



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

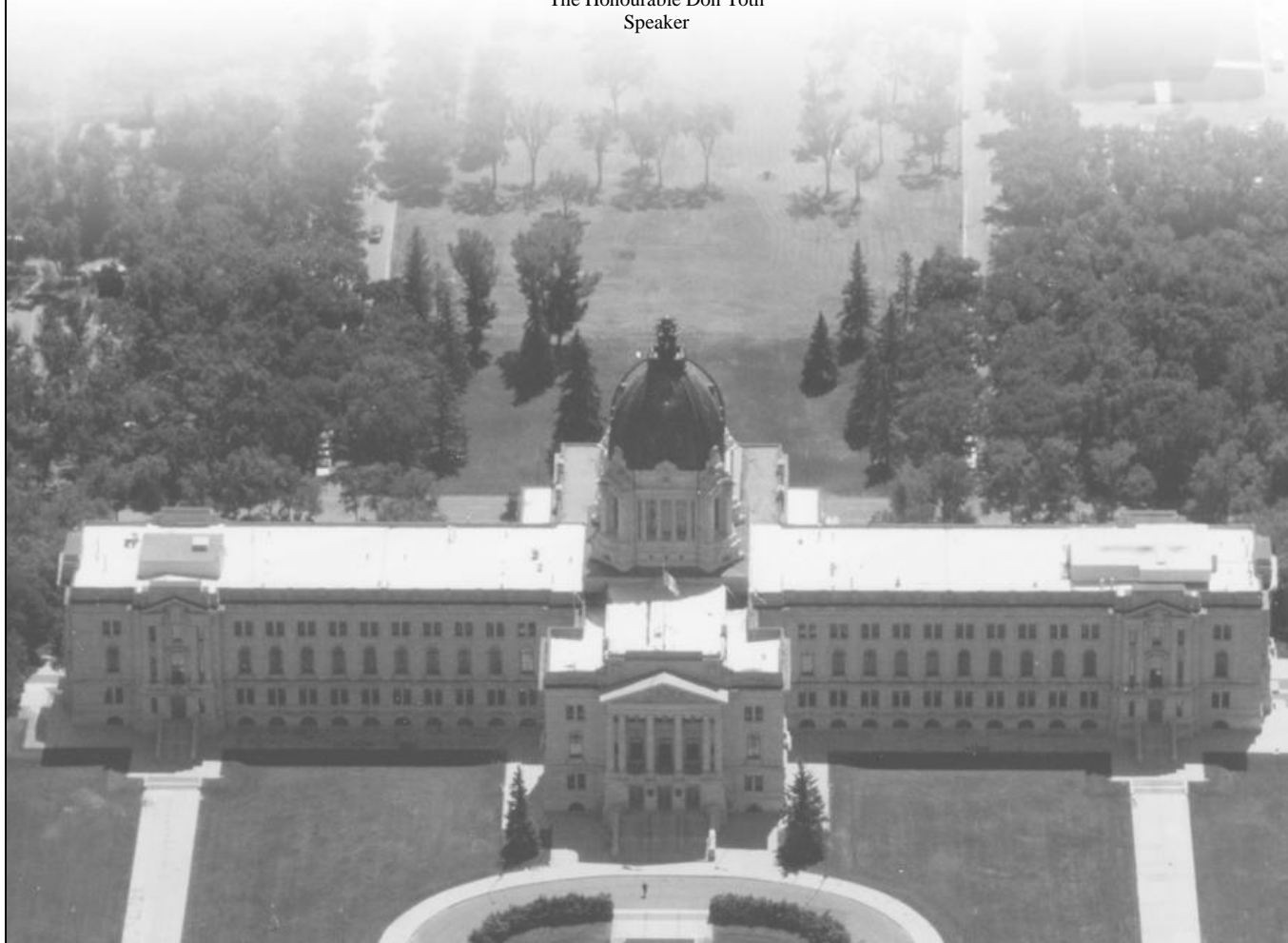
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
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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, 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, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. 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
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. 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, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, 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
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

**EVENING SITTING**

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The House is now in session.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 157**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Boyd that **Bill No. 157 — *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2010*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's good to join in this debate and talk about Bill No. 157, *An Act to amend The Oil and Gas Conservation Act*. It's quite an extensive Bill. It has a lot of technical parts to it, and of course I don't profess to have all that much of a background in oil and gas, that I could . . . [inaudible] . . . in this, but I can tell you that this is an important . . . When we're talking about the oil and gas sector, it's very important to the province of Saskatchewan, has been for many, many years.

And of course, you know, it's always interesting when we look back, how things were in the fall when this Bill was first introduced, what was happening globally, what was happening locally, and how things have changed over the last few months. And so again it's so important that we have a chance, the way calendar is set out, that we can introduce the Bills in the fall. We have a chance to get out and talk to the sector, the people involved and ask them, so what do they feel about this? And talking to my colleagues who've been involved in those consultations, it's been well received. It's the kind of thing that they're looking for when they take a look at the regulations and they say, in many ways this all makes a lot of sense. And so that is good, even though I know that when we get into committee, we'll have some questions and we'll want to learn more about this. But we're fully supportive.

This is the beauty of the legislative process, that it takes three readings; it takes some committee work. And that's what happens so we can fully understand and fully grasp this. But we have been out; we have been talking to the people in the sector to see if they agree with the changes that have been made. And I understand that they have and that they see this as an important way to get the industry moving forward in a stronger, more robust way in Saskatchewan. And we see that this is an important thing because we know oil production in Saskatchewan helps our economy in so many different ways. I mean it really does make the wheels go round in many ways, doesn't it, you know. And so it's a good thing when we have a strengthening of the regulations and the Act. So we want to see that happen.

We know that we've seen a reduction in gas production from 2007, ironically around the time of change in government. I don't know . . . People often on this side will say how things opened up when there was a change. Ironically this is what happened in the gas sector, but that is what it is.

And the economy, this will help in terms of moving it forward, that we don't want to see it flattened out. We want to see what's happening there.

We know that in the minister's second reading speech that some of the changes are a result of the New West Partnership and that we want to make sure that while our regulations are compatible and comparable to those in Alberta, that it's not a race to the bottom and in fact these are good regulations for all the partners, including the Government of Saskatchewan, including the people of Saskatchewan in so many ways that they're getting . . . The environment is being protected, that the land, you know, rights are all protected, that type of thing. So it's very, very important.

So this is a good thing, but we need to make sure we fully understand the impact on our province, on our producers, and that the net result comes back and really helps out the economy, the people of Saskatchewan. So with that, I think that it's an important thing.

But as I said earlier, what's interesting to understand, what has happened in the world in the last two or three months, you know . . . Particularly we see what's happening in the Mideast and we think, what's that got to do with this? Well clearly, when people look at the province of Saskatchewan, they look at a province that is stable, a stable government. It's predictable; democracy here is a strong thing. We value that democracy. We look forward to the election in the fall, and it will be a straightforward thing. The Mideast, not quite so. We see what's happening in Libya today, and while it has an impact on I understand just some 2 per cent of the world's oil production, it has huge ramifications in terms of confidence of what can be happening in the Mideast and what will happen in other countries in that region.

And so when we look at these kind of regulations, we think this is just something, business as usual. Well no, it isn't. It's something that's very serious because it's about stability within the marketplace.

And we know that the producers here, I think, value the fact that we can have an opportunity to have frank discussions with the producers, i.e., when we've been talking about the potash royalty regime, that those things do come up. But it's part of doing business in a province like Saskatchewan. That all those things when we have a good premier, the good premier will be taking the concerns of the people forward all the time, i.e., like what should be happening around the potash royalty regime. Are we getting our fair share? People expect that.

And we see in the oil and gas sector they value that relationship because it's not quite the same throughout the world. And when you look at what's happening in, as I said, the Mideast, I don't know if we talked about that in the fall. I'm not sure if many of us were experts on what was happening in the Mideast. I know I

was quite surprised when I saw and heard about what was happening in Egypt. That was a bit of a wake-up call that that kind of stuff can happen so quickly. What was happening in Tunisia was happening so quickly.

We didn't realize the impact it would have on the economy in Saskatchewan — and it does. There's almost a direct line, isn't there, because you've seen the price of oil go up. I think today it's over \$100 a barrel. West Texas Intermediate is over \$100 a barrel. I mean I'm sure those folks would know what a barrel of oil is. And they're shaking their heads. It sounds like they don't know. I'm sure they do know.

But that has a huge impact on what we can do here in Saskatchewan, has a huge impact. And I'm looking forward to seeing what happens in the budget in the next couple weeks because oil is doing so well. I'm looking forward to hearing that because there is so much work that needs to be done.

And I know when I stand on my feet and I often talk about affordable housing, a strategy around housing. This is directly related to this because housing, what we can do in this province . . . We are blessed with resources such as oil that can make our province so much better. Affordable housing strategy, particularly about developing rental stock, we've had a lot of talk about in the last couple of days — we'll hear more about that — hugely important. Another area I've often raised, this whole issue around a poverty reduction strategy and making sure that we have adequate child care, regulated child care in this province. There is a direct line from the price of oil and what we get as our fair share in this province, and this Bill really speaks to that because it talks about making sure that the regulatory regime that the oil and gas sector sees in this province makes sense to those people, makes sense to them and they are willing to be partners with the government here and in a long-term way. So this is very, very important.

So there is a direct line to what happened in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Saskatchewan, affordable housing, so rents . . . people can live in an affordable way here in Saskatchewan. And I am glad that we are having the time to talk about the Bill, Bill No. 157. Somebody may not see the links, but those are the links, and this is good that we can be talking about it. And it is good that we can be moving forward.

Again as I said, we have been out doing our work, talking to the people in this sector about what is happening and how do they feel about the regulations. We understand that they are largely supportive, and we think this is a good thing. And we hope that we keep consulting with them. I have to tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, sometimes when we talk about the consultations, and the other side gets a little shaky. There has been some false starts sometimes when we thought there were consultations. I think about the wildlife habitat lands last year where we thought there was good consultations, but clearly there wasn't. And those again were hugely important.

But I understand that with this case here, this is the kind of thing that we think is relatively straightforward. I'll be taking my seat in just a few minutes here. But I think that we could largely get behind . . . And I think we've got to make sure, we've got to make sure that this sector particularly, the oil and gas sector, is well served by regulations. And as I said, because

the producers look here, come here and say, this is a government, a regime that we can work with.

The other part that I would really encourage this government, that's related to this of course, is how do we move into much more greener, a greener, sustainable economy? And the oil and gas sector plays a large role as we move through the peak oil stage and move into a much more greener economy. And that's not here right now, but will be here in the next decade or two. And so our regulations have to make sure we're getting the most out of our existing oil wells for sure. And I think this can go a long way with that.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again I just want to say that it's a pleasure to get up here and think about things that are important to Saskatchewan, talk about them, the connection which is happening in the Middle East, and underline some need for this kind of work here and making sure it's done right. So with that, I'd like to move adjournment at this time of Bill No. 157. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 157, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2010*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 144

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 144** — *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the debate on Bill No. 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010* and give a few comments. And I know a number of my colleagues have spoken before me and have given information, and some of the information they shared, I think concerns.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to be clear to understand this. There's a process and an opportunity for the government to gain access to a small amount of money, I guess, at a time to take care of, I guess, a litter problem, whether it's containers, and also for the consumer to make sure that consumer has the opportunity to bring that container back by charging a refund fee and returning that fund to the purchaser. And if you look through the legislation here, I know the government's trying to amend, and we see that there's also a challenge to this, to the funds that are being paid or collected on the province's behalf by, I guess, the retailer or the agent, the business. They pay that duty and in return the money is given over to the government of course, collected. And my understanding, the government use that on different . . . whether it's Sarcan. And Sarcan's a good program. We know that. It's very good.

We have one Sarcan location in the North. I think it's La Ronge, a new facility, a brand new facility. And you know, it's

wonderful. You know, I know it's a good building. There's a business person who made an effort to go ahead and, you know, build that company and actually to build a building so that company could utilize the asset that's there right now.

And you know, the young man that built that building, he did a lot of work and a lot of planning. He met with Sarcan and said, you know, if you would like a new building, I believe in what you guys are doing and I'll build this building. And you know, I'm very honoured that that's happening. And I couldn't be there for the opening, but you know what? I told my son-in-law who built it, great job, keeping doing it. And he's very happy to do that.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's a lot of issues. And when you talk about collecting some of the dollars that this government's using and has at its discretion to use, whether it's litter control program, if that's what we're going to call it . . . And there's a lot of money in the coffers.

But there seems to be a challenge, that someone's challenging the government, that maybe it's a tax. And I guess when we put legislation in and regulations, we hope that our senior staff and the people that are giving the government the advice of the day is the right advice and the best advice you can do to protect the province. But I think some of my colleagues have expressed concern. We're not sure. You know, somebody's challenging this, and they have a right. All our citizens have a right to challenge things when they feel they're not being dealt with fair.

And sometimes the little guy out there is very frustrated because he can't challenge the big guy because the big guy, as they say it . . . And I've heard that around people's tables and they'll say, well the government, or the big guy, or the powers to be. And you hear different things. The government of the day can change the regulations, change the rule, change the legislation to make sure that the little guy doesn't stand a chance when he's voicing his concern and he's feeling like he's been . . . whether it's hard done by or wronged in any way.

[19:15]

We've got to make sure that regulations and legislation that we pass . . . And I think we all try to debate it and we try to do our job, and we have an obligation to debate these Bills and make sure they're the best legislation that we can for our province and for the people that it's supposed to serve. But sometimes I think it doesn't happen that way, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that things come up and there is challenges.

But we have to make sure that our citizens' rights — and I want to be very clear, you know, that citizens have a right — that their rights are being heard. And if there's a challenge, then there's a challenge, I guess. There's something wrong, then it's wrong. And sometimes you have to make amendments, which I believe has come forward, Bill 144, to amend this Bill.

But you know, it really goes back to how people feel at the end of the day. We can change all the Bills we want, amend them and do whatever. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when people feel that way and they feel like they've been done wrong and they maybe hire a lawyer, or some of them send a letter to the

minister or to their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], or they voice it to their mayor and council or their chief and council, and they're frustrated. And that's a process that they do.

But sometimes they also feel that they're not being heard by their government and that it is unfair, and I think they'll challenge that. And I think sometimes it goes to a court, and a court will make a decision.

But here I believe, from my understanding, the amendments we're making to Bill 144 will allow I guess no — from my understanding and we'll see where it goes — that there'll be no challenging that piece of legislation. It will be strengthened so that nobody can sue or take action against that Bill or the law that we put on. So we're changing that so that doesn't happen. And yes, I understand that there's a process and it has to happen. But at the end of the day, is the individual that's brought the claim forward, that feels he's been unjust or wronged and feels like he's been taxed, that it wasn't his understanding and he's not feeling, you understand . . . And he might have sent letters previous and asking for clarification, and he may not be satisfied with the letters he got or the information that was shared with him from senior staff or from a minister.

And I don't know if this individual has sent that. But I sometimes wonder because it affects . . . The different things we do here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, affect our citizens of our province. And we're all elected here to represent them and to bring their concerns. But sometimes our citizens are not consulted. Legislation is passed. Legislation is made that doesn't allow for those citizens to be consulted, to share, or asked what they felt, how this will impact them. And I have to be honest. We've seen legislation passed and amendments brought in by the Sask Party government that have not been good and truly have not helped Saskatchewan residents and have not been a fair process of consulting and communicating with them, making sure that dialogue happened, making sure that their voice was heard.

And we will always try to in opposition, myself, and I know my colleagues will always try to bring those concerns forward when they're shared from constituents. And they may not be just in my constituency or in our, the official opposition's, constituencies. It may be in some of the sitting government constituencies. Well those people bring those concerns forward because they truly are a concern. And this is the place where, if anything, they get a chance for us to ask those questions and debate these Bills and the changes we're going to make. I take it very serious, and I think we all have to.

You know, we can some days go on and on and on but I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to make sure that the concerns we hear from our constituents, from the people of the province, are shared here. And at the end of the day the law or the Bill is passed and that's fine. That will be the law. We have to understand that process.

Sometimes we may not agree with it. I know some of the legislation coming forward that we'll debate — and some of them, the Bills that are there and I have concern with and I'll get an opportunity to discuss them — Bill 144 is one. You know, we see back home in the North some of the litter that's in

the areas where we used to have along the highways where you had rest stops. And I've heard a number of leaders complaining and concerned, wondering what happened to the garbage disposal bins that were there. They used to be there.

And you're inviting people to come up to the North and tour our beautiful province. And tourism is important, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We realize that. Tourism is important. It can make a big impact for northern people, for all of us in this province. It generates a lot of dollars to the government coffers. But when I see concerns that we don't even have containers up there to collect the garbage for whatever reason, whether it's cost or whatever, well utilize some of that money that's sitting there to make sure those containers are there so that when we do invite people, it's not an eyesore.

And I do mean I've seen some of the places where there's no longer a container and people just . . . It's a rest spot. They rest. They put their garbage out. And I'm not going to say that they're not all residents from that area. They may be travelling, whatever. So there's issues to be addressed.

And maybe they could use some of those, if there's a surplus of money, or some of those dollars to address some of that. And I mean there's something that's positive. If you take out of something like this Bill and this amendment you're trying to make, maybe that's a way of showing that yes, we collect this for litter. But we're spending that money and we're making sure that there's places where we've taken away the litter box; it's now there for containing the garbage to make sure that you can put your litter in a box that's not going to be ripped apart by the animals. It's secure for that. And North, we have a lot of bears. We know that.

But that's just one area for the North. And maybe in the South they're experiencing the same thing. I haven't heard anything, but maybe there are areas where that's an issue.

So I guess when you see if there's surplus of dollars that's been collected, and now people are saying it's a tax, you could utilize some of those dollars to deal with the problem that I'm talking about. I think it is a problem, and here's an opportunity. You know, it's an opportunity to do the right thing sometimes and to utilize the dollars you've collected if they're not being utilized.

And I mean you can give more to Sarcan to have more disposal places or more sites where you could have a bottle exchange and you can bring in your bottles. I know the North and probably rural areas don't have much of that. It'd be nice to do that, if there's that kind of money. I don't know what's there, but obviously I know that there's a lot of containers sold in our province in one year — must generate a lot of resources in the government's coffers. And that would be nice to see them do something like that.

But I think like everything else, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act*, I'm hoping isn't going to take away someone's rights when they want to challenge things — you know, the government's not going behind legislation — because to see that frustration, like I said before, for some of our individuals or residents, it shouldn't happen. I don't know all the details. I wasn't part of the day when this Bill was brought forward, but now we're asked to amend it and I want to

be clear, ask some questions.

Anyway I'd like to, at this time, I'd like to maybe make a few more comments if I could about different Bills and stuff that are coming forward to the House and the opportunity to make it very clear to consult with people. Because the Sask Party government has clearly not consulted on certain Bills with residents of our province, and they're not happy about it.

And we heard a lot last year. Wildlife protection, we've seen a lot of acres turned over and a lot of concern from people and people very clearly saying they were not consulted. They were not talked to. In no way were they consulted. That is a shame. So when we see these kind of things coming forward, it's unfortunate that that's happening.

But I guess, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we'll have more, I'll have more comments and more opportunity. I know my colleagues will have more opportunity to comment on some of the Bills coming forward. And we will do that, and I will take my part and do my part that I need to do.

So at this time, at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know my colleagues want to join in on some of the debates on some of the Bills. I at this time would like to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 155

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 155** — *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into the debate on *The Natural Resources Amendment Act*, Bill 155. It's obvious from the Bill that there's very little that the Bill accomplishes other than it makes a committee that has been a steering committee for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. It provides that the committee is now the Wildlife Development Advisory Council.

So in many respects, this is a housekeeping Bill. I see that the government has introduced a piece of legislation to change the terminology from department to ministry, and I see that with respect to the rest of the Bill, there is very little in the way of anything substantive.

Now one of the things I do wonder about is what is going to happen to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund because in the past this steering committee, which is now called the advisory council, had a lot of input into how that Fish and Wildlife Development Fund was allocated. And as I understand

it now, the minister will determine how that fund is going to be allocated.

And what's interesting is that the fund can now contract out services that are deemed necessary for the management of the fund. And the services could be contracted out to the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, or Ducks Unlimited for management of land within the fund. That's interesting. We're going to see how that works.

I also note that the Bill expands the scope of activities that are covered by the fund to include restoration of fish or game populations or habitat necessary for fish or game species. Not quite sure what that's going to mean. I know that there has been restoration of fish populations in the past. I'm not quite sure how they plan on restoring game populations, and I gather that habitat is something new, Mr. Speaker.

So basically this whole Bill is housekeeping in nature. It formally recognizes the Fish and Wildlife Development Advisory Council, which was previously referred to as the steering committee. It provides for these groups to identify members who would allow their name to stand as possible appointees to the council. I think they had that opportunity in the past.

And so I think really what the Bill accomplishes is twofold. What it does in essence is it's referring to the ministry now instead of the department, and it allows for the contracting out of services with the use of the Fish and Wildlife Fund.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I presume that we'll hear more from some of the organizations that are referred to in the Bill in the explanatory notes. I'm sure the critic will want to comment on this Bill with some rigour. And with that I would adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 155, *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 149

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 149** — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2010* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's good to rise in my place this evening to participate in the debate on Bill No. 149, *The Act to amend The Income Tax Act*.

I guess there have been a number of criticisms raised concerning this piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I guess the criticism that I am most interested in is how has this

been booked into the budget process? What is the tax expenditure value attached to this item of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

And again for planning processes, any kind of tax measure that is brought forward like this, the government generally has some kind of a nominal figure attached to what the worth of this, an initiative like this would amount to. And I guess the thing that I find concerning, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that there has been no information brought forward by the government of the day in terms of what this is going to cost the people of Saskatchewan.

[19:30]

It'll be interesting to see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which of the corporations ultimately qualify for this initiative. It'll be interesting to see what the parameters are of their participation. But again the main concern that I have, and has been referenced by a number of my colleagues on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, is that essentially this brings forward a pig in a poke for the people of Saskatchewan to consider as they judge how much something is going to cost them and cost the public purse.

A five-year corporate income tax incentive for corporations undertaking the refining of minerals imported into Saskatchewan; we know that iron ore is excluded, but beyond that it would seem that the waterfront is open for whatever. There's a restriction concerning the minimum capital investment of \$125 million in Saskatchewan operations and the maintenance of a minimum of incremental employment of 75 full-time employees in Saskatchewan. But again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when it comes to tax expenditures by this government, we think they should be able to say what have they booked this at in terms of their planning process.

There are some members that like to talk about the importance of planning on that side. There are some members that like to talk about it and do something else, but surely to goodness they have got some kind of nominal value that has been attached to this by Treasury Board and by cabinet in the finalization of the budget process for the years going forward.

So when it comes to a measure like this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what are the benchmarks in terms of what is the cost to the public purse, and what that in turn has to say about what are the goals that are set out to be achieved by this measure? Is this something where it is a light in the window that will have success, or do they have a game plan that rolls out behind it? Or is this some kind of a sop that was put out for, put out to Enterprise Saskatchewan so that Enterprise Saskatchewan could at least chalk up one recommendation that was taken up by this government instead of being ignored like the myriad other recommendations ignored by Enterprise Saskatchewan? Is this some way that the Premier can say that his so-called innovative new approach to economic development in this province is a big success? Again these are questions that cross the mind of the opposition, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But I think there is a very simple, very fundamental question involved in this debate and that is, what is the projected cost for this measure and what are the goals by which this will be evaluated? So I guess there have been a lot of other participants in this debate, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Of course it raises other

questions around the adequacy and the fairness of the current royalty regime as it applies to the mineral sector generally but especially as it regards potash, which has been quite eloquently commented upon. And also of course, Mr. Deputy Speaker, raises further concerns in terms of the approach of this government when it comes to managing the resources of this province and making sure that the people of Saskatchewan, who are the ultimate owners of the resource, are getting the best possible return from initiatives coming from the public purse and from natural resources that are here in the province of Saskatchewan.

So to recap, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how much is this going to cost and what are the benchmarks by which it'll be evaluated? Beyond that, beyond emphasizing those two points, I think there's been a fairly significant discussion made of this by various of my colleagues on this side. And I'm sure there'll be others that want to add into the debate, and as such I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Elphinstone has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2010*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 150

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 150 — *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2010*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm very pleased this evening to stand and speak on Bill No. 150, *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Act*, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as I look at the Bill, it has two main provisions. One has to do with clarifying how spousal survivor benefits are to be calculated in the case of a person who may have been married more than once and how each of the spouses will claim benefit from that pension plan, Mr. Speaker.

And that's very, very important to clarify those rules so that individuals know ahead of time what those provisions are and how they will be applied to each individual in the case of, Mr. Speaker, the pension plan, the pension and the two spouses. Mr. Speaker, we believe that on principle this has merit and this is good. Having these provisions in place are good for pension plans and in particular the government pension plans, Mr. Speaker, so there's clarity so both spouses know what they potentially will have in the event of a separation with their spouse who is a member of the pension plan.

Mr. Speaker, the second provision continues this government's, I would like to say, disturbing pattern of trying to keep

information from the public. And in particular, Mr. Speaker, it takes away the provisions that require disclosure of information. And that's a concerning or an alarming circumstance, Mr. Speaker, because we here are on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan and the funds that we're dealing with, whether they be in government departments or pensions or public funds. And, Mr. Speaker, those public funds are of concern to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and this particular provision takes away the requirement to report whether or not individuals are collecting a pension.

And, Mr. Speaker, if somebody is collecting a pension and still works for the government of Saskatchewan and in effect double dipping, this is how members of the opposition and members of the government or in fact members of the public could in fact check. And taking away those provisions, Mr. Speaker, of reporting makes it much more difficult for there to be accountability and for the law as it's written today, which prevents that double-dipping, to be enforced.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have some concerns, most definite concerns about the second major provision within this legislation. But nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, the legislation that's before us does make some improvements. The first provision is very important. The second provision, Mr. Speaker, I'd say we wouldn't agree with.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this time, this is the Bill that's going to require some significant consultation with stakeholder groups, with some of the unions that represent employees, with management employees and government to see whether or not these changes are seen by them as beneficial, Mr. Speaker, and whether or not the concerns we have in regards to transparency and openness and accountability and the reporting mechanism are as serious as we think they may be.

Mr. Speaker, one of the ways to prevent people from not following provisions is to have a circumstance where if you are not following those provisions of that legislation, it's easily identified or easily known. Taking away those reporting provisions in fact make that more difficult, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, seeing as we have several concerns about this particular legislation, we will want to consult. We will want to ensure that, we will want to ensure that we have adequate time to check with others. And we will want to make sure that in doing so we look at it from the point of view of both fairness to those who are in the pension plan, Mr. Speaker, and fair to the people of Saskatchewan at the same time. Because, Mr. Speaker, the legislation is for all the people of Saskatchewan and needs to be considered in its context as how it affects all the people of the province.

Mr. Speaker, with the legislation before us and the very few changes that we have, this is going to create for us some challenges in the short period of time because the groups affected by this are quite diverse and quite large. They are represented by trade unions in most cases so we can talk to their representatives. But the impact on each and every individual should be considered, or the potential impacts on individuals should be considered before we proceed with the legislation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, looking at this from the point of view of the



division of spousal assets in regards to the divorce, or the separation of individuals and later divorce, and second spouse coming into the picture, Mr. Speaker, this has been, I think, long overdue. We've had numerous cases over the last several years where this issue's been brought forward. And it takes some time for us to . . . It has taken some time to get these provisions forward. They are good provisions. We support them. It creates clarity, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and with that we're very happy that they were brought forward.

On the second issue, as I indicated, we will have to do some significant consultation. So at this time, I would like to adjourn debate on this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 150, *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2010*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 147

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Draude that **Bill No. 147 — *The Public Interest Disclosure Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Harper:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is truly a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to once again enter into a debate on a Bill in this fine Assembly on behalf of the good people of Regina Northeast. And, Mr. Speaker, it's always a pleasure to have that opportunity in this great Assembly, although on a more personal note, this fulfilling my duties here has taken me away from watching a very interesting hockey game that's going on as we speak. I'm pleased though that my team, after the first period, is leading 2 to nothing. So that's quite, that's quite rewarding in itself.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is truly a pleasure and an honour to be able to enter into this debate, the debate on the Bill No. 47, *The Public Interest Disclosure Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that the Bill has come forward in this form. So it would basically, commonly, I suppose, be referred to as whistle-blowers legislation. And it is interesting that there has been, certainly, whistle-blower legislation in place in the past in this province. I believe it was first probably introduced I think back in the Allan Blakeney government. But nevertheless, it is an important piece of legislation and certainly one that the opposition is certainly supportive of the intent of the Bill. It's although sometimes a huge difference between the stated purpose of a Bill and the actual effect of that Bill, and it is all in the language and all in the intent. So, Mr. Speaker, I think with that knowledge, one has to be careful when one looks at this particular Bill and suggests that it is a Bill to address the needs . . . It likely does address some, but it certainly comes up short.

I do believe though that it is important to have this type of

legislation in place so that we can have or give the assurance to the public servants, that serve us and serve this province so well, that assurance that they will have protection when they are willing to make a case known or a situation known where they feel that it is their duty to speak out. After all, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people rely quite heavily on civil servants to provide a number of very, very critical roles and very critical services within this great province of ours.

[19:45]

And those are the men and the women who are on the front lines. And those are the men and women who probably have better knowledge of the operation, the detailed day-to-day operation of government, government agencies, government programs, government departments, and therefore certainly need to have the comfort to know that there's protection there when they believe that it is their duty to bring forward a situation that perhaps is not playing out in the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

So the intent, Mr. Speaker, is of course very, very important in this Bill, and we certainly see that the opposition in principle agree with that intent. Once again as I say it's the . . . Often there is a great difference between the stated purpose of a Bill and the actual effect of the Bill. It is a little like my grandfather used to say: the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

And that would be the case with any piece of legislation, but I think probably this one in particular because it is a very critical one to provide our civil servants . . . who do a wonderful job by the way. They just simply do a wonderful job, right across the piece, serving the people of Saskatchewan. We need to be able to provide them with the comfort and knowledge that there is protection and support for them in the situation that arises. They may need to bring to the attention of authorities a situation that is not in the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

But as I said, Mr. Speaker, these men and women who serve us so very well and are the front-line workers and who meet the needs of the people of Saskatchewan on a daily basis, often, you know, serve in all types of situations. Sometimes an emergency situation will arise. And I've seen the case myself in the past, Mr. Speaker, when I had the privilege of being in government and on the government side of the House and a minister for a brief period of time. I've seen individuals within my ministry simply go that extra mile. They just didn't look at it as a job and just put in the eight hours. There was a situation would arise where they would dedicate themselves and their time to that situation, to addressing it. They wouldn't leave the job, so to speak, until the situation was in hand, and it didn't matter how long it took.

They were dedicated to the people. They were dedicated to their job. They were dedicated to the department, and they were dedicated to ensuring that the job that needed to be done got done. And that, Mr. Speaker, I think speaks volumes for the fine men and women who serve our province on a daily basis, sometimes in situations, Mr. Speaker, where their own health and safety is placed at risk.

And I've also seen that because I've seen some of our workers in emergency situations simply stay on the job until the job . . .

they felt comfortable in leaving that job that was under control. The situation was under control. And I think I would say that they do so certainly at the risk of, in some ways, their health because they just were dedicated to the job, and they put it first and foremost, even ahead of their own families.

And I think that speaks volumes. It simply speaks volumes for the great people and the dedicated people that we have that serve us so very well in this great province of ours, these men and women who have the expertise that members of the legislature often draw on. I mean, I think probably opposition, you know, has that opportunity, but government perhaps even more so rely very heavily on the advice that they receive from their officials. Certainly up the chain, I guess you would say. The deputy ministers would look at the people below them and so on and so forth.

And in the past, Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to do, you know, some work, I guess you'd say, on behalf of the government a few years ago when the premier of the day asked me to do a review of a particular issue. It was called the northern overtime exemptions issue. And that caused me to travel extensively in northern Saskatchewan. But also, Mr. Speaker, it caused me to work very closely with a number of individuals within the Department of Labour. And I was really, really impressed with the professionalism that the individuals displayed, the efficiency in which they would get their work done.

Often, Mr. Speaker, we would run into a situation while we were on the road — and I say we; we had a gentleman travelling with me, in fact two gentlemen, as support — and we would often run into a situation on the road in a community in northern Saskatchewan that we felt needed to be dealt with rather swiftly. We would simply report that back to the department and the department people who were supporting us, and in no time at all, the issue would be dealt with. It would be passed on to whichever department who had jurisdiction over it.

And I can think of a number of cases where I had the individuals who brought the issue to my attention get back to me within a few weeks and say that they were actually quite surprised at the speed in which we were able to get a response for them and get action on their issue and in many cases were able to solve that issue in a very positive way. Not always, Mr. Speaker, but in most cases we were able to achieve a positive response and a positive outcome to the situation as it was presented to us.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I really can't say enough about the quality of personnel that serve us here in the legislature but serve the people of Saskatchewan within our various government departments. And I can harken back to the time when I was a minister for a brief period of time. It was certainly the knowledge, the experience, and the expertise of my officials that I would rely on and take their advice because these were the people in the front lines who had experienced a lot of these situations, who had a knowledge of what could be done and what couldn't be done, a knowledge of what could be achieved and what needed to happen in order to have a positive result to issues as they would come forward.

And I say, Mr. Speaker, that I think probably government and

government members rely more heavily on the advice of their officials. And we in the opposition, we in the opposition certainly use their officials whenever they're available to us for information and for providing that extra knowledge and in-depth detailed knowledge that they certainly have and they've been able to accumulate over years. But certainly the government and government ministers in particular, but I think all government members certainly rely quite heavily on the advice that they are given by their officials in their various departments.

Mr. Speaker, we rely very heavily on health care workers to care for us and our loved ones in a time of need, in a time of illness or sickness. And I think we all in this House would agree that we have some of the finest health care workers anywhere right here in this province. And not only are they very professional and very capable of doing a very professional job, Mr. Speaker, but they're also very caring people.

And I've experienced that myself with my own situation on various occasions throughout my life when we've had to — I say we; I include my family in that — and we've had to rely and call upon the health care system to provide us that support at a time of a crisis within the health of a family member. And certainly I can say without a doubt, without a doubt that we have received the finest service available anywhere.

Certainly the professionalism was there. Certainly the expertise was there. But as importantly, the compassion and the understanding was there, Mr. Speaker. And I think in situations like that, in crisis like that, that's so very, very important to have family and the members of the family and our loved ones when they're experiencing some very serious medical problems and some serious illness.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is just one example of how we rely on our civil servants to provide us with the service, the quality of service that we require and a timely manner in which we require it. And, Mr. Speaker, this is why we need to ensure that they have that comfort, comfort and knowledge that in a case where it's brought to their attention that perhaps a situation is ongoing, perhaps, or a situation does exist that is not in the best interest of Saskatchewan people. But they need to be able to report that forward, Mr. Speaker, so that the problem can be addressed in a manner that it certainly will have a positive result for the people of this great province.

We rely very heavily, Mr. Speaker, on teachers and their support staff to educate our children and to give them the best possible start in life. And I think, Mr. Speaker, education has always, always been very, very important. And I think at no point in time in history has it been more important than it is today with the world in which we live today with the modern technologies that we have, the rapidly changing world. I think it is incumbent upon us to ensure that our children are given the tools to be able to be competitive in the world marketplace.

Because that's what it is today. It's not a competition within a community. It's no longer a competition even within the borders of a province. It's no longer even competition within the country. Mr. Speaker, the competition today is global, worldwide, and we simply need to ensure that our students continue to graduate with the knowledge, the knowledge level

that is going to allow them to be competitive on that world stage.

And there was an article that I read a few weeks ago when I was surfing the Net I guess it was, and I found it interesting. It was suggested there that the rapidly changing world in which we live today is going to cause our students today — who are in university and are perhaps enrolled in a four-year course — by the time they graduate at the end of that four years, approximately one third of the information that they have learned over that four years will now be obsolete, will be obsolete simply because the knowledge base is changing so quick. The information base is changing so quick. The technology that we experience today is certainly causing the world to change and our workplace to change.

In that same article, Mr. Speaker, I read that no longer, or very few people will have the ability to have a long-standing career with one company. Often has been the case in the past where a person, upon graduation, would start a job in a company and a lot of cases stay there for the thirty-five years and retire. And I'm understanding that the world is changing so rapidly that that likely will not be the case in the future. What we may see in the future is the opportunity or the careers individuals will enter into will be likely as many as five and six careers within the entire lifetime of an individual . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And I'm pleased, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues are concerned to keep me informed as to the ongoing score in the hockey game which tells me that my team is now leading 3 to nothing, so that's even of greater joy for me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves very reliant on an ongoing basis. And often we just take it for granted that a lot of the civil servants and the duties and services that they provide to us on an ongoing basis, we often just take them for granted. Maybe it's because they've always been there and they've always been good quality services, and we just accept that as the norm.

For example our highway workers, Mr. Speaker, our highway workers are very dedicated to ensuring that those roads are in the best of condition, that those roads are in a safe condition for Saskatchewan's motoring public to the best of their abilities. And that goes, Mr. Speaker, whether it be summer or winter. And in the winter months, we know the dedication of snowplow operators who are dedicated to their job, dedicated to making sure that those roads are in good, sound condition, good shape, good winter driving condition so Saskatchewan's motor public can travel without cause of incidents, without having concern, and having the ability to have a good quality road to travel on that's free of dangerous conditions.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that we need to recognize that that just doesn't happen. That's not just done by people who are doing a job. It's done by people who are dedicated — dedicated to that job, dedicated to their department, and dedicated to this province.

[20:00]

So, Mr. Speaker, it is truly the need, I guess you would say, that we ensure that those same people have the knowledge, that they have the safety, have the protection to give them the comfort of knowledge that they can speak up, they can speak up without a

fear of reprisal in a situation where they believe that it needs to be brought to the attention — whether it be of their superiors or whether it be of somebody else in authority — that that situation is in existence and that situation is not in the best interest of Saskatchewan people and that they need to have the comfort and knowledge that they have the ability to speak up without fear of reprisals.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of situations where this Bill seems to come up short on that — this Bill, of course, Bill No. 147. As one of my colleagues put it here a little while ago, when we were talking about this particular Bill, was that it was a Bill that at first glance you would say it was full of good intentions, but it certainly didn't have any weight, or another term would be, it didn't have any teeth in it. It didn't really have any ability to be able to achieve the intent of the Bill. That's why I believe, Mr. Speaker, it is a situation where truly there is a big difference between the stated purpose of the Bill and the actual effect of the Bill. It seems to be short on a number of fronts, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly it doesn't have the bite to it that is required to be able to provide that protection and a comfort to the fine workers and civil servants of this great province of ours that would give them the comfort and knowledge that they can report a situation that may not be of the best interests to Saskatchewan people, and they can do so without fear of reprisal. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, certainly this Bill needs to be looked at a lot closer and needs to be a fair amount of assessment done here I suppose by the Opposition.

And once again, Mr. Speaker, it raises a lot of questions, questions about what did the government do as far as consultation is concerned. Did the government do any consultation? If they did, who did they consult? Who did they talk to? What stakeholders were involved in that consultation? What formula did that consultation take? Was it just simply a dialogue between some individuals or were there hearings held? Were there public input? Was there input from all segments of our economy and our society? Did everyone have the opportunity to have their concerns known, Mr. Speaker?

So there's a lot of issues here, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't seem to be covered at all by this Bill. So I think it certainly needs to be discussed and debated even further, as we see the need, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the proper time is given to this Bill, so it can be analyzed properly so that, at the end of the day, hopefully this product can be something that will actually be meaningful to the civil servants of this great province, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks by moving adjournment of debate. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Northeast has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 147, *The Public Interest Disclosure Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

**Bill No. 153**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 153 — *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to enter into the debate on Bill 153 and to put some of my comments on the record.

Mr. Speaker, this is much like some of the other legislation, particularly on this Bill, where it's important to know the intent or the changes or what was driving the changes. And again here we have not really heard about that — what consultations were done; whether this was in fact the Justice department suggesting some of these changes; was it the judges, the judiciary in this case? And again some of the suggestions we of course could support, but some raised some questions for us. And we would like some further information regarding this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill repeals the civil division of the Provincial Court and appears to transfer some significant responsibilities currently held by the provincial judges to justices of the peace. Now again there might be some merit in doing these things. And as many of my colleagues have raised the potentially serious implications regarding quality of service, and again here the questions are raised whether this is in fact just driven simply by financial considerations or were there some discussions or consultations held around these changes that would allow us to see the merit in these being brought forward?

Again people would ask at certain times whether or not a Justice of the Peace would be the appropriate way. And again this is the public who are used to having a judge deal with their cases now finding themselves with the Justice of the Peace, which in fact perhaps all of us could agree with that and have those functions that are now strictly done by Provincial Court judges, some being transferred to justices of the peace.

And what functions are being transferred? You know, what type of cases are we going to see going to be handled by justices of the peace? And again as I mentioned before, what are the impacts on the services that people in the province will be looking at? And these are questions that many people would ask and are asking around this.

And again it all comes to . . . and is quite . . . For us it is of concern because it's not like the government has a track record of consulting people in the province. They have been short on that when it comes to certain areas. And in fact then we can't simply rely on them saying that these were changes that were brought forward, that they're brought forward because people in the province, or the judiciary in this case, requested that they be made, and that's what they're following through.

Again some of the other . . . We look here at what they want the greater public disclosure and results of investigations in conduct by judges. Again, transparency is something that I think we all in the province and us can agree that we must have more of

that. And again it's something that is sorely lacking when it comes to this government where in many cases we've had instances of in fact Superannuation trying to hide the benefits paid to former employees or other public disclosures that they have tried to hide in instances.

So again, we need further consultation. Are we getting the transparency here that is being proposed, that is being talked about? And particularly because this is the justice system, we need to feel confident that in fact we are receiving the service that we require.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill also allows the appointment of temporary judges, currently serving on the bench to come . . . to appoint temporary judges from outside the province. This is now done by other provinces, and this seems like one way to address the potential of cases. And particularly where we have a conflict, it would be important that the department have, or the ministry have this availability to them. Again, it seems like a very sensible amendment and something that we could look at. But I think with some of the other things that I have mentioned, it does give us concern, and time perhaps for a second look here.

Mr. Speaker, we could support the changes to bring the eligibility for disability benefits to the same standard for judges for the three months, from one year to three months as provided to other provincial government employees.

And again we also could support the changes of the nature of Law Society representation on Judicial Council, where currently the president of the Law Society serves on the council and this results in frequent turnover. This way the Bill would allow representatives of the Law Society to serve for a longer period of time and allow the Judicial Council to retain some experience.

Mr. Speaker, the overall intent would appear to be acceptable to us. But again, we do have some concerns as to what some of the service being provided by the justices of the peace, some of the questions about what cases they would be handling. And these are important questions that we need to be answered before we could move on this Bill.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 153. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

**Bill No. 154**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 154 — *The Provincial Court Consequential Amendment Act, 2010/Loi de 2010 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010**** be now read a second time.]

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

Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, my comments here will flow from my previous comments on Bill 153. Bill 154, *The Provincial Court Amendment Consequential Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, in terms of reading the amendments here, it appears that the Bill makes amendments to *The Small Claims Act* to allow the government to repeal the civil division of the Provincial Court and transfer significant responsibilities currently handled by the Provincial Court judges to justices of the peace.

Now again, as I pointed out previously, there is some merit in doing this in some limited cases. However, would we encounter some potentially serious implications in terms of the quality of service provided for the people appearing in court and their right to a fair hearing?

Again, what are the functions that are being transferred out to the Provincial Court, the type of cases and the service? And no doubt that the justices of the peace are members of our community who are in high standing and are appointed because of that, in their ability to handle these sorts of things and have been doing an excellent job. We would not like . . .

Mr. Speaker, it is important for every resident of Saskatchewan to feel that justice is done and not only seen to be done, but that it is to be done. And we would hope that before we would do this that we would have some discussion on the types of cases that would be put over. Would there need to be people . . . some understanding of legal terms, of legal rights that would not be trampled upon before we would just simply pass this over to the Justice of the Peace?

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, if we could get some answers to some of those questions, we could look more favourably at passing this Bill 154 on. But at this time I would like to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 154. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

### Bill No. 159

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Norris that **Bill No. 159** — *The University of Regina Amendment Act, 2010* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure tonight to rise and speak to Bill No. 159, *The University of Regina Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, I'm particularly pleased that I'm able to speak after a couple of my colleagues from the city of Regina who know the University of Regina extremely well and who, during their remarks in this Chamber in the previous session on this legislation, Mr.

Speaker, set out some very important arguments with regards to this Bill.

My colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre spoke on December the 1st, Mr. Speaker, talking about being a graduate of the University of Regina and speaking of course highly of the institution. And, Mr. Speaker, also speaking prior to myself, Mr. Speaker, comments from the hon. member from Regina Lakeview who spoke . . . If I'm not mistaken, Mr. Speaker, the member from Regina Lakeview, I just seem to have misplaced my notes on his speech here for the moment, Mr. Speaker. Oh here it is. It is from December the 7th, Mr. Speaker, the member from Regina Lakeview. And I will want to quote once or twice from the member of Regina Lakeview, Mr. Speaker, because some of his remarks were particularly poignant, Mr. Speaker. It was incredible.

[20:15]

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, we know that Bill 159 is being brought forward by the government in response to requests from the University of Regina, Mr. Speaker. The University of Regina set about some time ago to create a strategic working plan, a strategic plan encompassing the years 2009 to 2014, issued in July of 2009. The title of the report, *māmawohkamâtowin: Our Work, Our People, Our Communities*. Mr. Speaker, a report that highlight some of the direction that the University of Regina wants to take, Mr. Speaker.

President of the University of Regina, Dr. Vianne Timmons, was instrumental in putting the report together, Mr. Speaker. And I'd just like to read briefly from the executive summary of the University of Regina's report because it sheds some light on how this Bill came to be developed.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, the executive summary of the report indicates that:

A facilitation team was formed and prepared to gather information and input from stakeholders. Consultations [that's at the university, Mr. Speaker] were launched in January 2009. More than 100 meetings . . . held with faculty, staff, students, alumni, retirees, administrators, government officials, professional organizations, and educational partners.

Mr. Speaker, we hear frequently in the Chamber here about the importance of consultation but more importantly about the lack of consultation undertaken by the Saskatchewan Party government in preparing their legislation and, Mr. Speaker, in delivering on that legislation. But, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party government could learn a lot from the University of Regina strategic planning team, Mr. Speaker. Their consultations were quite extensive.

That having been said, Mr. Speaker, we now see legislation that's been brought forward for which there is, and the minister in presenting the Bill in second reading indicated that, there isn't 100 per cent agreement. Or in the minister's own words, Mr. Speaker, the minister says, it's always . . . just a minute . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I will. The minister says, be sure to get it right. I want to make sure I get it right. Anyway not wanting to hold things up, he says, "I wouldn't want this

[legislation] to be categorized as having universal support.” That’s a quote from the minister’s opening remarks, second reading on November the 30th.

He says, “I wouldn’t want this to be categorized as having universal support,” which means, Mr. Speaker, that we in the opposition are going to have to look very carefully at all of the clauses to discover exactly where the lack of support is and why that is, Mr. Speaker, because of course the minister doesn’t share his consultations with the legislature or the people of Saskatchewan.

So that having been said, Mr. Speaker, let me just continue with some comments from the executive summary of the University of Regina’s strategic plan. They indicated that:

Information gathered in these consultations, as well as . . . more than 40 written submissions and more than 1,100 responses to a series of online surveys . . . [fed] the creation of this strategic plan.

So, Mr. Speaker, we know that there’s an awful lot of interest in what happens at the University of Regina and a lot of concern, dedication, and commitment to the future of this fine institution, Mr. Speaker. And the administrative and governing bodies at the University of Regina recognizes that and wants to make sure we do this right. Even more important, Mr. Speaker, that we therefore in the opposition know that we’re working with the university’s needs, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to what the Sask Party may be attempting to do. We need to have clarity on that, Mr. Speaker, complete clarification.

The planning consultations [says the strategic plan] revealed a deep, widespread commitment to the future success of the University of Regina. They also revealed a call for greater engagement, an openness to change, a realization that . . . [the size of the institution] is an asset, and a conviction that sustainability, in the broadest sense, needs to be a major emphasis of the University. As a result, revised vision, values, and mission statements are part of the strategic plan.

Mr. Speaker, the president of the university indicates that, as a result of this report, the administrative team at the University of Regina:

. . . will position the University . . . at the centre of this new Saskatchewan, rooted in and responding to the needs and aspirations of our students, our people and our communities and reaching out to the world around us.

Mr. Speaker, this report, strategic planning report, does indeed outline direction that the university wishes to take forward into the future.

So, Mr. Speaker, what does the legislation do for us? Well, Mr. Speaker, let’s look at a couple of the things that are here as we move through the 21st century, Mr. Speaker, and what are the requirements for change that are being presented to us for discussion here.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, something that I would imagine very few people in the province fully understand or recognize is a

provision that would indeed eliminate the visitor — and I quote that term, Mr. Speaker, “visitor”, v-i-s-i-t-o-r — the visitor from the university. Mr. Speaker, this is an old term that we don’t use much any more, but the visitor is effectively a judge who is outside the whole of the structure who can make decisions around disputes within the university.

Mr. Speaker, this visitor has, for all intents and purposes, been the Lieutenant Governor in the province of Saskatchewan. What has happened in practice, however, Mr. Speaker, is that any time an issue arose that was supposed to go to the Lieutenant Governor — the visitor in the terms of the Act — the Lieutenant Governor had the ability to refer it. And of course it was immediately referred to a court and a judge of the Court of Queen’s Bench.

What this legislation does, Mr. Speaker, is eliminate the term “visitor,” the concept of visitor, and says if there are any disputes, it will go not through the Lieutenant Governor as a visitor, but they’ll go directly to a judge of the Court of Queen’s Bench. So in all practicality, Mr. Speaker, this change doesn’t actually make any real change for the people who are involved in disputes. So, Mr. Speaker, that’s one of the first provisions in this piece of legislation.

The second change relates to the number of people who are required to sign to have a special meeting of convocation. Convocation, Mr. Speaker, defined by the legislation and practice, means all the alumni of the University of Regina. And, Mr. Speaker, after quite a number of years, it now would appear that the number of those who are eligible to be a part of convocation, Mr. Speaker, amounts to more than 50,000 individuals, maybe as high, I’m told, as 56,000 individuals.

Well a meeting of the convocation, or potentially 56,000 people, by legislation could be called by as few as 25 people. Mr. Speaker, the university has requested and the government has responded in this legislation to increase that number to 50. So if there is a petition of 50 people, now a special meeting can be called. Well, Mr. Speaker, it only makes sense, I think, when you think about the growing number of alumni at the University of Saskatchewan, the growing population there, the costs involved in all of this, Mr. Speaker.

Communication with the alumni is very important. And that, the university tells us, will be handled in a number of other ways. And so therefore the potential of communication or contacting everybody for a special meeting, the provision, the bar has been raised somewhat here, Mr. Speaker. And that seems to have general support across the piece.

The challenging part of the legislation, Mr. Speaker, as we understand it at this point, is the provision that relates to the chancellor and effectively how the chancellor should be selected. It was traditional that, under the legislation as it sits right now, the chancellor would be selected by convocation or in fact those 56,000 alumni, Mr. Speaker. This meant that every time a chancellor needed to be selected, there would have to be a special mailing to all the people that they could locate who had ever been graduates of the University of Regina, and this mailing could be quite expensive.

The proposal in this legislation is to have the job of hiring done

by the senate which is a group of about 100 people and reflecting a broad cross-section of graduates and geographic areas throughout the province, Mr. Speaker. This is an area where in fact, again to go back to the minister's words, Mr. Speaker, where he said, I don't want this to be categorized as having universal support.

I think there are a number of people who believe that the chancellors, the way of choosing a chancellor should not be changed. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll need to ensure that we understand exactly, as close as we can anyway, how much of a challenge this is for the university and its graduates. Let's face it, Mr. Speaker, the selection of a chancellor is an important role of graduates. It has been in the past, and many people value that role that they've always played in assisting the university to find the right chancellor.

So we know there are some people who aren't totally at ease with this. And of course before we can move this Bill forward or before we can agree to accept all of the provisions in the Bill, we'll need to have some assurances that this will really work.

Now, Mr. Speaker, another section relates as to how the senate itself operates and effectively the rules that are going to be kept in the senate bylaws as opposed to the legislation. This will allow for the ability to make amendments, where that's required, through the senate as opposed to coming back to the legislature for those kind of procedural amendments. And that's very similar to much of the corporate legislation that we do in this legislature, and that seems to make sense as well, Mr. Speaker.

So, you know, a number of other things that have been presented, by and large, Mr. Speaker, we recognize the process and the policy as being driven by the university — a first-class university, renowned nationwide and worldwide, Mr. Speaker, an institution with a strong administrative and governing body, Mr. Speaker. And we're very supportive of the work that the University of Regina has done to get us to this point.

Mr. Speaker, by and large, the legislation itself appears to reflect the express needs of those at the University of Regina. And, Mr. Speaker, over the next very short period of time, Mr. Speaker, we will be, the official opposition, in a better position to determine our position on the future of this legislation. So until that occurs, Mr. Speaker, and until others of my colleagues have had a chance to speak about this legislation, I would move that debate on this legislation be now adjourned.

**The Speaker:** — The member from The Battlefords has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 159, *The University of Regina Amendment Act, 2010*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved

that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 20:30.]





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