services to women victims of domestic violence and their children, including helping them find emergency shelter and accompanying them to their homes, court, and hospital or police station as needed.

And we know the Government of Saskatchewan cut the funding for the domestic abuse outreach program on December 31st without any consultation with the community. 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 reinstate the domestic abuse outreach program as a provincial government service and make it available in all parts of Saskatchewan.

I do so present. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of Highway 915. This petition addresses concerns of Saskatchewan people about the quality of Stanley Mission road. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to upgrade and repair Highway 915 as soon as possible.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition is signed and supported by the leadership and the community members of the community of Stanley Mission. I so present.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to present a petition in support of fairness for Saskatchewan students through a call for the expansion of the graduate retention program. The prayer reads:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition today are from the city of Moose Jaw. I so present.

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

**Mr. Furber:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition for financial assistance to the town of Duck

Lake water project. The petition is again being circulated and signed by Saskatchewan residents because of the exorbitant amount that Duck Lake citizens are forced to pay by this government for clean, safe water. It's causing them hardship, and I'm told by the leadership of the community that it's actually forcing people to move out of Duck Lake, which is shameful. 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 promise to rural Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition today is signed by folks from Martensville, Saskatoon, and 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 yet again to present a petition on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan with yet another water issue. The government ministry has directed that customers may no longer treat non-potable water using methods approved by Sask Health.

These Furdale residents, in dealing in good faith with SaskWater for over 30 years, have paid large amounts for their domestic systems and in-home treatment equipment. And an alternative water supply referred to them by a government agency is a private operator offering treated, non-pressurized water at great cost with no guarantee of quality, quantity, and availability of water, Mr. Speaker. 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.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions 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 and present a petition in support of withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the members of the building trade unions have a proud history of craft union certification in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, the existing construction industry labour relations



Act, 1992 has provided a stable environment for labour relations in the construction industry.

Mr. Speaker, that stable labour relations environment provides for quality work, safe construction sites, and benefits us all in Saskatchewan. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the existing building trades contract supported apprenticeship system of training which results in a highly skilled workforce.

Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

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

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

The petitions are signed by people from Regina, Moose Jaw, Melfort, St. Brieux, Saskatoon, Torquay, Watson, Asquith, Balgonie, Vanscoy, Aberdeen, Prince Albert, Martensville, Delisle, LeRoy, Humboldt, Colonsay, La Ronge, Ardath, Nipawin, Melville, Bethune, Semans, Canora, Young, Duval, Perdue, Wilkie, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Beauval, Watrous, Kerrobert, Kindersley, North Battleford, Leoville, Martin, Mervin, Cut Knife, Battlefords, Turtleford, Lloydminster, Eyebrow, Paradise Hill, Waseca, White City, Porcupine Plain, and Biggar.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again here today to present petitions on behalf of concerned Saskatchewan residents as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive almost \$1 billion deficits tabled by the Sask Party and they reference the billions of dollars of debt growth projected under the Sask Party. This is a problem that needs to be rectified. Saskatchewan people expect their government to be responsible on these fronts. And the kind of debt growth that we're incurring at this point in time are simply not acceptable to Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

And the prayer reads as follows:

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

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

Now these petitions are signed by concerned residents of Estevan, Regina, Sedley, Warman, and Carlyle. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition in support of the Saskatchewan film and television industry. Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents concerned that the Sask Party government has left the film and television industry languish for the last couple of years and has now kicked it to the curb with the privatization of the Saskatchewan Communications Network. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents of Estevan and Davidson. I so submit.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

**Ms. Schriemer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise because I am proud to say that on behalf of Minister of Energy, I was able to attend the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce business awards known as the SABEX [Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence] awards.

More than a dozen local businesses and entrepreneurs were honoured last night. On behalf of SaskPower, I had the privilege to present the award for the New Business Venture Award to AlarmTek Security of Canada.

Every year at the SABEX awards, a person is inducted into the Business Hall of Fame. This year's inductee was Mr. David Dutchak of MD Ambulance Care. Born and raised in Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan, Dave has followed his father's footsteps, Mike, when he started his career in EMS [emergency medical services] services.

MD Ambulance was founded by David's father 34 years ago. Today the entire family of Michael Dutchak continues to provide excellence in emergency medical services in our province. Dave Dutchak is the CEO [chief executive officer] of MD Ambulance Care and in 1976 employed six staff members. Today there's over 129 people employed there from primary care paramedics, intermediate care paramedics, advanced care and flight care paramedics, as well as the health bus. Dave also served on the board of directors for the EMS Services Chiefs of Canada since 2002. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Mr. David Dutchak on the award, as well as

other recipients. Thank you.

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

### Enterprise Saskatchewan Consultations

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, there are many types of marathon campaigns held for many different purposes. Some raise money, Mr. Speaker, like a telethon for charity. Some are walkathons, Mr. Speaker, held by students to draw attention to a good cause. And some are contests, Mr. Speaker, like a dance-a-thon to award the winning couple a special prize.

But the Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, yesterday announced a new kind of marathon, something Saskatchewan people haven't heard of before. It's the first-ever Sask Party consult-a-thon, Mr. Speaker. We heard, Mr. Speaker, that Enterprise Saskatchewan consults with industry around the clock, around the calendar. Yes, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to consultation, the Sask Party's marathon man never sleeps. He's out on the road day and night on his endless marathon of consultation.

And not just in good weather, Mr. Speaker. He said, Mr. Speaker, those consultations take place whether they're in the summertime, whether in the fall, whether in budget cycle or without budget cycle. Yes, Mr. Speaker, this model of Chevy has all-season tires.

Mr. Speaker, we don't know how much money the Sask Party's consult-a-thon has raised, but we know how much Enterprise Saskatchewan has cost the taxpayers — \$90 million. Mr. Speaker, as he concluded his remarks, the member said he was almost ready to give his number out. No need, Mr. Speaker, the people already have the number of the Sask Party's \$90 million marathon man.

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

### Northern Forest Fire

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Due to the quick response of the emergency personnel, I stand before the House to speak of a forest fire that is currently under control north of Prince Albert.

The RM [rural municipality] of Buckland has declared a local emergency effective May 17th, 2010. As of right now, one home has been destroyed and roughly 60 others are at risk as firefighters work to douse hot spots at the wildfire. Since the fire started, about 50 people from 22 families have registered with the local branch of the Canadian Red Cross. Thankfully, the majority of residents living in the area have been able to find alternative accommodations and have not needed help.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I accompanied the Minister of CPSP [Corrections, Public Safety and Policing], along with Mr. Duane McKay, the fire commissioner and director of emergency response, to assess the damage done by the fire.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very grateful for the Buckland Fire

Department, along with all emergency response personnel. They cannot possibly know how much their empathy and support has meant to the unfortunate families being evacuated. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of this Assembly keep the families of Buckland in their thoughts and their prayers. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Postcard from China

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, our caucus recently received a piece of misdirected mail. It's a postcard from the Premier updating his caucus on the progress of his trip to China. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to pass along the Premier's message to his colleagues.

He writes, hey team. The trip is going really well. The Chinese investors were a bit disappointed though to learn that Saskatchewan doesn't have 20 per cent of the world's natural resources, but I think I was able to cover. Just like I did with the cities, I told them that if we didn't have them now, we'd have them next year. In spite of that little hiccup, it's no exaggeration to say that this is the greatest trade mission in our history, in the history of our province, our region, our country, and quite possibly the world. After all what could be better than a trip that gives me an airtight alibi for missing members' statements?

Over here no one's even heard of the guitar museum, and in fact I'm turning into a bit of a celebrity: everywhere I go people keep talking about the Great Wall. Make sure caucus staff are videotaping all my commercials. I want to see them when I get home. I'll be here on time, but probably a little over budget. Oh well, not like it's the first time.

Mr. Speaker, it's our pleasure to pass along this message on behalf of the Premier, just as it will be a great pleasure to receive the people's message in November of 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Saskatoon Sports Volunteer Honoured

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of Saskatoon's most energetic volunteers and sports enthusiasts was recently honoured with the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance PRESTIGE [program recognizing exceptional sport tourism initiatives, games & events] Award for community service.

[14:15]

Joe Bloski was honoured at a gala in Toronto on April 22nd for his selfless dedication to developing and promoting sports as part of the dynamic fabric of our province. I had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of serving with Joe this past year, as he was the Vice-Chair of the 2010 IIHF [International Ice Hockey Federation] World Junior Championships host committee that saw a great competition and a huge economic impact in our province.

He is a man of great focus and passion who puts every ounce of effort into creating the opportunity for success. Bloski's accomplishments are numerous. Joe has been a hands-on person in coaching, managing teams, leading bid committees, and chairing or co-chairing international sporting events for 40 years in our province. He was an integral part of the establishment and growth of Saskatoon Sports Tourism in 2000, also serving on the board of directors during that time. He has also served as a director for the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame. Joe says that volunteering and networking in the sports world has brought much joy and many new friends and business connections his way.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you and all of my colleagues in the Assembly to join me in congratulating and thanking Joe Bloski for his incredible legacy of volunteerism in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Questions in Committee

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure most of us have read the adventures of Nancy Drew, a childhood amateur detective. Well last night in committee, the member for Martensville played a starring role in her own little caper: the mystery of the missing answers, Mr. Speaker.

And in a nutshell, the Minister of the Environment was given some pretty obvious clues about four weeks ago about what would be asked in committee. But she had trouble finding the clues. She could have investigated her own office or even the public *Votes and Proceedings*, the document we receive daily, where she specifically answered my written questions and told me that I should ask them in committee.

Now even Nancy Drew, the childhood investigator, would have known this was a pretty good clue. Even Nancy might have followed up on this glaring evidence and made sure she had the answers to these questions. But the Minister of the Environment missed the clues and must have been too busy organizing her pig roast, selling off protected land, and cutting her firefighting budget to solve the big mystery.

But she can rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that she will have another chance to use her detective skills. On November 7th, 2011, I'm sure she will still be trying to solve the big mystery of why this Sask Party government has suddenly become opposition.

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

### Female Role Models

**Ms. Ross:** — Mr. Speaker, I stand before this Assembly to speak about an issue that is not only important to me, but near and dear to parents' heart worldwide. Though Mother's Day has come and gone on the calendar, the important role of a mother or a strong female role model still remains.

For this reason, I am proud to announce Dove's first annual

Real Beauty Regina Workshop taking place on May the 30th. This is a workshop designed for girls age 8 to 13 and their female mentors. It's a fun, interactive workshop exploring the very important issue of self-esteem. Mothers and/or female role models have the greatest impact on young girls' self-esteem. These female role models have power to positively impact the self-esteem of very special girls in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would personally like to thank Jacqui Shumiatcher for generously supporting and sponsoring this event. I would also like to acknowledge the sponsorship of the Mackenzie Art Gallery, Liz at the University Club and Catering, Western Litho for their involvement in this event.

Now as a female MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], it is truly an honour for me to host such a worthwhile event. Mr. Speaker, the city-wide response has been absolutely incredible. I sincerely hope this event is the first of many to come. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Labour Legislation

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, my question's to the Minister of Labour, and wanted to ask the Minister of Labour and ask him if it's not too late for him to learn from his mistakes on Bill 5 and Bill 6 where the International Labour Organization, a body of the United Nations, indicated that the Saskatchewan government, the Sask Party government, was in conflict when it passed those Bills without consultation and proper involvement of the community and speaking of the duty to consult.

My question to the minister is this: even at this late date, will he reconsider this ill-advised Bill, go back to the people of the province, sit down, talk it out, come to conclusions, and then bring the Bill forward if he still feels it's necessary? Will he do that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, thanks very much for an opportunity to provide an update on Bill 80, which we anticipate's going to pass later today, Mr. Speaker. Bill 80's going to ensure that we have greater inclusion within our workplaces, Mr. Speaker, especially when we think about enhancing the role for First Nations and Métis people in the construction sector, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as we can also see, it's going to lead to increased choice for working people within that sector and increased competition, thereby reducing and maximizing taxpayer dollars, Mr. Speaker. As far as, as far as process, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition just ask his House Leader because, Mr. Speaker, to quote his House Leader from April 26th, "The reality is that the government has lived by all the rules and Bill 80 will pass."

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister talks about Bill 80 as being positive for the economy, but I want to tell the minister this: in 2007, the construction industry in this province was working full tilt; contractors were investing; every tool was picked up; you couldn't get enough people to do the work. The fact of the matter, the system was working. And as Terry Parker has said many times, if it's not broke, why fix it?

My question to the minister is this. Even though you have moved this far on this Bill, it's not too late to come to your senses, take this Bill out by form of a white paper, a green paper. Michael Fougere and Terry Parker are reasonable people. They've worked together for 17 years. There's been no work stoppage in the industry. The question is, my question, my question to the minister is this: why can't you sit down with Michael Fougere and Terry Parker, work with the people involved, spend the next year in consultation; and there's a good chance we won't need this ill-advised Bill? Why don't you do that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, I'll just draw on some insight offered from the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada. It was issued last March. It's one of Canada's foremost unions and the title of the press release, Mr. Speaker, was, "Saskatchewan changes [are] 'a giant step forward for construction workers.'"

And you see, Mr. Speaker, it says the Saskatchewan government's proposed changes to rules governing unionization in the construction industry will give workers more say in their working conditions. And it will help Canada's employment picture, says one of Canada's largest sector unions. The announced changes allow construction workers instead of governments to decide who represents them at the bargaining table.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, there are obvious strengths to this obviously increasing inclusivity, making sure we have more inclusion within this sector, Mr. Speaker. Greater choice, greater competition and, Mr. Speaker, we intend to move forward with Bill 80.

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

### Habitat Protection and Sale of Crown Land

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I would turn to the Minister of Environment and see if I can have more luck in talking her into pulling the ill-advised Bill that she is pushing through the House today.

My question to the minister comes from a question that was raised with me this past Sunday at a brunch that I attended in Regina. And a young man about 10 years old came up to me and asked, Mr. Lingenfelter, do you think you'll be able to stop the wildlife habitat Bill from passing?

Mr. Speaker, many tens of thousands of people in this province want this Bill stopped because it protects land — 3.5 million acres — that belongs to the people of the province. It belongs to

the children, it belongs to the adults, and it belongs to future generations. Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that the Premier is in China signing a deal with the Communist government so they can own oil in Saskatchewan. If he believes in that, why can't he believe . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order.

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — With owning the land here in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, as I stated quite clearly in committee last night when this question was posed, our government is committed to this Bill. It will be passing later today.

And, Mr. Speaker, we believe in the principle of landownership and I would say that the ranchers and farmers who are using this land are citizens of this province as well, Mr. Speaker. And I'm pleased to be part of a government who will give them an opportunity to purchase that land, Mr. Speaker, and allow them to continue the great conservation work that they do on that land.

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

### Consultation Regarding Proposed Legislation

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, new question to the Minister of Environment. It deals with the lack of consultation. And we know that many First Nations people, many organizations, Nature Conservancy and others, don't feel that they were properly consulted. And by international agreements, duty to consult is becoming a very common phrase in private sector and governments. But one thing this government seems to not understand: that consultation does not mean explaining how you implement a Bill after it's forced through the Assembly.

My question to the minister is this, my question to the minister is this: in light of the fact that most organizations, governments, and institutions around the world are moving to more consultation, how do we get here where no consultation was done with the public at large and you're jamming a Bill through that protects 3.5 million acres of the most sensitive land in the province?

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question. And the discussions with stakeholders began last June, almost a year ago, Mr. Speaker. There was a great many stakeholders who received the information, who attended meetings, who had contact with the officials in my ministry explaining what the government's proposal was, Mr. Speaker, and that was long before the Bill was introduced in December.

So there's been ample opportunity, Mr. Speaker, and I have a list of letters from stakeholders who are in full support of the approach that the government is taking. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll be moving ahead with this Bill.

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

#### Arrangements Regarding Long-Term Care Facility

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government signed an agreement with Amicus that obliges taxpayers to pay the mortgage and the interest costs as well as to pay off the mortgage of this long-term care facility if either Amicus or the government decides to walk away from the deal.

Now the minister and his officials have confirmed that the mortgage on this facility will likely be for 25 years. To the minister: what is the estimated total cost of the Amicus mortgage, including interest, over the next 25 years and how much will taxpayers have to pay for this sweetheart deal to their friends?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, as I've said over the last number of question periods, this is a very good deal for Saskatchewan people. More importantly it's a very good deal for seniors in this province . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, it is a good deal for Saskatchewan taxpayers but more importantly it's a good deal for the seniors in this province, Mr. Speaker. After many years of NDP government where they had people staying in acute . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. I think the member from Cumberland would allow the minister to respond to the question. I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, this agreement with Amicus, the Catholic Health Ministry, allows seniors to age with dignity. It allows seniors to age in place. It allows seniors to age with their couples, Mr. Speaker, as couples, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland will allow the response. I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the member from Cumberland has against seniors . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. I

would ask the minister just to go straight to the response and not to refer to the Speaker's rulings.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the members opposite would have against supplying 100 long-term care beds in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. This is a good deal. Amicus has entered into an agreement with the health region that will be able to supply these long-term care facilities to the residents in that area, Mr. Speaker. And I think, Mr. Speaker, seniors in the province will welcome this deal.

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

[14:30]

**Ms. Atkinson:** — I note the minister didn't answer the question. Now everyone knows that the longer you amortize a mortgage, the more you pay. And many homeowners, for example, end up paying more than twice the purchase price of their home over the life of a mortgage once interest costs are factored in.

So to the minister: has he or his department estimated how much it will cost the government or the people of our province to build this facility themselves, and how does that estimate compare with how much it could potentially cost us all if we're called upon to pay off that mortgage?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, this is an agreement between the Saskatoon Health Region and Amicus that will supply long-term care beds well into the future, Mr. Speaker. We have long-term care facilities already in Saskatoon that are watching this with great interest. They're very excited because if this works the way we perceive it's going to work, Mr. Speaker, it could certainly help relieve some of the long-term care issues throughout the province, Mr. Speaker.

We realize that Amicus is upfronting all the capital. All we're simply doing is leasing the space with a per-day fee, Mr. Speaker, that will help replace that capital. But, Mr. Speaker, back to her accusations yesterday that it is some sort of mystery deal with the Catholic Health Ministry, Mr. Speaker, that could not be further from the truth.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, we know that governments can borrow money at a lower interest rate than most private sector companies. So getting Amicus to build this project on its own actually makes it more expensive. But yesterday the government said it wasn't their responsibility to know what interest rate Amicus is paying on the mortgage despite the fact that the public is paying for this inside job, Mr. Speaker.

So to the minister: how could the government sign an agreement that obliges taxpayers to pay off Amicus's mortgage without knowing the potential cost? Is this another example of the kind of financial mismanagement that has brought us two consecutive deficit budgets or, Mr. Speaker, is this the way this government is going to go? And we all know about that. We all

know about back to the past and Devine governments racking up billions of dollars in debt. And guess what? We're still paying for it.

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, there are many very innovative . . . [inaudible] . . . Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, when we look at the construction costs for a government to construct a facility like this, the ministry has numbers showing that this facility would cost upwards of \$30 million or more. Mr. Speaker, Amicus is saying that they can build it for far less. They're getting the land for probably a much more affordable rate than perhaps what we would as government.

Mr. Speaker, construction costs are going to be much less than if we were to build it ourselves, Mr. Speaker. This is a pilot project that we'll certainly look at this project as we move forward. We do not believe that this is going to cost the province any more over the long term than if we would have invested 20 to 30 to \$40 million of taxpayers' money upfront.

**The Speaker:** — I've been informed that we're having problems with the mikes . . . [inaudible] . . . If the members just want to continue using their voice . . . [inaudible].

Just one second. Let's do a test here. We've got a mike on here. We're ready to go. It sounds like it, so I will recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Now, Mr. Speaker, we know it's either one of two ways. Either this is serious incompetence or it's a serious signal to the public that we're back to doing business the way the Devine government did it in the 1980s — they can take their pick. But from my point of view, Mr. Speaker, when you have public money, you should have public tenders and that should be the rule.

The CEO is on contract with the minister's department. Its lawyer is the brother of the Premier's chief of staff. The construction company, which got the untendered contract to build it, and its president have donated \$18,000 to the Sask Party in the last 18 years. And this is a government that, whether they like it or not, has guaranteed this loan, Mr. Speaker.

So to the minister: we need to know, how much is this going to cost the taxpayers over the 25-year term of this mortgage? And why the sweetheart deal for their friends, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been really quite interesting to hear that member and that former government's new-found interest in public tenders because, you know, Mr. Speaker, that government lost \$30 million in untendered SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility

Development Company], Mr. Speaker, that this province is still paying for, Mr. Speaker. And I could go on with other examples like Channel Lake and many others, Mr. Speaker.

This project is with the Catholic Health Ministry's corporation of Saskatchewan . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The members can either allow a minister to respond or the members of the opposition may find themselves running out of time for questions. I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, provincial governments of many stripes have worked closely with the Catholic Health Ministry. Whether it's in St. Paul's in Saskatoon, whether it was in the Pasqua Hospital formerly here in Regina, whether it's down in Estevan, whether it's formerly in Humboldt, and whether there's nine long-term care facilities right now run by the Catholic Health Ministry — those agreements have been entered into by provincial governments of many different stripes, and they have been strong health agreements that service the people of the province very, very well.

This member opposite, Mr. Speaker, is throwing out all sorts of accusations because a couple of members that may be connected to the government are also connected to the Catholic Health Ministry, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that couldn't be further from the truth. That member should withdraw those remarks because they're inflammatory and they're untrue.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, this minister is trying to hide behind the Catholic Health Ministry. We have a public tender on the Humboldt Hospital. We have a public tender on the mental health centre. We have a public tender on the Academic Health Sciences centre. We have a public tender on Oliver Lodge. We have public tenders. And why do we have them? Because our government, an NDP government, brought in public tenders because of what happened in the '80s.

I have a simple question. People spent over a dozen years trying to get the finances of this province in place. Mr. Speaker, we tried to get debt under control and a lot of people suffered for that. We don't want to go back to the past. Tell me why, tell me why you're rewarding your friends and there's no public tender.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Just a reminder to the member, and the member's well aware of it, of directing of questions through the Chair. I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, that member just cited a number of facilities. They cited the Humboldt Hospital, which is no longer under the Catholic care ministry. They cited the Dubé Centre, which is not under the Catholic Health Ministry, Mr. Speaker. They cited a number of projects . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Member from Regina

Dewdney. Order. Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, there are all sorts of examples where tenders have gone out for public facilities, Mr. Speaker. She cited them and that's what we followed through on, Mr. Speaker, in our government. This is a different project, Mr. Speaker, because it's owned by the Catholic Health Ministry. They chose their contractor, Mr. Speaker, and who's going to benefit from that? The people of Saskatchewan. The seniors of this province, Mr. Speaker. Under that government they continued to have them all live in acute care centres, and that is absolutely shameful.

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

#### Utilization of Hospital Beds

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 28 beds that are being closed at City Hospital were originally opened as acute care beds but have recently been used as long-term care beds. The minister says the long-term care beds are being moved to Oliver Lodge, which means that the beds at City Hospital should go back to their original purpose, which is serving the health region as acute care beds.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister guarantee today that the 28 beds will be reopened as acute care beds, or does the minister believe that cutting 28 acute care beds is an efficiency?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, it is a very interesting question coming from that member. It begs the question, why were there 28 acute care beds being used for long-term care? In fact there's far more than 28 acute care beds in City Hospital in Saskatoon being used for long-term care. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? Because of years of underfunding by the government opposite, Mr. Speaker. They did not supply the facilities. We're moving forward. We're supplying those facilities, Mr. Speaker.

As there is a transition from residents in the acute care centres over to Oliver Lodge, there will be a transition in those beds, Mr. Speaker. That is a decision of the Saskatoon Health Region. We know the pressures in the Saskatoon Health Region and I would assume that those beds will be . . . continue to open into the future by the Saskatoon Health Region as they see fit.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that the minister talks about all the commitment he has to long-term care — cancelled 13 long-term care homes in this last budget. And, Mr. Speaker, the minister is trying to get through this session. He's trying to get to the end of the session without commenting on possible bed closures and impending layoffs. This issue isn't going to go away; it's just starting.

We know the beds are closing and the minister will not guarantee that they will be reopened as acute care beds. The minister's failure to properly fund the health regions has already resulted in proposed cuts to health care workers, including

registered nurses, and cuts to programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how many people will be laid off as a result of the closure of the 28 beds at City Hospital?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, once again I feel I have to spend half of the answer dispelling the absolute falsehoods that that member just mentioned. Thirteen long-term care facilities have not been cancelled. Thirteen long-term care facilities in this province will be moving ahead when the communities have their money in place and when the scoping is in place, Mr. Speaker, 13 long-term care facilities that were in absolutely dire straits, Mr. Speaker, because of lack of funding from that former government, Mr. Speaker.

When you go to Rosetown and you have long-term care people living in the basement of a facility, and that was perfectly fine under the NDP [New Democratic Party]. It's not fine under the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker. When you go to Watrous, when you go to Watrous and it rains out when you happen to visit that place and there's buckets all over the main entrance, that was perfectly fine under the NDP. It's not fine under the Saskatchewan Party government. Mr. Speaker, those facilities are going ahead when the money is ready and the people are ready.

**The Speaker:** — The minister's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — I'm sure those 13 long-term care facilities are waiting to see if they're going to get the same sweetheart deal that this one in Saskatoon is getting. They're all looking.

Mr. Speaker, the shortfall of money, the shortfall of money provided in the last Sask Party budget left health regions scrambling to figure out how they could cope with their massive deficits. Saskatoon Health Region will experience a \$24 million shortfall. Maura Davies, region CEO, described the money being allotted as "less than what the region requires to maintain our current services." She went on to say in another article that as a result of the deficit, the region had not determined whether or not they would have to close beds.

Mr. Speaker, now we are hearing that 28 acute care beds will be closed. This is a direct result of the government's failure to properly fund the health regions. How does the minister tell Saskatchewan people that he's putting patients first when he's forcing health regions to run deficits, close beds, and cut programs?

[14:45]

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, we have seen a 5 per cent increase in funding in health regions throughout this province, Mr. Speaker. Difficult decisions will have to be made by health regions but, Mr. Speaker, what we are guaranteeing is front-line service will continue and even improve over the next couple years, Mr. Speaker, just like in the last two and half years under our government when we've seen a huge reduction

in wait-lists, Mr. Speaker, not in necessarily the wait-lists but in the time the people are waiting. Mr. Speaker, it is positive news.

Just like we saw, Mr. Speaker, when the opposite party was in government, they sure wouldn't want to put a target on the number of nurses attracted because they just wouldn't meet it, Mr. Speaker. We are 80 per cent there in two and a half years, Mr. Speaker. I'll put our two and a half years of health care records up against their 16 years of dismal disaster health care, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud of our government.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of Human Services.

##### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 134, *The Opticians Act* with amendment.

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

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

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The Minister of Health has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 134, the opticians amendment Act, 2009 and that the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the amendments be read a first time?

#### FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

##### Bill No. 134 — *The Opticians Act*

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move to third reading. I recognize the Minister of Health.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 134 — *The Opticians Act*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 134, the opticians amendment Act, 2009 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Human Services Committee.

##### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009* be reported without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — Members, in accordance with rule 34(4) and rule 35, this Bill will now be read the third time. The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 80 — *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister responsible that Bill No. 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour of the motion say aye.



**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 14:50 until 15:00.]

**The Speaker:** — Before I call the vote, I would just like to again remind our guests in the gallery that the guests are not to participate in any form at any time in the proceedings on the floor of the Assembly. I'd ask the guests to remember that as we move forward.

Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 35]

Morgan	Bjornerud	Gantfoer
Draude	Krawetz	Boyd
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff
Duncan	Huyghebaert	Heppner
Harpauer	D'Autremont	Harrison
Norris	Reiter	Hutchinson
Brkich	Elhard	Hart
Schriemer	Stewart	Allchurch
Weekes	Tell	Wilson
Hickie	Michelson	Ottenbreit
Ross	Chisholm	Bradshaw
Kirsch	McMillan	

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — 19]

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Trew	Higgins	Junor
Atkinson	Nilson	Forbes
Vermette	Brotten	Furber
Morin	Yates	Iwanchuk
Taylor	Quennell	Wotherspoon
Chartier		

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 35; those opposed, 19.

**The Speaker:** — The motion carries. Order. I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee. Order. Order. Members, just . . . we need to . . . we just need to back up one bit. The motion carries.

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

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on the Economy

**Mr. Hickie:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 132, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009* to be reported with amendment.

**The Speaker:** — In accordance with rule . . . Order. In accordance with rule 34(4) and rule 35, the Assembly will now consider the first and second readings of the amendment, followed by the third reading of the amended Bill. I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

#### FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

##### Bill No. 132 — *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009*

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that the amendment be read a first and second time.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 132 — *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 132, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the third time and passed under its title.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:05 until 15:15.]

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 34]

Morgan	Bjornerud	Gantefoer
Draude	Krawetz	Boyd
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff
Duncan	Huyghebaert	Heppner
Harpauer	D'Autremont	Harrison
Norris	Reiter	Hutchinson
Brkich	Elhard	Schriemer
Stewart	Allchurch	Weekes
Tell	Wilson	Hickie
Michelson	Ottenbreit	Ross
Chisholm	Bradshaw	Kirsch
McMillan		

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — 19]

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Trew	Higgins	Junor
Atkinson	Nilson	Forbes
Vermette	Broten	Furber
Morin	Yates	Iwanchuk
Taylor	Quennell	Wotherspoon
Chartier		

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 34; those opposed, 19.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried.

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

### TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Before orders of the day, I lay on the Table, pursuant to section 286 of *The Election Act, 1996*, 95 copies of the report of the Saskatoon Riversdale and Regina Douglas Park by-elections submitted by the Acting Chief Electoral Officer.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — [Inaudible] . . . on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Fairview may state his point of privilege.

### PRIVILEGE

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule 12(1), I wrote to the Speaker this morning to advise the Speaker of a question of privilege. Mr. Speaker, the 21st edition of Erskine May's *Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of*

*Parliament* outlines parliamentary privilege as follows:

Parliamentary privilege is the sum of the peculiar rights enjoyed by each House collectively as a constituent part of the High Court of Parliament, and by Members of each House individually, without which they could not discharge their functions, and which exceed those possessed by other bodies or individuals.

This definition clearly indicates that parliamentary privilege extends to all members collectively and individually and that privilege is absolutely essential for members to discharge our parliamentary duties. The 3rd edition of Hatsell's *Precedents of Proceedings in the House of Commons* concurs Erskine May by stating that the privileges afforded to the members are rights that are "absolutely necessary for the due execution of its power." Finally the 2nd edition of Maingot's *Parliamentary Privilege in Canada* provides a practical definition of privilege:

If someone improperly interferes with the parliamentary work of a Member of Parliament — i.e. any of the Member's activities that have a connection with the proceedings in Parliament — in such a case that [matter] is a matter involving parliamentary privilege.

The question of privilege rises because of specific actions of the government related to scheduling of standing committees. These actions have improperly interfered with the ability of members to conduct our parliamentary work and thus constitute a breach of privilege.

Around 5 p.m. yesterday, notice was provided to opposition members that the Standing Committee on Human Services would be convened this morning at 9:30 a.m. to discuss Bill 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act*. This late notice interfered with the ability of members to know about or attend the meeting. The majority of members had already left the Assembly as the legislature had adjourned at 3:40 p.m. In fact several members had already left Regina to attend events in their constituencies.

According to the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*:

On the instruction of the Chair or another Member acting in the capacity of the Chair, a notice advising the Members of the committee of a meeting and meeting agenda should be circulated as soon as practicable by the Clerk of the committee [Rule 126(1)].

We trust that the Speaker will agree that it is not practicable for notice to be posted in the legislature around 5 p.m. — when most members have left the building after the adjournment at 3:40 p.m. — for a meeting at 9:30 a.m. the following morning. It is entirely unacceptable to state that members should have known that this Bill would come to committee this morning. It is impossible for members to know the government's intentions with regard to any piece of legislation. However the government is undoubtedly well aware of its own legislative agenda and could easily have provided adequate notice of this committee meeting to ensure that all members were aware of the meeting and able to attend the meeting.

Providing notice well after the House has adjourned and most members have left the Assembly for an important committee meeting early the following morning impedes the ability of members to carry out their parliamentary duties. Mr. Speaker, it is not sufficient to say that this is not a breach of privilege because members will have an opportunity to vote on this Bill in the Assembly this afternoon. The breach of privilege in this case occurred because members' ability to conduct their work in committee was impeded.

According to precedent, the breach of privileges occurs whenever a member is impeded from doing his or her parliamentary work defined by Maingot as "Any one of the Member's activities that have a connection with a proceeding in Parliament."

It is entirely unacceptable to say that this does not constitute a breach of privilege because members will have an opportunity to vote on the Bill in the Assembly. Doing so would imply that it is acceptable to impede members in certain aspects of their duties as long as we are not impeded in other aspects. That would contradict the very definition of parliamentary privilege, Mr. Speaker.

If the Speaker were to state today that it is a matter beyond his reach because it related to a committee, that would constitute a grave abdication of responsibility. Marleau and Montpetit state quite clearly, and I quote, "The Speaker presides over debate in the House and is responsible for enforcing and interpreting all rules and practices and for the preservation of order and decorum in the proceedings of the House."

Mr. Speaker, based on all of this, we trust that you will recognize this matter constitutes a prima facie case of privilege. And if you do find a prima facie case of privilege, I'll be prepared to move the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Standing Committee on Privileges be instructed to examine the issue of scheduling of the Standing Committee on Human Services on May 19th, 2010, and report back to this Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the Official Opposition's claim of the 9:30 a.m. Human Services Committee meeting being a question of privilege, it is important to know the facts which I will outline. According to the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*:

**34(1)** Specified bills not concluded by the . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. I think it would . . . Questions of privilege are a serious matter, serious issue, and I would ask the opposition members now to allow the House Leader to respond without interference. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*:

**34(1)** Specified bills not concluded by the day prior to the Completion Day shall be subject to the procedures outlined by this Rule.

**34(2)** In any case where a specified bill has not been reported by a standing committee before 9:00 a.m. on the day prior to the Completion Day, [so that means, Mr. Speaker, it can't be done before 9:00 a.m.] the committee shall convene to conclude examination of the bill as follows:

- (a) The Chair will put the question on any amendments, new clauses or new schedules that had been previously proposed before putting a combined question, if required, in order to conclude the examination of the bill.
- (b) No other amendments, new clauses or new schedules shall be proposed.
- (c) The committee shall report each bill to the Assembly on Routine Proceedings later that day.

So, Mr. Speaker, the committee cannot meet before 9 a.m. and has to have concluded its business by 1:30 p.m. that same day:

- (a) Rule 130(2) shall not be observed for the purpose of concluding consideration of any remaining specified bills in standing committees.

**34(3)** Rule 34(2) applies only to bills referred to standing committees after second reading.

Therefore the fact that there would be a meeting on the morning of the day prior to completion day was known by all of the members as it is part of the rules of this Assembly.

The Opposition House Leader knew that this was the correct process as can be seen by his comments made in a scrum on April 26th, 2010, and I quote:

We're at a point where Bill 80 is inevitable. There's nothing we can do as an opposition on Bill 80. Once its 20 hours are in, it passes. It will come up likely the 17th or 18th for final passage. It never gets raised again now except when it's passed and, so, as much as we would like to see Bill 80 not go through for a number of reasons, the reality is that the government has lived by all the rules and Bill 80 will pass.

Although the House adjourned prior to 5 o'clock on May 18th, the House was adjourned to deliberate on Bills that were referred to committee with no earlier notice to the opposition. One of these committees continued sitting until 10 p.m. Therefore members were still able to easily be contacted and delivered the meeting notices. Meeting notices for the committee meeting in question were being hand delivered to members and caucus offices by 4:30 p.m. on May 18th afternoon prior to the day of the committee meeting.

According to rule 126(1):

On the instruction of the Chair or another Member acting in the capacity of the Chair, a notice advising the Members of the committee of a meeting and meeting agenda should be circulated as soon as practicable by the Clerk of the committee.

In addition to this fact, Mr. Speaker, if members are not able to be present for a meeting, according to rule 121(5) of the rules and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan:

Membership of any standing committee shall be transferable on a temporary basis by written notice signed by the original Member and filed with the Chair of the committee.

This happens many, many, numerous times by the members opposite in all committees, Mr. Speaker. Therefore if certain members were unable to make a 9:30 meeting this morning, they had ample time to find a replacement and file the necessary chit forms.

According to rule 130(2), the presence of quorum is required whenever a vote is held in the committee. However, rule 34(2)(c) states that “Rule 130(2) shall not be observed for the purpose of concluding consideration of any remaining specified bills in standing committees.” However there was quorum at the Human Services committee this morning when the vote was held *nemine contradicente*. Mr. Speaker, the official opposition’s lack of comprehensions of the rules of this Assembly does not constitute a breach of privilege by the government. I submit that this point of privilege is not well taken.

**The Speaker:** — I’m prepared to speak to the motion of privilege presented to me this morning by the member from Saskatoon Fairview. This morning the member from Saskatoon Fairview gave notice of a question of privilege. The notice concerns specific actions of the government related to scheduling standing committees and the inability of members to conduct their parliamentary work . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Order.

Details of the case were provided to the Government House Leader in accordance with rule 12(2). The member claims that the specific actions of the government related to the scheduling of the standing committees have been properly interfered with the ability of members to conduct their parliamentary work. In Maingot’s *Parliamentary Privilege in Canada* (Second Edition) at page 223 it states, and I quote:

In deciding whether there is a *prima facie* case, the Speaker excludes any matters that are otherwise properly to be dealt with under the practice or Standing Orders of the House. That is to say, where the answer to the alleged ‘question of privilege’ is contained in the rules of the practice of the House, it would unlikely involve a breach of the privileges of Members.

[15:30]

The member claims that a notice was provided around 5 p.m. yesterday for the meeting of the Standing Committee on Human Services, which met at 9:30 a.m. this morning to discuss Bill

80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009*. He claims that this was not sufficient notice and in consequence interfered with the ability of members to know about or attend the meeting. In the case of Bill 80 . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Order. In the case of Bill 80, it has been well known for more than six months that there was a distinct possibility that the committee may be required to meet if this Bill had not been disposed and reported to the Assembly before the day prior to the completion day. The rules of this Assembly required the meeting that took place this morning. Members should have been aware that a meeting of the committee had to take place this morning, as required by the rules . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Order. Order.

The next question to consider is the start time for the meeting. In this case the member cites rule 126(1) and argues that the provided notice was not sufficient. As members are no doubt aware, what is practicable is open to interpretation. Committees have met with little notice or days or weeks of notice. The subject of what is sufficient notice is something for each committee to decide or alternatively something that could be considered by the House Services Committee through a review of this particular rule. I remind you that it is well established that the Speaker is not responsible to rule on committee proceedings outside of a report from the committee itself.

The matter raised by the members addressed by the rules as I have explained, I understand that the present rules are perhaps not to the satisfaction of the member. The remedy to issue, the remedy to issue raised by the member is better addressed by changes to the present rules. This is more a question of order and interpretation of the rules and not properly a question of privilege. As such, I cannot find a *prima facie* case of privilege has been established. I would also like to remind members that our practices . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Order. I would also like to remind members that our practices require members to include their motion with the question of privilege. This was absent from this case.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The member from Prince Albert Northcote will come to order. The member from Prince Albert Northcote will come to order.

Members, in accordance with rule 32(1), any business required by the rules to be voted shall be disposed of on orders of the day and on the day prior to the sessional completion date. Pursuant to rule 32(4) the “Proceedings on *Orders Of the Day* to dispose of any remaining business shall be as follows . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member from Prince Albert Northcote will come to order. Final warning. Order. Order. Order. Order.

Pursuant to rule 32.4:

Proceedings on *Orders Of the Day* to dispose of any remaining business shall be as follows:

- (a) disposal of remaining budgetary Estimates, Supplementary Estimates and any Further Estimates;
- (b) final Appropriation Bill;

(c) specified bills.

In accordance with rule 33(1), I direct the Clerk to call each relevant order in turn and in each case all questions will be put to dispose of the main motion.

**Clerk:** — Committee of Finance.

**The Speaker:** — I do now leave the Chair.

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

### Motions for Supply

**The Chair:** — Committee of Finance. We're in Committee of Finance.

On the orders of the day on the day prior to the completion day, this Assembly shall resolve into Committee of Finance where the Chair shall call each relevant order in turn so that proceedings in all estimates, supplementary estimates and further estimates are concluded. I call on the minister to move his resolutions.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Chair, I move, no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2010, the sum of \$154,259,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that, resolution no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2010, the sum of \$134,299,000 be granted out of the general revenue.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. No. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2011, the sum of \$9,383,254,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance, the resolution no. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011, the sum of \$9,383,234,000 be granted out of the

General Revenue Fund.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. No. 3:

Resolved that toward making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year, are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2012, the sum of \$250,300,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance, the resolution no. 3:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year, are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2012, the sum of \$250,300,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

## FIRST AND SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of committees.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to certain resolutions, has instructed me to report the same, and to ask for leave to sit again.

**The Speaker:** — In accordance with rule 36(4) the minister will now move first and second reading of the resolutions. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that

the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantfoer:** — Later this day, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Later this day. In accordance with rule 31(3), I invite the minister to now move first reading of the appropriation Bill. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

### APPROPRIATION BILL

#### Bill No. 145 — *The Appropriation Act, 2010 (No. 1)*

**Hon. Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill 145, *The Appropriation Act, 2010 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 145, *The Appropriation Act, 2010 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — Pardon me? I heard the “no” before we called the first reading. Those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the ayes have it.

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

**The Speaker:** — In accordance with rule 33(1) the minister will now move second and third reading of the appropriation Bill. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the Bill be now read a second and third time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance

that Bill No. 145, *The Appropriation Act, 2010 (No. 1)* be now read a second and third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:43 until 15:53.]

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 35]

Morgan	Bjornerud	Gantfoer
Draude	Krawetz	Boyd
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff
Duncan	Huyghebaert	Heppner
Harpauer	D'Autremont	Harrison
Norris	Reiter	Hutchinson
Brkich	Elhard	Hart
Schriemer	Stewart	Allchurch
Weekes	Tell	Wilson
Hickie	Michelson	Ottenbreit
Ross	Chisholm	Bradshaw
Kirsch	McMillan	

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — 18]

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Trew	Higgins	Junor
Atkinson	Nilson	Forbes
Vermette	Brotten	Furber
Morin	Yates	Iwanchuk
Taylor	Wotherspoon	Chartier

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion 35; those opposed, 18.

**The Speaker:** — The motion carries.

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,656 through 1,673.

**The Speaker:** — Question 1,656 through 1,673 are tabled.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking leave to introduce a motion. Mr. Speaker, we learned late yesterday that the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] have concluded their investigation with regard to the member from Saskatoon Northwest and that they will not be proceeding further with this matter. So, Mr. Speaker, with leave of the Assembly I would like to move:

That pursuant to section 32(1) and 33 of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, this Assembly requests that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner conduct an inquiry and provide an opinion to the Assembly on the conduct of the member for Saskatoon Northwest with regard to the instant message transcripts and phone recordings allegedly involving that member which were provided to CBC news, and matters relating to and arising from the transcripts and recordings.

Mr. Speaker, I'm first seeking leave for the motion.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has asked for leave to move a motion in regards to sending a request to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — I ask the member to read the motion on to the record.

## MOTIONS

### Referral to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave:

That pursuant to section 32(1) and 33 of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, this Assembly requests that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner conduct an inquiry and provide an opinion to the Assembly on the conduct of the member for Saskatoon Northwest with regard to the instant message transcripts and phone recordings allegedly involving that member which were provided to CBC news, and matters relating to and arising from the transcripts and proceedings.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved by leave:

That pursuant to section 32(1) and 33 of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, this Assembly requests that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner conduct an inquiry and provide an opinion to the Assembly on the conduct of the member for Saskatoon Northwest with regard to the instant message transcripts and phone recordings allegedly involving that member which were provided to CBC news, and matters relating to and arising from the transcripts and recordings.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased this afternoon to enter in debate on this very, very important motion.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of issues of concern to the people of Saskatchewan over the last several weeks about this issue, Mr. Speaker. And I think there's a number of points that members of the opposition also would like to see clarified, Mr. Speaker.

First off, Mr. Speaker, just minutes ago, the Minister of Justice stated that the RCMP had finished their investigation. We were under the understanding, Mr. Speaker, that this investigation was being done by the Regina city police. Mr. Speaker, that leaves us with the question: who did the investigation? Who was it referred to, Mr. Speaker? And that is always a matter of concern if we're getting inconsistent facts, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if the minister simply misspoke, would he simply answer the question: which police department actually undertook the investigation? Because I think it's clear, needs to be clear on a matter like this as to what we have as facts moving forward with a motion. There have been many reports in the media, Mr. Speaker, that it was the Regina city police undertaking the investigation and now we're hearing a different set of facts. And, Mr. Speaker, I think for clarity we all need to understand, as should the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we also have in this motion some issues that we have some concern about from the point of view that we're talking about investigating the tapes and the transcripts, Mr. Speaker. We have asked questions whether or not the government was in possession of those tapes and transcripts and have been told repeatedly, no. A simple issue is, do they have possession of tapes and transcripts to refer to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and, if they do, why were we told no, earlier, Mr. Speaker?

[16:00]

If the government doesn't have tapes and transcripts, what do they have to refer? Because, Mr. Speaker, earlier this session we asked that very question in oral questions, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the government had the tapes and transcripts, and the answer was no. So what do we have to refer? Again that becomes an issue of some concern because if the government does have tapes and transcripts and have had them all along, Mr. Speaker, that would mean that we, this Assembly, had in fact been misled.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's a serious issue. So if we don't currently have tapes and transcripts, how can we refer tapes and transcripts on this issue to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner?

Now, Mr. Speaker, those are just two of many, many points that I think that need to be considered as we examine the issue, Mr. Speaker, because without doubt I think the people of Saskatchewan have a right to have answers. I think all members of this Assembly will share a view that clarity on this issue benefits us all, that if the issue is examined and looked upon by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and he brings back a full report to this Assembly, it will provide some levels of clarity, Mr. Speaker.

But without understanding fully from the government, one, what police department actually investigated it and came to the

conclusions they did, Mr. Speaker . . . And I don't think those particular conclusions surprised any members of the Assembly. But the fact that the tapes and transcripts are now in the possession of the government, you know, how did the government now get possession of those transcripts when they in fact have told us previously they didn't have them? Now, Mr. Speaker, those are concerns to members of the opposition, and they should be concerns to the members of the public in the province of Saskatchewan as well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, without wanting to compromise in any way any investigation that would be done by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, we, I think, need to understand from the Minister of Justice how the government now has tapes to refer and transcripts to refer. Are they being referred directly by the government? Or are they being referred by the individual? Are they being referred by the CBC? Are they being referred by the police agency? Those are all questions that I think are important, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it talks about an investigation regarding the transcripts and messages without identifying whether or not those would be provided to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and if they are provided, in what method or means would they be provided to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we agree in principle with this referral, without a doubt. Why wouldn't we, Mr. Speaker? But we would move, we need to move an amendment, Mr. Speaker, to the motion. I would hope to and expect the support of the government on the amendment, Mr. Speaker. I should indicate very openly that the members of the official opposition referred an issue to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The majority of the amendment is that issue that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has already agreed to investigate, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, with that I am going to move my amendment, Mr. Speaker.

And I'd like to move:

That we add the following text to the motion made by the member from Saskatoon Southeast.

And it goes like this, Mr. Speaker:

Further that this Assembly request that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner conduct an inquiry and provide an opinion to the Assembly regarding: (a) the member from Saskatoon Northwest's use of his constituency office and his constituency assistant to further his private interests; (b) the member's use of his travel expense account to further his private interests; (c) the member's use of his accommodation expense account in Regina while the member has been absent from the Legislative Assembly since April 14th, 2010 and has publicly declared that he will not attend the sitting of the legislature until the end of his term as a member; and (d) whether the member is in violation of *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*.

Mr. Speaker, and that is the amendment. I would so move.

**The Speaker:** — Why is the minister on his feet?

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave to re-enter the debate.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has asked for leave to re-enter the debate, but first of all I need to place the question on the amendment that was presented by the member from Regina Dewdney.

The motion before the Assembly is the amendment presented by the member from Regina Dewdney:

And add the following text to the motion made by the member for Saskatoon Southeast:

Further that the Assembly request that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner conduct an inquiry and provide an opinion to the Assembly regarding: (a) the member from Saskatoon Northwest's use of his constituency office and his constituency assistant to further his private interests; (b) the member's use of his travel expense account to further his private interests; (c) the member's use of his accommodation expense account in Regina while the member has been absent from the Legislative Assembly since April 14th, 2010 and has publicly declared that he will not attend the sitting of the legislature until the end of his term as a member; and (d) whether the member is in violation of *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity just to clarify my earlier remarks. I misspoke. I used the words RCMP when I should have meant the words Regina Police Service. The matter was investigated solely by the Regina Police Service.

And I wanted to advise the members that all material that would be in possession of the government has already been given to the police and would of course be provided to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

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

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak to the amendment that has been moved by the member from Regina Dewdney. Mr. Speaker, the amendment further clarifies what I would hope would be the intent of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the government's motion clearly indicated the government's interest in moving this issue to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Mr. Speaker, that original motion, as the member from Regina Dewdney indicated, was very narrow in scope and in fact, Mr. Speaker, can be argued that in fact the reference that the government's motion makes to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner may in fact be outside the purview of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner himself, Mr. Speaker.

Therefore, the amendment in front of us clarifies for the Conflict of Interest Commissioner that it is the Assembly's wish that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner have a broader brush to take a look at the issue that was being referred to him and allows him to take a look at the issues that are specific to the precinct of the Legislative Assembly, to the work of a Member



of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

The matter that the government has discussed, brought forward in their motion, as the Minister of Justice has indicated, has been reviewed by the Regina Police Service and apparently a report has been provided to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. And one can only assume that the police looked at what could be “criminality” of what was on tapes that none of us actually have had any access to or seen, Mr. Speaker.

So if the actions alleged in the motion are criminal in nature that the RCMP has already reported are not the case, therefore, Mr. Speaker, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner could likely do no more on this narrow reference and requires a greater reference in order to do justice to the matter in front of us. I think every member of this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker, wants the public to understand that everything we do, we are accountable for.

The work that we do is transparent — the public accounts process, the access to records that the public has, the disclosure that members of the legislature have to make each year, Mr. Speaker. These are important matters that assures the public that, while we call each other honourable, we are in fact honourable members, Mr. Speaker. And the rules that set in place the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner are there to assure the public that indeed the actions of a member of the legislature are indeed honourable.

Mr. Speaker, it's sort of like the referee in the hockey game. We're all given rules by which we conduct our business, and someone is looking over our shoulders on occasion, Mr. Speaker. And in this case, there are questions about the actions that may be contrary to the rules.

We don't have many ways in which we can review those actions and activities of members, Mr. Speaker, but the Conflict of Interest Commissioner is one of those. So during the discussions, public discussions previously, Mr. Speaker, about the conduct of the member for Saskatoon Southeast, there was of course the tape that was provided to the . . . Northwest. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I just have a typo on the page in front of me here. I see that, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay.

So it is for the member for Saskatoon Northwest. When the discussion was taking place about the conduct of the member for Saskatoon Northwest, it began, Mr. Speaker, of course with the revelation from the media that tapes had been received, Mr. Speaker. And from there, the discussion went to discussing other activities that the member may or may not have engaged in that are and could be contrary to the rules of the Assembly.

For example, Mr. Speaker, it was noted very clearly that the member, everyone knows, has a private business interest. Many members in the legislature have other business interests, whether it be their farming activity or their legal activity, Mr. Speaker, or the running of their businesses back in their communities, Mr. Speaker. But public funds should not be used to enhance the activities of that private business, Mr. Speaker.

But it was noted that the individual that was hired to represent the collective interests of the office of the member — that is his

constituency assistant — the person who was doing that was also doing the work for the member in his private business, Mr. Speaker. There's the possibility that public funds were benefiting the business interests of the member from Saskatoon Southwest.

That is the matter that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner can examine, Mr. Speaker, and should examine on behalf of all members of the legislature to ensure that the public has confidence in the activities of the members of the Legislative Assembly.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we know that the member for Saskatoon Northwest travels extensively to promote the book that he's written and also the issues that he is passionate about, Mr. Speaker, and for which he often receives a stipend or honorarium or in fact a contract payment, Mr. Speaker.

[16:15]

But we also are aware that the members of the Legislative Assembly have travel accounts and can use those travel accounts to travel on constituency or association . . . constituency business or business of the legislature. It's entirely possible that a member could utilize those resources to aid their private business. That's something that the legislature would not condone, Mr. Speaker. We have no way of examining this, Mr. Speaker, other than the use of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and his powers to review and examine this.

And also, Mr. Speaker, we know that most recently when the member from Saskatoon Northwest chose to absent himself from the Chamber — his seat is still here — he has indicated, Mr. Speaker, through the media, that he has applied for and maybe been granted a medical leave. But through the media he's also indicated that he's at work in his constituency office, Mr. Speaker, because he feels — and I think I'm quoting him fairly accurately — he feels that he could not do his work in the legislature.

Mr. Speaker, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner should be allowed to examine whether or not he is utilizing public funds appropriately, whether he's working in his constituency office on medical leave or, in fact, that he may be out of the province doing something else entirely, Mr. Speaker.

So it's very important that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, when he conducts his inquiry, has the ability to act within a broad range of subject matter, Mr. Speaker — subject matter that is relevant to the practices of a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the eyes of the other members of the Assembly and in the eyes of the public.

I believe that this is the intention of the government opposite. Their motion may have been put together quickly as we are coming to the end of the session, Mr. Speaker. We applaud the reference to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. As the public will know or will remember, this was something that members of the opposition were asking for two, three weeks ago, Mr. Speaker. And so we believe that the government members in moving the motion, the Minister of Justice in particular, recognizes that there is a role for the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to play here, Mr. Speaker.

We appreciate the fact that they have accepted the fact that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has a role to play and therefore, Mr. Speaker, we do not want to tie the hands of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, narrow his focus to the point where he cannot rule in the interests of the entire Legislative Assembly. So, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to support this motion.

Now in my review of the amendment, Mr. Speaker, I did neglect to make a comment on the fourth point that's mentioned in the amendment to the motion, Mr. Speaker, and that is for the conflict of interest to see if there are any violations of *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*, Mr. Speaker. I think we all recognize that the member from Saskatoon Northwest has indeed written a book. The book is widely distributed around Canada, Mr. Speaker, perhaps into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Northwest clearly outlines in his book — I think he uses the word — he was an evil man, Mr. Speaker. He did all sorts of wrong and bad things, Mr. Speaker. His book and his speeches state very clearly — and one would assume honestly — that his time committing acts for which he was found criminally responsible and for which he was held in custody for a considerable period of time, Mr. Speaker, made him a changed man.

But, Mr. Speaker, we in this legislature passed legislation brought forward by the Minister of Justice not very long ago, and that legislation, *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*, Mr. Speaker, made it clear that the Legislative Assembly did not believe that someone should profit from the proceeds, that someone should profit from the proceeds of a book written about criminal activities, Mr. Speaker. Obviously this law was challenged in court earlier this year by Mr. Colin Thatcher. And, Mr. Speaker, the law has been upheld, and Mr. Thatcher was or did in fact comply with the Act and provided the proceeds from the sale of his book to the province of Saskatchewan.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there may in fact be a similar circumstance here regarding the member for Saskatoon Northwest. And, Mr. Speaker, this amendment simply provides the Conflict of Interest Commissioner the ability or, more importantly, the opportunity to include this in his investigation, study review, evaluation of the circumstances.

The bottom line in all of this, Mr. Speaker, is very simple. We know that while allegations are in the air, it affects every member of the Legislative Assembly. We want clarity. In other words, we want to clarify the issues to ensure that the public regains its confidence in the work of a member of the Legislative Assembly. That clarity is important, Mr. Speaker. It will come only if the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has the ability — the broad brush, Mr. Speaker — has the ability to examine all of the issues and report on all of the issues.

Nothing would be worse, Mr. Speaker, than if the Conflict of Interest Commissioner's report, based on the government's motion, were to come back to say, I can't review these tapes because, number one, I didn't get them; nobody gave them to me. The government has said they don't have the tapes. The police apparently had the tapes. I'm not sure who gave them to them because the media said they gave the tapes to the member

from Saskatoon Northwest who was supposed to provide them to the police. We're assuming that the member from Northwest provided the tapes to the police. If there's just that one copy, what is the Conflict of Interest Commissioner supposed to look at if he can't get the tapes?

The member from Regina Dewdney did make a very valid point that has to be clarified here as well. It was not clarified by the Minister of Justice in his short remarks about the amendment. The government said they have turned over all that they had, but they've also indicated they didn't have the tapes. We don't know what was the "all that they had" to the police. We need some clarification on that.

And more importantly, if we're asking the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to look at this and he doesn't have anything to look at, the report that comes back to the legislature and ultimately to the public will not clarify anything. And we have achieved nothing at that point. My concern at the end of the day, if that's the case, is that the public's sense of members of the legislature taking advantage of their position for personal gain, Mr. Speaker, has not been satisfied, Mr. Speaker.

So I would ask members opposite to think carefully about the motion that they brought forward, think carefully about the intention that they wish to present, think carefully about the role of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and think carefully about what we wish to achieve when the Conflict of Interest Commissioner reviews the matter and ultimately reports back to the public.

It's the public interest that needs to be serviced here, Mr. Speaker. The government's motion perhaps addresses only a small concern within the government caucus. The amendment addresses the broader scope of what the public needs to have clarified. So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of the members to carefully review the amendment that's been brought forward. And I thank the members of the legislature for their attention for these brief remarks.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Justice for standing up and clarifying his earlier remarks that it was the Regina city police to whom this matter had been referred and who had concluded their investigation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at the amendment presented by the members opposite, the initial motion covers all of those duties. Mr. Speaker, it's clearly outlined in the rules concerning the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, what his powers are. And the motion that was put forward by the member from Saskatoon Southeast deals with all of those issues, Mr. Speaker.

And fact is, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have been handing out a letter that indicates that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner today had already agreed with an issue raised by one of the members opposite, that he would do an investigation and provide a full report. Now that report will come back to the legislature, if the members opposite accept this motion.

Mr. Speaker, there is no need for the amendment because all of

the issues have been covered in the original motion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is of course a serious issue that we're trying to deal with as members. It's an issue that doesn't bring any joy to anyone. But Mr. Speaker, I point out that it doesn't need to be as difficult as it is. We simply, from the opposition side and I think from most members of the public, simply would like to have us get to the facts of the matter to find out what has happened. That's why we have our amendment that has simply made it even clearer what the incoming Conflict of Interest Commissioner is to look at.

Part of my comments, why I say it doesn't need to be so difficult, is we've got into a situation where we're not confident that what we're hearing is accurate. And I appreciate that the honourable Minister of Justice clarified his earlier comments about which police force the matter was referred to. But the very fact that on two different occasions we've had two different versions of which police force the matter was . . . pardon me, which police force was investigating the matter, the issue surrounding the member for Saskatoon Northwest. It just leads to greater confusion, and it really should have been a very simple and straightforward thing to stick with what we believe to be the accurate and honest truth, that is, that it was the Regina Police Service that was doing the investigation.

We believe that's accurate, but again I point out that on at least two separate occasions we've had at least two separate versions of what had happened. We have also had numerous versions of the tape and who has possession of the tape, and we've not been able to get a straightforward answer, whether the tape was in whose hands. So it's important that, for the matter of clarity, that we get the amendment to the motion added so that — well — questions can be clarified and not only be seen to be clarified but really cleared up and get some straight answers for certainly members of the opposition but also for members of the general public.

[16:30]

There's no question that when it comes to a question, Mr. Speaker, of misappropriation or misuse or misuse of public funds in some manner that we need to make certain that we know that either the funds are being misused or that they are not. And indeed that would be my hope that the finding is that funds have not been misused or misappropriated in any way. But there's nothing has happened to date to give me any confidence that we're much closer to the answers.

So there's lots of questions around this, and it's not a question or not an issue that we have a long history of having to deal with as legislators. It's certainly not one that in my time here we've had a long history of dealing with. Members are — that is, members of the Legislative Assembly — are always under public scrutiny, and that's probably a good thing because in the main it helps all of us in the discharge of our duties and the manner in which we handle whatever funds there are in our trust, funds that are in our trust to communicate with the

constituents or to keep a constituency office open, to do legitimate travel for MLA business and to hire people.

Most of us MLAs have one person hired, and then some have more than one constituency assistant. But in cases like that, it's typical that it's part-time because the pay and rations for constituency assistant is, frankly, it's enough that you can hire one good assistant, but you would be hard pressed to get more than one person to work for that salary and do a consistent job day in and day out. And I'm not arguing that there's anything inappropriate, you know, of the allowance for constituency assistants. We all wish it was more because the more resources we have we feel we can do a better job of representing our constituents, a better job of speaking up for them in the Assembly.

So, Mr. Speaker, bottom line, I'm very much urging that members support the amendment that's put forward by the opposition, that makes it crystal clear what the Conflict of Interest Commissioner is to look at and sets the parameters fairly broadly but in a fairly commonsense way and an understandable way and in a way that will help us all get to the bottom of this situation surrounding the allegations of the member for Saskatoon Northwest.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I thank the Assembly for allowing me the opportunity to speak on this issue. And I certainly hope that it gets dealt with in a speedy manner and that the motion or the amendment's passed and then that motion can go forward and pass, and we'll get to the bottom of this issue as quickly as we can. Thank you.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the amendment presented by the member from Regina Dewdney:

That we add the following text to the motion made by the member for Saskatoon Southeast:

Further, that the Assembly request that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner conduct an inquiry and provide an opinion to the Assembly regarding: (a) the member from Saskatoon Northwest's use of his constituency office and his constituency assistant to further his private interests; (b) the member's use of his travel expense account to further his private interests; (c) the member's use of his accommodation expense account in Regina while the member has been absent from the Legislative Assembly since April 14th, 2010 and has publicly declared that he will not attend a sitting of the legislature until the end of his term as a member; and (d) whether the member is in violation of *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Yes.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour of the motion say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the nays have it. Standing vote. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 16:35 until 16:43.]

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour of the amendment please rise.

[Yeas — 19]

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Trew	Higgins	Junor
Atkinson	Nilson	Forbes
Vermette	Brotten	Furber
Morin	Yates	Iwanchuk
Taylor	Quennell	Wotherspoon
Chartier		

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the amendment please rise.

[Nays — 28]

Morgan	Bjornerud	Gantfoer
Draude	Krawetz	Eagles
Duncan	D'Autremont	Harrison
Norris	Reiter	Hutchinson
Brkich	Elhard	Hart
Schriemer	Stewart	Allchurch
Weekes	Wilson	Hickie
Michelson	Ottenbreit	Ross
Chisholm	Bradshaw	Kirsch
McMillan		

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 19; those opposed, 28.

[16:45]

**The Speaker:** — The amendment is defeated. The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the member from Saskatoon Southeast, the Minister of Justice:

That by leave, that pursuant to sections 32(1) and 33 of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, this Assembly requests that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner conduct an inquiry . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The question before the . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice:

That by leave, that pursuant to sections 32(1) and 33 of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, this Assembly

requests that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner conduct an inquiry and provide an opinion to the Assembly on the conduct of the member for Saskatoon Northwest with regard to the instant message transcripts and phone recordings allegedly involving that member which were provided to CBC news, and matters relating to and arising from the transcripts and recordings.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion carries. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I move the House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — Before I place the question, I would just remind members of the short annual meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to be held immediately.

The Government House Leader has moved adjournment of the Assembly. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:48.]



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