



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

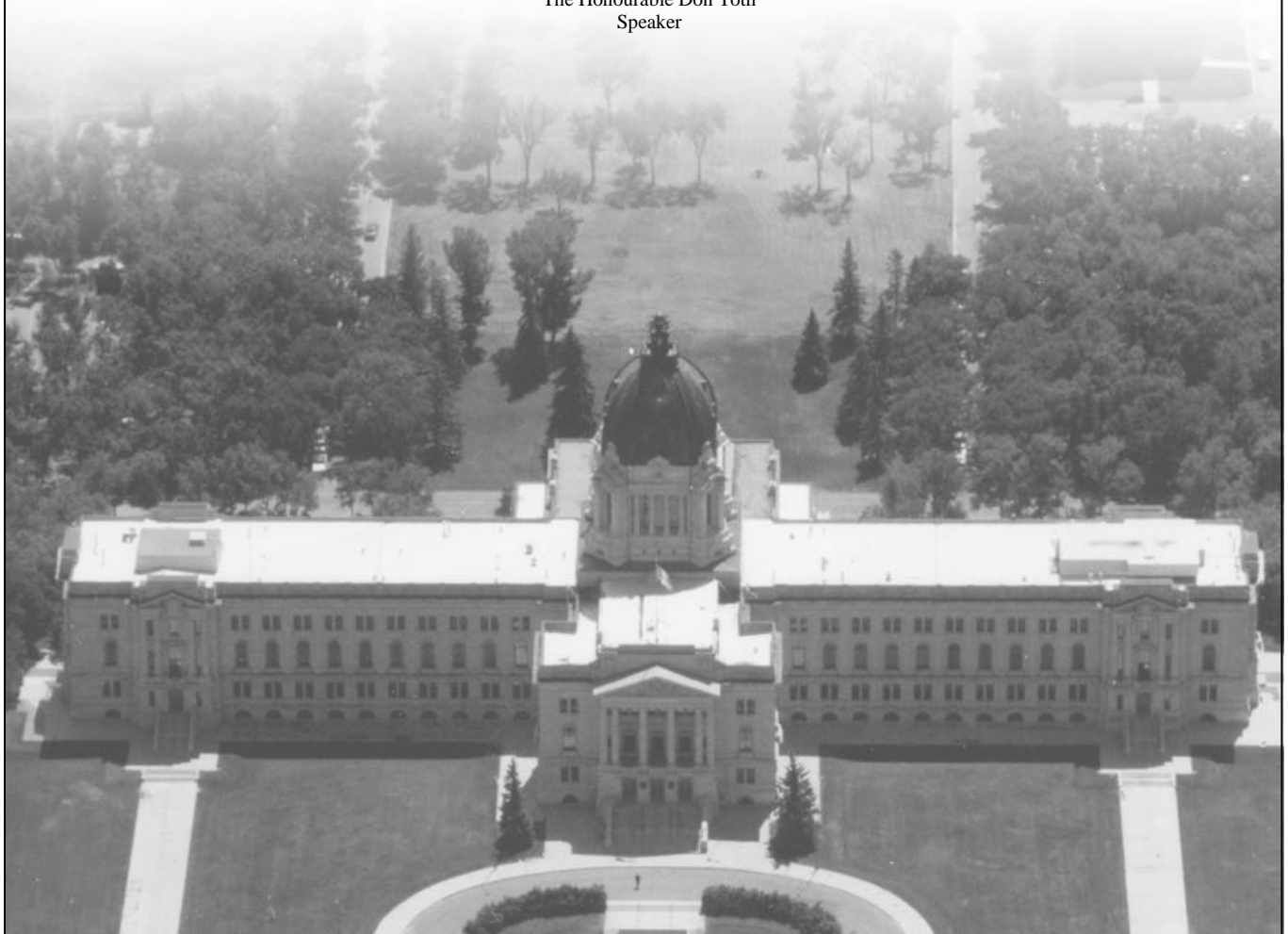
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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 met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if all members will join with me in welcoming a group of students, the newly elected executive of the student union from their University of Regina. Here with us today is the president-elect, Kent Peterson. Kent, if you'd just stand up and give a wave. With him, vice-president of operations and finance, Haanim Nur. As well, vice-president of student affairs, Melissa Blackhurst. Melissa. As well, vice-president-elect of external affairs, Paige Kezima.

This is the new group executive who will be looking after the affairs of the students at the University of Regina, and I know they'll do an excellent job. And in addition to the post that they hold, all four of these young leaders will also take positions as student union representatives at the University of Regina senate and that too is a big responsibility. And I welcome you here to your Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to join the Leader of the Official Opposition in welcoming these University of Regina student leaders. We're absolutely delighted that they're here joining us in the legislature today, and we welcome their leadership and participation in university affairs in the broader community within Saskatchewan. And so I just want to reiterate, I join with the Leader of the Official Opposition and ask all members to help welcome these student leaders to their legislature.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Leader of the Official Opposition and the minister in welcoming these students in my capacity as critic for Advanced Education. I know Kent, Haanim, Melissa, and Paige will do a great job representing the concerns of students at the University of Regina, and I certainly look forward to working with them in the months ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, seated in your gallery, it's my honour to join in welcoming students here and the many other guests that are here, but as well someone very special to me, Mr. Speaker. My beautiful and intelligent wife has joined me here today. Of course she's a grade 5-6 teacher at W. F. Ready. And the students aren't in school here today, nor are teachers; they have a day off here

today, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to have her join us here today. I ask all members of the Assembly to join with me in welcoming my wife, Stephanie Wotherspoon.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of Saskatchewan renters who are facing a combination of rising rents and low vacancy rates in many communities across the province. And, Mr. Speaker, the petition also recognizes that a majority of Canadians now live in provinces with rent control guidelines, including Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island and that the argument that the private market would deliver sufficient affordable housing in the absence of rent control has proven to be false.

And the prayer reads, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to consider enacting some form of rent control with a view to protecting Saskatchewan renters from unreasonable increases in rent.

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

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are on behalf of citizens in Saskatoon, Regina, and my community of Moose Jaw.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions in support of eliminating poverty in Saskatchewan. And we know that freedom from poverty is an enshrined human right by the United Nations and that all citizens are entitled to social and economic security. Saskatchewan's income gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow, and now one in five children in Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty. And we know citizens living in poverty have long identified affordable solutions. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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 on behalf of Northern Trappers Association Co-operative. The fur industry has so much potential for our northern trappers. It is a way to educate and empower our northern youth and to connect them with their culture. And the prayer reads as

follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to recognize that Northern Trappers Association maintains the traditional values of hunting, trapping, and also brings in millions of dollars to the provincial economy every year from the process of fur harvesting combined with the economic spinoff to the tourism sector and to the local economy; and in so doing, to cause this government to stop turning their back not only on northern trappers but all people who live and work in northern Saskatchewan; and in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately reinstate the funding to the Saskatchewan northern trappers association.

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

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

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition on behalf of my constituents who live in the community of Hampton Village.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that Hampton Village is a rapidly growing community in Saskatoon with many young families; that Hampton Village residents pay a significant amount of taxes, including education property taxes; that children in Hampton Village deserve to be able to attend school in their own community instead of travelling to neighbouring communities to attend schools that are typically already reaching capacity.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan cause the provincial government to devote the necessary resources for the construction of an elementary school in Hampton Village so that children in this rapidly growing neighbourhood in Saskatoon can attend school in their own community.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are from the constituency of Saskatoon Massey Place in the neighbourhood of Hampton Village. I so present.

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan concerned about the introduction of Bill 160, specifically that, if adopted, the legislation will make hearing human rights complaints less accessible to victims of human rights violations if the Bill was introduced without any public consultation and if the Bill has been sold on the basis of aims and goals not contained in the Bill itself. And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan withdraw Bill 160 from consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and hold extensive public consultations informed by a public policy paper before any amendments to the Human Rights Code, the law that supersedes all others in our province, are even considered.

Today the petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon and Aberdeen, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude specifically to the two consecutive deficit budgets, to the two years of debt growth under the Sask Party. And all of this happening at a time of unprecedented highs in revenues, Mr. Speaker, and coming at a consequence to Saskatchewan people now and into the future, this year alone adding \$400 million in debt to the books, the public debt of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and \$4.2 billion, Mr. Speaker, over the next four years, representing 55 per cent increase in total debt, 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.

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

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was March 21st. This day was proclaimed in commemoration of the tragic events in Sharpeville, South Africa in 1960.

This is a day that reminds us of the destructive nature of racism. Racism prevents individuals and groups from achieving their full potential. It is essential that we all work together to make our homes, communities, and province intolerant to racist attitudes. We must learn from the tragedies of the past, and together we can create a brighter tomorrow. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reminds us of our collective responsibility for promoting and protecting this

idea. Let us honour the memory of those who died in Sharpeville and other racist incidents by redoubling our efforts to eradicate all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

This weekend held Regina's Spring Free From Racism event. This was a mini-mosaic of clothes, food, music, and dance that raises local awareness of other races and cultures.

Provincially, nationally, and internationally, let us translate good intentions into legal standards and the will to uphold them. Above all, Mr. Speaker, we should cherish the rich diversity of humankind and respect the inherent dignity and equality of every human being. Thank you.

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

### Spring Free From Racism Event

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, Regina is a diverse city and the home to many different people from many different cultures and languages as is the province of Saskatchewan. We must however continue to learn to embrace our diversity and draw from the strengths that it offers. That was the meaning of the event held this weekend, Spring Free From Racism, which for the past 12 years marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination drawing from many thousands of people to enjoy food, entertainment, and cultural events at the Regina Italian Club.

Mr. Speaker, this event was formed in 1995 with the help of the cultural unit of the Regina city police services and several other community organizations to address the issues faced by immigrants and visible minorities at work and in the school system. And the committee continues to unite many individuals and community organizations committed to living our province's motto: from many peoples, strength. Through events such as the one held this past weekend, the Spring Free From Racism committee hopes to educate people about how harmful racism can be and to foster respect, dignity, quality, and justice.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the organizer, Barb Dedi, and all of the committee who came out to embrace and all the people who came out to embrace our cultures, enjoy the food, the laughter, the entertainment, and above all an attitude of inclusion and friendship. Let's all do our part, Mr. Speaker, to carrying that attitude beyond the boundaries of the one-day celebration so we can help build a society that is truly free from racism.

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

### Z99 Radiothon

**Ms. Schriemer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Awaiting the birth of a baby is a tremendous journey filled with many joyful moments. Unfortunately there are occasions that unexpected complications arise, and some babies are born needing special care. These situations are what make the 24th annual Z99 radiothon so important. The neonatal intensive care unit at the Regina General Hospital cares for these at-risk, fragile newborns who need the best equipment possible to help them get better.

When the NIC [neonatal intensive care] opened in 1976, approximately 50 infants were transported to the unit per year. Today the yearly admission rate is around 750, and on average 21 babies are in the unit each day. While some babies stay in the NICU [neonatal intensive care unit] for only a few hours for observation, others spend several months.

For over a decade the Z99 radiothon has been supporting this special unit. The proceeds from the 2011 Z99 radiothon will help purchase Giraffe OmniBeds, over-bed warmers, and other essential equipment such as blanket warmers and breast milk warmers.

I would ask all members of this Assembly to recognize all who participated in raising a whopping \$381,172 for the General Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. With continued support from our communities, Saskatchewan babies will receive the best care when they need it most. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, on Thursday and Friday, Z99 morning show hosts, CC, Lorie, and Buzz broadcast live from Regina's Cornwall Centre to raise funds for the new Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care. For 36 hours, hundreds of interviews, lots of laughs, tears, and love, CC, Laurie, and Buzz led the raging masses to achieve something bigger than any one of us. Together we raised funds for the Regina General Hospital's Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care. This year's donations will help purchase Giraffe OmniBeds, over-bed warmers, and essential equipment such as blanket warmers and breast milk warmers.

This year's 24th radiothon, Mr. Speaker, raised \$380,172. Over the years, this radiothon has raised more than \$3 million for the NICU. Regina and surrounding communities are truly amazing. Our collective generous giving goes to much-needed equipment for babies care at the Regina General neonatal intensive care unit. Please join me as we thank every person involved in the 24th annual Z99 radiothon. CC, Lorie, and Buzz, you continue to amaze us.

[13:45]

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

### Social Work Week

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the Assembly to announce that the government has designated March 20th to the 26th as Social Work Week in Saskatchewan. The theme of this year's commemoration is Social Workers for Dignity and Inclusion: Upholding Human Rights.

Social workers are professionals concerned with helping individuals, families, groups, and communities enhance their individual and collective well-being. They aim at helping those in the community develop their skills and the ability to use their own resources to resolve problems.

In the case of older adults living in our province, the compassion and expertise of social workers helps them to lead

fuller lives and enjoy more comfortable, independent retirements. In addition to tremendous dedication they provide Saskatchewan seniors, social workers provide an invaluable service to individuals requiring support and skills development within our school settings — community organizations, hospitals, the corrections system, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, social work is not a 9 to 5 job. Poverty, abuse, and injustices do not recognize weekend breaks. A family friend and leukemia survivor, 6-year-old Paige Hansen had this to say about her social worker: “Mommy, I always feel better after I talk to him, and he makes me laugh even when my story is sad. And mommy, that’s pretty good, huh?” Mr. Speaker, I agree.

I invite all members of the House to join me today in recognizing the efforts of these dedicated professionals as part of Social Work Week in Saskatchewan. The hard work and commitment of social workers makes our province a better place for all Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Prince Albert Team Wins AAA Championship

**Mr. Furber:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday the Prince Albert Mintos won a 3-2 hockey game over the Saskatoon Contacts to become the Saskatchewan Midget AAA champions. This will be their third midget AAA banner to hang from the rafters at the Art Hauser Centre in Prince Albert.

And, Mr. Speaker, as a former Minto, I am exceptionally proud of Prince Albert’s newest champions. Congratulations to Adam Fauchoux, Tad Korzan, and Jason Duret for scoring the three goals in the 3-2 victory. I also want to congratulate Tim Leonard — a former teammate of mine — the head coach who has, by the way, been the coach for all three of the midget AAA champions. To the team, the parents and volunteers and everyone who works with the team, congratulations on a job well done. The entire city of Prince Albert is proud and will be cheering you on as you move to the next level of competition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in wishing the best of luck to the Mintos as they head to the Western Regionals in Moose Jaw later this month and on to the Telus Cup National championship in St. John’s, Newfoundland later this month. Thanks so much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### The Good Old Days

**Mr. D’Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s been a while since we’ve seen general tax increases in the province of Saskatchewan. They happened in the dark past, but these increases are not forgotten. I would like to take a few seconds to review just who was responsible for the decades of tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition raised taxes in the 1970s, he raised taxes in the 1980s, and he raised taxes in the 1990s. The NDP [New Democratic Party] even brought in the new millennium with tax increases. Mr. Speaker, I don’t know

about you, but that sounds like a lot of tax increases. Mr. Speaker, there might be more NDP tax increases than there are old K-tel records.

But, Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a K-tel record that no one wanted, it would be the NDP’s pocketbook tax hits. Alas, Mr. Speaker, K-tel faded away. Hopefully the Leader of the Opposition will follow suit as well after the November 7th election, and so should his job-killing resource tax hikes which will harm each and every one of us.

So as the NDP taxman recollects his good old days of tax hikes, bell-bottoms, and lava lamps, he’s probably singing to himself, I was the taxman and you’re working for no one but me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### College Governance Issues

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Advanced Education is continuing to desperately scramble away from the mess he created at Carlton Trail Regional College and St. Peter’s College. But it begs the question: why did he sit on the Meyer Norris Penny report for over a month if the allegations within it are so significant that a CEO [chief executive officer] has been fired?

Last Monday when 40 community members came to the legislature, the minister said he had the report but was waiting to release it because “. . . that way we can make sure that local stakeholders are positioned and prepared . . .” To the minister: why did he waste time ensuring his people on the ground were positioned and prepared instead of doing the right thing as soon as he got the report?

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, thanks very much for an opportunity to bring the people across the province up to date on this. Mr. Speaker, as this report was brought to our attention, Mr. Speaker, we actually took it to Justice. And that was part of an ongoing conversation. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, we not only came forward with the report today, Mr. Speaker, but we’ve said that there was a second part, a follow-up, Mr. Speaker, so that we could ensure that, as Justice requested, we could gather more information on this, Mr. Speaker.

This is about making sure that we were serving the interests of students and taxpayers, Mr. Speaker, and, Mr. Speaker, so that we can continue to move forward on our aggressive agenda regarding advanced education. More than \$2 billion invested in post-secondary education for the students of this province, Mr. Speaker — we know there’s more to do but it’s a solid track record.

**The Speaker:** — Order. I’d just like to remind our guests that they’re not to participate in any form in the debate. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister has been involved in this entire process from the very beginning. It's simply not believable that he only found out about problems when the Meyers Norris Penny report landed on his desk recently, over a month ago.

To the minister: when was he first made aware of potential ethical and governance concerns related to this merger, and what did he do when he received that information?

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, upon receiving, upon receiving, Mr. Speaker, the report, what we were able to do, Mr. Speaker, is be in contact with Justice. We made sure that we wanted to . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, to the origins of this, Mr. Speaker, what I would like to do is quote from the actual proposal itself. This was submitted in June 2010. Mr. Speaker, to the origins:

In 2007, between April and October [that is before the last election, Mr. Speaker], under the guidance of SPC [that is St. Peter's College] and the Carlton Trail Regional College board, senior management teams meet approximately 20 times with respect to pursuing partnership/merger discussions and planning.

Mr. Speaker, the question to the member opposite: when did he know, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister has very selective hearing this morning, Mr. Speaker. The question was, when was he made aware of concerns for the very first time? And, Mr. Speaker, his story is not adding up.

I have here an email dated May 14th, 2010. It was sent by concerned staff at Carlton Trail Regional College to the board. It outlined serious concerns and states, "There are several ethical questions that are prominent."

Two days later, on May 16th, two of the board members replied to that email and they copied their responses to the minister. The minister received the whole chain of emails, including serious ethical questions being raised by staff members at Carlton Trail, as well as the completely inappropriate manner in which some of the board members chose to handle those concerns.

To the minister: when he received those emails back in May, why did he choose to ignore them and do nothing?

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

Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, thanks very much. Mr. Speaker, as we know, there was a two-phase process here. What we saw was the institutions actually coming forward, putting together their proposal, Mr. Speaker, and then what we promised and what we've undertaken is to actually then do our due diligence.

Mr. Speaker, to the member opposite, the question relates to, that relates to, Mr. Speaker, directly, in June, this is a quote from the proposal, Mr. Speaker. And I quote:

Meeting with Cam Broten for approximately two hours. After addressing and answering his questions, Cam appeared to be somewhat comforted that his original claims were unsubstantiated and commented that in general he supports the concept of the merger.

Close the quote, Mr. Premier. This is June, Mr. Premier.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the individual who wrote that report is a convicted fraud artist hired by that minister, Mr. Speaker. That individual has charges pressed. And I will take my words, what I say in this Assembly, over what someone writes in a report, never shares with me, and claims that I said something. A minister ought to have more integrity than that.

Mr. Speaker, one of the emails that was copied to the minister last May, a board member with strong connections to the Sask Party wrote, "It is very unusual to have a letter such as this come to the board." And she then chastised the staff member for bringing forward serious ethical concerns.

Another email from a board member that was copied to the minister last May said:

When will the staff start concentrating on doing their job and let us do ours? Do they not realize that they don't have a say? They are employees. They need to do the best job in their position and stop whining.

So the minister received an email a long time ago outlining concerns. To the minister: why did he do absolutely nothing when concerns were raised? Why did he ignore emails? Why is he passing the buck?

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think what we've seen, Mr. Speaker, and this is within the report, Mr. Speaker, is that there were — and this is very troubling, Mr. Speaker — there were efforts to silence people, Mr. Speaker. This is . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I'd ask the members to allow the minister to respond to the question. The Minister of

Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we know, across that community there was a broad-ranging debate and dialogue. Mr. Speaker, it's one of the reasons that we went with an independent third party. But, Mr. Speaker, there were a number of people commenting. Again we can only go according to the report, and obviously that's going to be, that's going to be a standard that we're all going to be have to be held to, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Minister Responsible for Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly there are a number of questions, Mr. Speaker. Those are some of the very questions that we're responding to, and have been for the last number of days.

Mr. Speaker, let me quote from the proposal, Mr. Speaker:

Talked briefly with Dwain Lingenfelter regarding the merger. After answering a few of his questions, Dwain indicated that he would like to visit the college this summer and in general he supported the concept of the merger.

I close quote, Mr. Speaker. What can I say? We're doing our best to make sense of this. Obviously there have been a number of meetings, Mr. Speaker, and that applies to members on both sides of the aisle.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, does the minister realize how ridiculous his argument is? The person he is quoting from, they fired because he's a liar. The person he's quoting from, they fired because there's now serious accusations, backed up accusations that he was stealing. And now he's using him as the justification for what he did. Give me a break.

Mr. Speaker, last May the director of finance for Carlton Trail Regional College, Andy Burgess, submitted a six-page memo to the board outlining significant financial accounting irregularities. I've received emails showing that two of the board members wanted the director of finance to come to the next meeting to explain the problems. But that was shot down by other board members, especially Islay Ehlert, Sask Party candidate for the nomination in Melfort, and one of the minister's appointees to the Carlton Trail board. She responded saying, "This is totally insubordination. There is no need for Andy to attend and as a board member I refuse to meet and allow him to continue to disrespect our organization and its structure."

To the minister: Islay Ehlert is the one who informed him of the concerns raised in the other staff's earlier email. Why should we believe that Ehlert was not also telling the minister about all the problems at St. Peter's?

[14:00]

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity for us to obviously continue to research into this. We've said this over the course of the last three days, four days, Mr. Speaker, as these additional pieces of information come up.

The question for the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, from Massey Place: did he have a two-hour meeting, Mr. Speaker, with the individuals that were putting together this proposal, Mr. Speaker? That's a pertinent question.

As far as the accuracy, Mr. Speaker, I will leave it to others, Mr. Speaker. As we have said all the way along, Mr. Speaker, let's make sure we all understand not just what's been contained in the proposal but what's been contained in the number of submissions that have gone public over the course of the last number of days.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister seems to miss that he is the individual responsible for this merger. He is the one that's been backing it from the very beginning.

This question, Mr. Speaker, if I met with Mr. Kobussen: he approached me after U of S [University of Saskatchewan] convocation one day. We had coffee for about 45 minutes at Caffe Sola. I'm a polite person. I will meet with people for coffee. That report does not reflect my remarks that I made to him.

What is also not accurate, Mr. Speaker, here, is the minister's record on this entire file. We know that he gave direction to this merger. He wanted it to happen. He approved the joint CEO; he approved the transition board. He has been involved every step of the way.

When serious concerns were sent to him last May, he did nothing. When he was copied on emails from concerned staff people when they were told that they were just whiners by the board, he did nothing. When a report landed on his desk outlining serious concerns, he did nothing. He sat on it, Mr. Speaker.

What the minister fails to understand, Mr. Speaker, that he is responsible for this mess. When will the so-called minister stand up, stop blaming everyone, including the critic — he's the minister; he makes the decisions, for crying out loud — stand up, quit blaming others, and take responsibility for this entire mess? It's yours.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, I think this morning we made it very clear. We have accepted responsibility. In fact, what we're doing, Mr. Speaker, is actually going through and ensuring that within the ministry, I have a far greater



understanding, Mr. Speaker, of our capacities and where we need to go as far as, as well as looking at our institutions. That's our obligation; that's my responsibility, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what we can look at, Mr. Speaker, is the discussions. Twenty times a meeting occurred between April and October 2007, Mr. Speaker. The origins of this, Mr. Speaker, predate this government, Mr. Speaker. Are we interested in finding ways . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I find it interesting that some of the opposition members would find it that they wouldn't really want to hear the answer. And I'll ask the opposition members to allow the minister to respond. I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Are we looking at ways, across the province, to ensure that there's increased opportunities for students, as referenced on page 8 of the Meyers Norris Penny report? Yes, we are.

Mr. Speaker, on page 10, is there more opportunities for us to look at academic laddering, Mr. Speaker, to take those students that have programs within SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology], stream the elements and programs, Mr. Speaker, to actually see if they can be then channelled into university, if and as they're interested, Mr. Speaker? Yes, they are.

Mr. Speaker, we came forward with this document. We made the right decision, Mr. Speaker. The decision was no, not to go forward with this merger.

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

### Investments in Health Care

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, on August 14th, four babies at Royal University Hospital had insulin added to their IV [intravenous] instead of blood thinner. A report commissioned in 2007 identified overcrowding and understaffing as a problem at the RUH [Royal University Hospital] pharmacy. The minister would have known about these problems long before the August 14th incident.

To the minister: what is he doing today to ensure that more babies' lives are not put in danger? Is he finally going to act on information he has too long ignored?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government is very concerned for the families involved, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that the health region is moving towards rectifying that situation and, Mr. Speaker, we have faith in the health region to react appropriately and take any measures that are necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party is spending money getting private surgery centres to do day surgeries, and they gave a 40 per cent wage increase to the CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region. Meanwhile, they ignore a report calling for more staffing and resources at the RUH pharmacy. The minister found the money to invest in the private health system, and to give a 40 per cent wage increase to the Saskatoon Health CEO. Is he now going to find the money to provide the proper staff and resources to the RUH pharmacy, or is he going to continue to risk the lives of young children?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, our government is very concerned for the families affected by this issue. Mr. Speaker, we have every faith in the health region to take appropriate measures. Mr. Speaker, our government has made health care a priority.

Mr. Speaker, health regions are funded appropriately. We've taken all kinds of measures that the members opposite wouldn't in health care, Mr. Speaker, to build capacity. A perfect example of that, Mr. Speaker, is in physician recruitment, which is a major issue right across the country right now. Mr. Speaker, we've increased training spaces for doctors; we've increased training spaces for residents, Mr. Speaker — something those members opposite would never do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a problem of three years standing and I don't know how the minister can refer back to what we did not do on a problem that this ministry has known about for three years and done nothing.

Mr. Speaker, in last year's budget, health regions asked for an increase of 7 per cent funding, and the minister gave them half that and told them to find efficiencies. We heard it's going to be another tough year in the health region funding this year.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has record revenues coming in. The third quarter financials show they have an extra \$1 billion, yet children's lives are being put in danger because of the government's failure to properly fund the health region.

To the minister: is he going to commit today to properly fund the health regions so more children don't receive insulin instead of blood thinner?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've mentioned on the previous questions, our government's very concerned about that situation and we have faith that the health region will take the appropriate measures to rectify it. Mr. Speaker, health regions in this province are funded appropriately, unlike when the members opposite were in government, Mr. Speaker.

I have a copy of a news release put out by the member from Saskatoon Eastview when she was the associate Health minister, Mr. Speaker, when she thought it was good news that 25 health districts were expected to run deficits. Mr. Speaker, not under this government.

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, last year the minister told the health regions to find efficiencies. Now we know what those efficiencies are, Mr. Speaker, and what the consequences of them are. Mr. Speaker, can the minister today assure us that the health regions won't be asked to find efficiencies instead of receiving the staffing and funding to make the RUH pharmacy and other such danger spots safe for children, Mr. Speaker?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, this government has been funding health regions appropriately. We'll continue to do so. As far as specifics, Mr. Speaker, just a couple more days and the member opposite will be able to listen to the budget and get more specifics. Mr. Speaker, health care is a huge priority to this government and it will continue to be so.

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

#### **Administration of Health Region and Long-Term Care Issues**

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, there are many people here today from the Sun Country Health Region that are very frustrated with the Health minister's failure to listen to them. The Sun Country board's mismanagement of the region and the minister's inaction to correct the problems has led the people of Sun Country to lose faith in the board and in the minister.

Mr. Speaker, the minister appoints the board and the minister can get rid of the board. The people of Sun Country deserve a competent board, not just political appointees. To the minister: when is he going to do his job and fire the board and appoint a new board that will clean up the mess in the Sun Country Health Region?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health and this government have faith that health regions around the province will continue to do good work. Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that there's been issues in Sun Country with long-term care facilities. Mr. Speaker, long-term care is a huge priority of this government. I think we've shown that very clearly with 13 new long-term care facilities moving around the province, which those members opposite would never move forward. And, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the next question to continue the debate on long-term care in this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — We had this comment about health or highways. Now we're seeing the Highways answers.

Mr. Speaker, a quick look at the health careers website shows another interesting pattern in the Sun Country Health Region. Mr. Speaker, they have 27 support service position vacancies, 58 nursing vacancies, 11 physician vacancies, and 48 other health position vacancies compared to only one management position vacancy. The number of position vacancies in Sun Country that they have is significantly higher than any other health region.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: there's money allotted in the budget to all of these 145 vacancies. Where's that money and what's it being used for?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite refers to physician vacancies. Part of the problem with physician vacancies in this province is that for many years under the NDP, nothing was done, Mr. Speaker. There was no training space increase. This government, Mr. Speaker, we've increased training spaces for physicians from 60 to 100, for residents from 60 to 120.

Looking at long-term care issues, we understand that there is short-term pressures, Mr. Speaker, for international medical grads, Mr. Speaker. Under the members opposite, they would only recognize grads from six countries. Mr. Speaker, we're opening it for qualified physicians right around the world. Mr. Speaker, we recognize there are short-term pressures, but we believe that we're taking the right measures to rectify this over the long term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, there was no answer to my question in that. I don't know what the minister was going on about, but I think if we're going to talk about doctor vacancies, he should speak to the people in Wakaw and in Spiritwood and in Big River and in Leader, and talk about how successful that their campaign is doing for those communities — zero.

Mr. Speaker, the Sun Country board has fired their CEO and are paying him \$187,000 in severance while he leaves the region in chaos. And the minister's fine with that. Sun Country's running a \$25 million deficit in their own '09-10 financials, and when asked where the severance money was coming from, the board chairperson said, and I quote: "Our finance people will find the money."

Mr. Speaker, despite town hall meetings, calls, and letters from residents at the area, both the minister and the member from Cannington have sat back and allowed five long-term care beds to close in Wawota, all to save \$110,000. They've done nothing to keep those beds open.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: since the region has \$187,000 to

pay in severance, is the minister going to demand that they find the \$110,000 to keep the beds open so seniors can stay in their communities?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those long-term care beds are obviously a concern to our government. The minister has met with stakeholder groups from Wawota to discuss this matter. The decision how to deal with those, however, is the health region's.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, long-term care is a huge priority to this government, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned the 13 long-term care facilities that are moving ahead. Mr. Speaker, not only that, but recently the minister has announced, at the request of communities all over this province, that the long-term care formula changed from 65/35 to 80/20, Mr. Speaker — 80 per cent paid for on this side.

Mr. Speaker, that was something that was asked for for years under those members — that was their formula — and they just never got around to it, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, long-term care is a priority for this government and will continue to be so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure all the communities that are on that list of 13 would rather have the deal that Amicus got, where 100 per cent is given by the government. And, Mr. Speaker, there is a pattern of mismanagement and political incompetence emerging in the Sask Party government. There is a pattern of rewarding political friends at the public's expense. Evidence of this is clear today with what is going on in the Carlton Trail community college merger and the happenings in Sun Country Health Region.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will he admit that he has a huge problem in governance and fire the board?

[14:15]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, the minister has met with people from Wawota on several occasions, Mr. Speaker. It's a concern to us. Ultimately that becomes a health region decision, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite talks about long-term care in the province. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that she'd raise that because I have a copy of an article, a letter to the editor from my own community of Rosetown, which has a long-term care project moving forward. It's a letter from the member opposite that says, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, "As you are no doubt aware, your area includes one of the Saskatchewan communities . . ."

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Order. I ask the member from Regina Rosemont to allow the minister to respond. I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it goes on to say, ". . . includes one of the 13 Saskatchewan communities to have its new long-term care facility or hospital cancelled in the Wall government's 2010 budget."

Mr. Speaker, that's from the member opposite to letters to the editor to small town papers all across the province, Mr. Speaker, which wasn't true. Will that member send a letter of apology now to those communities and rectify that situation?

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### **Bill No. 620 — *The Government and Member of the Legislative Assembly Accountability and Transparency Act***

**An Hon. Member:** — Withdraw.

**The Speaker:** — Withdrawn.

### **Bill No. 621 — *The Member of the Legislative Assembly Ethics Act***

**An Hon. Member:** — Withdraw.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — To ask leave to move a motion under rule 59.

**The Speaker:** — I'll ask for leave in a moment. I have a couple of comments I'd like to address before we move to . . . before orders of the day. And then I'll place the question.

## STATEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

### **Passing of Ernest Boychuk**

**The Speaker:** — First of all, members, I wish to advise the Assembly of the passing of a former officer of this Assembly. Mr. Ernest Boychuk, who passed away on March 11, 2011, was the first ombudsman for the province of Saskatchewan from 1973 until 1976.

Mr. Boychuk was born on March 29th, 1934, and raised in Saskatoon. He attended Westmount School, Bedford Road Collegiate, and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts and Law degrees.

Mr. Boychuk worked in law firms in Saskatoon until he was named city prosecutor in 1963. He was appointed assistant city solicitor in 1965 and was made a judge of the Magistrate's Court in 1967. In 1973 Mr. Boychuk was appointed Saskatchewan's first Ombudsman. On March 12th, 1973, this Assembly adopted the motion to recommend Mr. Boychuk be appointed Ombudsman for this province. He established the first Ombudsman's office.

Upon resignation as the Ombudsman, Mr. Boychuk became the first chief judge of Magistrate's Court of Saskatchewan, and he had chaired the Wage and Price Commission, as well as the

Public Utilities Review Commission until he retired. After retirement, Mr. Boychuk worked as a part-time judge of the Provincial Court.

Mr. Boychuk is survived and sadly missed by his sister Lillian Weloski and his five children Chris, Daryl, Phil, Terry, and Marianne and three grandchildren.

### Ruling on a Point of Order

**The Speaker:** — And also before orders of the day: on Thursday, March 17th, 2001 the Government Whip raised a point of order about comments made by the member from Regina Coronation Park during the 75-minute private members' day debate. The Government Whip claims that the member from Regina Coronation Park accused government members of purposely including a lie in a motion.

After making an initial response to the point of order, I did commit to carefully review the record. I have done this, and I am now prepared to rule on this matter. The debate in question can be found on page 6776 of *Hansard*. The member from Regina Coronation Park stated, and I quote:

I'm wondering how it is that the Saskatchewan Party Government House Leader can present such a complete fabrication that cannot be substantiated as fact, but how is it that I can't call that a lie or a mistruth? How does that work? How is it that something can be fabricated by the Sask Party government, a complete fabrication, and yet I can't call it a mistruth or a lie?

Further, during the debate, the member from Regina Coronation Park indicates that the Government House Leader, and I quote, "tries to put falsehoods into our mouths and tries to misrepresent . . ."

On May the 10th, 2004, Speaker Kowalsky ruled that it is not a legitimate function for members in debate to question directly or indirectly the integrity or motives of members individually or collectively. Members will find many rulings to this effect over the years. Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules & Forms*, 6th Edition, at paragraph 487.2 states, and I quote, "Words may not be used hypothetically or conditionally, if they are plainly intended to convey a direct imputation."

In this vein, Speaker Osika ruled on May 12, 2000 that it is out of order to use the guise of a literary device to allege something about another member that otherwise would be unparliamentary.

Upon a careful review of the *Hansard*, I find that the member for Regina Coronation Park used the device of a hypothetical question to disguise an allegation that another member had tried to deliberately mislead the Assembly. While it is not unparliamentary to criticize statements made by members as being contrary to the facts, the integrity or motives of members, whether individually or collectively, should not be questioned directly or indirectly. For these reasons I find the comments made by the member from Regina Coronation Park out of order, and I would ask the member to withdraw the remarks.

I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the offensive remarks.

**The Speaker:** — I thank the member. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place and ask the member to give his reasons for asking for a motion.

### MOTION UNDER RULE 59

#### Audit of Colleges

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of a Meyers Norris Penny report only made public today on issues regarding the ongoing operations of Carlton Trail Regional College and St. Peter's College including governance, financial management, and leadership which merit further action and investigation, I move the following motion:

That this Assembly mandate the Provincial Auditor to immediately conduct a special investigation and forensic audit of the governance, financial management, and leadership of Carlton Trail Regional College and St. Peter's College for the period covering January 1st 2009 to the present, direct the government to provide the auditor sufficient resources and authority to complete the investigation and audit, and table a report with this Assembly no later than May 12th, 2011;

And further, to accomplish these goals, empower the Provincial Auditor to extend his investigation to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, the office of the minister, and to the minister himself, the member of the Legislative Assembly for Saskatoon Greystone.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member has asked for leave to move this motion. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has not been granted.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I'm having difficulty hearing which motion we're moving to.

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter into the debate today on Bill No. 149, *The Income Tax Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this particular Bill, a new section is being created in *The Income Tax Act, 2000* to provide for a five-year corporate income tax holiday for companies that engage in processing of minerals imported into Saskatchewan from elsewhere in Canada. In order for corporations to be eligible for this tax holiday, they must be in the business of mineral processing and must make a minimum capital investment of 125 million in Saskatchewan. In addition the corporation must employ a minimum of 75 employees in Saskatchewan and must allocate at least 90 per cent of its taxable income to Saskatchewan for income tax purposes. So that is the gist of Bill 149, *An Act to amend The Income Tax Act*. So we see this is about giving, this is about giving a tax holiday to corporations who will be in the business of mineral processing here.

The minister when he, the Minister of Finance when he spoke about this Bill, the minister says:

This legislation is a result of the work done by officials at Enterprise Saskatchewan who have been consulting widely with the business community in an effort to improve the province's business and investment climate.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting. There is some concern about this government's skill and ability in consultation. I have no doubt actually, the one thing this government has proven themselves good to be, they're good at consulting with people who are of like mind or share an affinity for some of the same ideas. But we've seen time and time again this government's inability to consult on a wide number of issues. Looking to last spring actually, we had *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, Mr. Speaker, where this government said that they had done consultation, but as it came out, they failed to consult with First Nations and Métis groups. They failed to consult with environmental and conservation organizations.

So with respect to Bill 149, they say they've done their consultation, but there's a huge list of things this government has done when they say they've consulted that they clearly haven't. I take for example Bill 160, which is actually before the legislature right now, which is all about the abolishment of the Human Rights Tribunal. This government is making a huge departure to abolish the Human Rights Tribunal, which could use better support but does good work. And they claim that they've consulted with all kinds of organizations. Well consultation, Mr. Speaker, doesn't mean you talk to an organization on a Friday and ask them to support your Bill, tell them what it is, and expect them to come support you on a Monday. Mr. Speaker, that is not what consultation is about.

I can talk about consultation with respect to a small program in my own constituency. The work registry program, Mr. Speaker, was cut last spring. The work registry program was a very small budget item, but it did lots of really good things for families in Saskatoon Riversdale, particularly in the community of King George. This was about a \$20,000 budget item that did lots of great work, and this government decided to cut it. The

community organization received a letter from Social Services saying it was going to be cut and there was no discussion or opportunity for consultation, Mr. Speaker.

The Bill we have before the legislature right now with respect to changes to . . . electoral changes with respect to needing specific ID [identification], this is again another example of this government's inability to consult with people other than those who have the same values and shared ideas.

For me, Mr. Speaker, actually consultation is one of the cornerstones of a democracy and good public policy. For me, when government, bureaucrats, and politicians need to be connected to people with whom they're making decisions for, if you're making a child care public policy, perhaps you need to talk to people who use child care services. Perhaps you need to talk to child care providers. You need to talk to educators. There's a whole host of people when government is embarking upon specific changes that government has . . . the onus is on the government to reach out.

Because the reality is there will always be people who will come to elected representatives to share their stories or share their experiences. But those people are in the minority, and their voices get heard because they seek us directly out. But it is the responsibility of elected representatives to go out — not to stakeholder groups, but individuals, organizations — to make sure that we know what is going to work and not work, what intended and unintended consequences so you can think about these things that might happen when you implement a piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. So consultation is absolutely critical when developing legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Again I know that the minister did say that he's consulted widely with the business community, but again just in light of this government's record on consultation, I have some questions about how far-reaching those are. But I have no doubt that this government is comfortable consulting with people for whom it has shared values.

So with respect to Bill 149, *The Income Tax Amendment Act*, this tax holiday, this five-year tax holiday is going to be administered by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Finance. And an eligible corporation will file its corporate income tax return and pay its tax liability to the Canada Revenue Agency and claim a rebate of the taxes paid from Saskatchewan Finance. So eligibility starts from the first year that the corporation has a tax liability and continues for the next four years.

[14:30]

I have some questions. The corporation needs to have made a minimum capital investment of 125 million, and the corporation must also employ a minimum of 75 employees in Saskatchewan and allocate 90 per cent of its taxable income to Saskatchewan for income tax purposes. So my question is, I understand that . . . My one concern, if the minister, according to the Bill:

- (a) if the minister is satisfied that the applicant is an eligible corporation and has complied with this section [that would be section 5(a) that the refund will be granted] . . . for the taxation year for which a refund is claimed and each of the next four taxation years equal to the amount of

the corporation's refund within the meaning of subsection (6) . . .

So, Mr. Speaker, once the minister is satisfied with this application, then it applies for the next four years. My question is, do they have to maintain that 75 employees in Saskatchewan? And is there any checks and balances to ensure that those 75 employees, that limit, that number, is in place? That would be one of my questions. You need to make sure that if you're implementing something in the first year and you're receiving benefit for the next four years, that you maintain the criteria that you are supposed to.

So in principle, as a social democrat, as a New Democrat I come from a political party that's always believed in fiscal stewardship, financial management in order to be able to do things for the people of Saskatchewan and ensure that we all have what we need to be successful, productive citizens. And we need to make sure we have a strong and healthy tax base and that we're supporting business to do what they need to do to help create work. So in principle, of course there are steps a government can take that are appropriate to encourage economic activity, but we don't want to give the farm away while we're doing so, Mr. Speaker.

We've heard currently, well over the last few months, we've been having a debate around the right structure for royalties and taxes for some of our strategic resources like potash. And this government is not . . . So this government wants to incent business but . . . and look after . . . There's no doubt that business and boards of governors will look after their own interests. But it's up to this government to look after the interests of the people of Saskatchewan and to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that we all have what we need and that we have a good strong tax base and that businesses are being supported.

So in principle it actually has been NDP governments that started implementing the changes to our corporate tax system to make things to improve the facility of business, of corporations to grow and develop here. But we want to make sure that we analyze any sort of tax incentive or tax break for these mining operations or these processing operations, how they're going to affect our provincial coffers. Will there be increased economic activity that will offset lost revenue from the tax breaks? We have to make sure we are giving that some thought, Mr. Speaker.

And ultimately this is about making sure that there's the right balance or the right mix of policy that supports growth and supports our economy flourishing. But you also have to ensure that you have the right tax base, because you can't continue to cut taxes to the point that there's nothing left to provide the public services that we've all grown to be very proud of here in Saskatchewan, like our health care for example, Mr. Speaker. So I do have some questions around the income tax . . . *An Act to amend The Income Tax Act* or Bill 149.

So in principle too, Mr. Speaker, our approach has, as a party when we've been in government, has been to encourage and support mining development. That's a good thing and that's a positive thing. And again that is why, that's why we have and want industry here and businesses. Ultimately it's not industry and booming economy for the sake of a booming economy.

This is about . . . What underlies this, Mr. Speaker, are the needs of citizens and the ability for citizens to lead full and healthy, happy lives and be full participants in our economy and in our society.

So government and creating these kinds of incentives, ultimately what is this about? This is about trying to make sure that there are jobs for people, that there is sort of that balance between making sure that what you're doing is creating jobs, but it also is ensuring that there is money in our provincial coffers, Mr. Speaker.

So I think that one thing that one of my colleagues raised that's in the actual Bill is that one of the . . . So this Bill 149 will ". . . provide a five-year corporate income tax holiday for companies that engage in processing of minerals imported into Saskatchewan from elsewhere in Canada." So one of the exceptions or the exemption actually, Mr. Speaker, is for iron ore. So I'm just wondering what that is about and, in particular, who does this particular Bill apply to?

But with that, Mr. Speaker, there are questions, and I know that some of my colleagues will also have questions on Bill 149. And with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved adjournment of 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 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 Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about Bill 150, a Bill regarding superannuation in the province of Saskatchewan. I understand that there are three main changes to this Bill that the government is asking us to accept.

Mr. Speaker, I think for two of the changes, I don't think that the opposition would have any difficulty with those changes. Because one of the changes is clarifying how spouse survivor benefits are to be calculated in a case where the retiree has been married on more than one occasion and where you may have both a current spouse and a former spouse laying claim to the survivor benefit. Mr. Speaker, obviously we want to have a better understanding of the potential impact of this particular provision, but on the face of it, it does seem to merit acceptance.

Mr. Speaker, the other provision of the legislation is basically

housekeeping, and it's in regards to making sure that *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Act* is in keeping with the *Income Tax Act* of Canada. And once again I don't think we have any difficulty with that because the provision would allow pensions to be garnisheed, except for maintenance orders and marital breakdown. So we don't have any difficulty with that particular provision.

The one provision that raises some concerns is this. Mr. Speaker, we know that when an individual or a company is paid \$50,000 or more, that information is publicly disclosed and it's disclosed in public accounts. We have Crown corporations that provide this information to the Crown Corporations Committee every year. Anybody, any company that receives \$50,000 or more in one year, that information is publicly disclosed in keeping with transparency and accountability.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is concerning is that this particular amendment to the legislation would no longer see, in the annual report when it comes to pensions, the names of people who retired and how much money they receive each year. Mr. Speaker, now the government will argue that this is all about privacy. I would argue that this is not about privacy; this is about transparency and accountability. Because it's important that anybody in the province of Saskatchewan or any business in the province of Saskatchewan that receives \$50,000 or more in a particular year, that that information is on the public record.

Now one of the things that concerns me greatly about this provision is that we'll no longer be able to know the following — and this was a problem when we were in government and this continues to be a problem — you have people who are receiving a pension, but they are also working in a Crown corporation or they're working in a government department. And we don't think that's appropriate. We hear regularly about people at SaskPower who have retired and they're now back working on contract at SaskPower. So not only are they receiving their pension, but they're also receiving a contract at a time, Mr. Speaker, when we have over 30,000 people in the province of Saskatchewan that are unemployed, and perhaps they might like the opportunity to work in a Crown or work in government.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have difficulty that we can see former employees being able to collect pension benefits while working for the government on a contract basis, and this is called, Mr. Speaker, double-dipping. Now this is not a money purchase pension plan. This is the old defined benefit plan, Mr. Speaker, where people in the defined benefit plan get their best five years times the number of years of service, and that is their pension.

Now we know that the government likes to contract out services. We certainly have noticed that and we certainly have noticed that there have been some untendered contracts going to supporters of this government. So, Mr. Speaker, we would say this: don't pretend that this is something new and innovative. Don't hide under *The Privacy Act*. This is about transparency and accountability which this government promised in the 2007 election, that they would be transparent and accountable.

I noticed in question period today that the ministers had great difficulty in being transparent and accountable. Transparent and accountable is: what did you know; when did you know it, and

answer the question, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, the government claims that this is an innocuous Bill. But we know a couple years ago that this government tried to bring in Bill 9 where they tried to raise the bar for non-disclosure of government spending from \$50,000 a year to \$350,000 a year, and the public put a stop to that.

This is the same government that we know fires people if they raise issues in the public interest. This is the same government that phones out to school boards and talks to school boards about certain teachers being NDP candidates and, you know, you might want to make sure that they may not have any profile, even though they might be a principal or a vice-principal of a school. This is the same government that sends the message to school boards, you know, if there's a teacher that's running for the NDP, you better make sure that that teacher doesn't have any profile in the community. Oh and you may not want to have that teacher as a principal of such and such a school. And, Mr. Speaker, we're getting these reports from around the province.

Now we don't live in a police state at the moment. We don't live in a place where people can't go about their business, where they can't run for public office, where they can't have jobs because they don't support this particular government, Mr. Speaker. But in the name of transparency and accountability, Mr. Speaker, I think it's time the Sask Party got off their high horse and left people who don't agree with them alone.

You know, we live in a democracy. People in Saskatchewan have the right not to support the government. But, Mr. Speaker, they had the right not to support the government, question the government, challenge the government, and not be punished in their workplaces or in their communities. And, Mr. Speaker, I saw the same kind of behaviour in the 1980s with another government — and it was called Grant Devine's government — where certain people who might get hired in a company and someone would make a phone call and say, you know, I'm not sure you should have that NDP member working in your company or working in this school board, Mr. Speaker. And we're starting to see some of that.

[14:45]

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a government that pretends to fix a problem by bringing in a new public interest disclosure Act that keeps any allegations of wrongdoing private. This is a government that continues a pattern of secrecy and a lack of accountability and transparency that's beginning to define this government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you can take an innocuous little amendment and say this is in the public interest. Well, Mr. Speaker, we believe that the amendment that's put forward by the Sask Party, where citizens who receive pensions would no longer have that information publicly available, is incorrect. Because we know that there are citizens that are receiving pensions from an employer, and guess what? They're back working for that employer on contract. And we think that's incorrect.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I can say with certainty that we don't have any difficulty with the spouse survivor benefit. We don't have any difficulty with the amendments around the federal

*Income Tax Act*. We do have some difficulty with the amendment that presently, presently the legislation requires that pensioners are identified in annual reports. That will no longer be the case, and we think that that could lead and would lead to more of what is called double-dipping.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would move adjournment of this particular debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 150. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Minister Responsible for the Environment that Bill No. 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — The Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to stand and speak on Bill 155, *An Act to amend The Natural Resources Act*.

Mr. Speaker, increasingly there's concern, not only in Saskatchewan but I'd venture to say worldwide, about environmental protection and how that relates to species, be it wildlife, be it fish and game, these sorts of things. And so it's always a timely thing to have an opportunity to visit an Act that does deal with these very issues.

We do have — and colleagues before me on the opposition side of the legislature have spoken — we do have some concerns around this Bill. That's not to say we don't welcome the opportunity to debate it and to talk about it, but we do have some concerns around this, Mr. Speaker. And some of the concerns relate to a change in the way some of the funds are used. And some of the questions relate to things like:

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund provides the money necessary to secure habitat to support a diversity of fish and wildlife species. To date the fund has acquired, through purchase or donation, approximately 212,000 acres of land for wildlife habitat purposes, with many acres under joint title with . . . anglers and outdoor enthusiasts, it is important to note that much of this land continues to be made available to local communities for haying and grazing.

Well, Mr. Speaker, 212,000 acres is a significant chunk of land. And I'm actually pleased to see that there is that significant amount of acres that are devoted to wildlife and habitat and that it has significant protections along with it.

Mr. Speaker, the Act that is before us does some things around a steering committee that we have some unease with, but I don't want to overstate that unease. We're just . . . I guess I'm best able to put it this way. Any time there is some change, there's bound to be some uneasiness. And we certainly hope that these changes are in fact to better represent the various groups that are involved in wildlife and habitat protection, and fish and game. If it's a sincere attempt to be inclusive rather than cutting someone out, then this legislation will be a good thing, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, there's a new clause that officially identifies the current steering committee for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund as the Fish and Wildlife Development Advisory Council, and it raises the profile of the steering committee in providing advice to the government, presumably through the ministry and the minister. And as long as the advisory council is of an appropriate makeup rather than a hand-picked, a hand-picked to get the results that the minister wants — if it's not for that, if it's to genuinely get a broad input from the groups that are appropriately involved in wildlife and habitat, and fish and game and that habitat — then it's a welcome piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. We are looking forward to this universe unfolding with Bill 155, the Act to amend *The Natural Resources Act*, but there again are some concerns.

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, there's amendments, Mr. Speaker, to this section, that broaden the scope of activities that are covered under the fund to include restoration of fish or game populations or habitat necessary for fish or game species. The amendments to this section also include the addition of two new subsections to allow the fund and the advisory council to contract services that are deemed necessary for the management



of the fund. But new I think, Mr. Speaker, these services could include contracting expertise from groups such as Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, or Ducks Unlimited Canada, for management of land within the fund.

I'm not certain if it's restricted to those three groups or if those are just simply three examples and there would be another organization that might be contracted in the same way with their expertise. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm a little bit worried if we skew from protection of our resources, not only for today but for the future, for our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I've said, the concerns have been broadly spoken to by members on our side of the House, and I do know that there are some other colleagues still anxious to make comment on Bill 155, *An Act to amend The Natural Resources Act*. But I thank you and I thank members for the opportunity for me to share some of the concerns I have with the Bill and some of the hopes I have for the Bill. It's not just concerns. It's some of the hopes that we have for this Bill. It's been my honour to address the Act to amend *The Natural Resources Act*. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Coronation Park has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 155, *The Natural Resources Amendment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 164

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert that **Bill No. 164 — *The Police Amendment Act, 2011*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill 164, *An Act to amend The Police Act of 1990*.

Mr. Speaker, we've been advised by the minister that the changes that are set out in this particular Bill are the result of about three years worth of consultation with police forces, and I assume also with the police boards and municipalities across the province. And, Mr. Speaker, the types of things that are completed here or are set out in this legislation primarily relate to the disciplinary procedures and making some changes that make the whole issue of discipline somewhat easier. It also arranges for the Ministry of Policing to step in and cover some of these costs, which have been the costs of municipalities. And I'm sure that that's a positive aspect for many of the municipalities, and the police associations for that matter, so that some of these things can be dealt with.

There's also protection and procedures for whistle-blowing by police officers when they have concerns about their chiefs of

police. And this sets out in quite a bit of detail how those kinds of issues can be dealt with, and it also provides protection for police officers who raise the issues.

A further positive part of this particular Bill relates to training for members of municipal police boards. And as we expand the roles of police boards and give them more complicated issues to deal with, I know that that training will be well received throughout the community.

A further change which has taken place here, and which is once again procedural, relates to the fact that there are two ministries that work with the police. One is the Ministry of Justice and one is the ministry responsible for policing. And because of that change, these particular amendments will alter the rules so that reports that are involved will be going to both ministries, and that's a logical change as well.

Now there's one curious change, and I want to speak to this one perhaps at some length. And that's what would be paragraph 4 or the fourth section, 4, of the legislation. And this proposed change in the Bill reads as follows:

#### **Section 23(1) is repealed and the following substituted:**

[New] “(1) Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a municipality having a population greater than the minimum size prescribed in the regulations may enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada to employ and pay for a sufficient number of members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to provide policing services within the municipality”.

[15:00]

And that's the end of the Bill. In the explanatory notes, it goes on to describe what the effect of this change will be. And basically what it says in the explanatory notes, provided by the legislative draftspeople, is that:

This amendment provides autonomy to more municipalities to choose how police services are delivered in their municipality. It will remove the maximum population limitation for municipalities wanting to enter into agreements with the RCMP to provide police services.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is quite generic, straightforward language, but I think we need to look a little bit about what's going on with policing in Saskatchewan to understand what this particular provision is dealing with.

In our legislation in or in our situation in Saskatchewan, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, on a contract with the province of Saskatchewan, provide the policing for most of the province on a geographical basis. And so therefore “F” Division provides, of the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], provides policing right across the province except for in the city of Saskatoon, city of Regina, city of Prince Albert, city of Moose Jaw, the RM [rural municipality] of Corman Park, and city of Estevan and the city of Weyburn. And then otherwise across the province, the services are provided by the RCMP. In

the city of Yorkton for example, the city itself has a contract with the RCMP to provide that policing.

Now the only explanation for this particular provision in this Bill is that one of the existing independent police forces wants to get involved with a contract with the RCMP to provide their policing. And we have no information in what we have here which municipality has requested this, whether this has been requested by the Department of Justice or the Ministry of Justice or by the Ministry of Policing.

Are there some problems in one of our municipalities with more than 20,000 people as it relates to their police forces that we haven't been told about that this relates to? And when we think about that, we're basically talking about Prince Albert or Moose Jaw or Saskatoon or Regina because those are the municipalities with more than 20,000 people which would be included in this particular change. So, Mr. Speaker, is there a problem in Prince Albert? Is there a problem in Moose Jaw? Is there a problem in Saskatoon? Is there a problem in Regina? We have no indication in this Bill where this particular request comes from.

Now we know that the RCMP are very capable of providing urban police forces. I think the largest urban police contract that the RCMP have relates to the city of Surrey where the population there is between 450,000 and 500,000 which is double the size of any city in Saskatchewan. So I don't think there's any question about the capacity of the RCMP to provide policing for our larger cities. But is there some other issue that we don't know about which hasn't been stated by the Ministry of Policing that is the reason for this particular change? Are there plans afoot to consolidate all the policing in the province under one policing contract with the RCMP? Is there something else that's going on? Mr. Speaker, there are a whole number of questions that underlie this particular provision, and at this stage we have no indication of what it might be.

Now a number of years ago there were some very clear difficulties around policing in Saskatoon which happens to be our largest municipality. Has this come out of some of those concerns whereby the city of Saskatoon, the mayor, and the police board have basically asked for another option which gives them a little more clout in their discussions with the police associations when they're doing bargaining. Does it come from the city of Regina? Does it come from Prince Albert? Does it come from Moose Jaw? Mr. Speaker, these questions are not answered here at all. And, I think, that when this type of provision is brought forward, it's incumbent upon the minister or the Premier to make it clear why this change is being made. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think we have an answer from anybody on what's the purpose of this particular change.

And, Mr. Speaker, we're curious, when the Bill was tabled in the legislature this spring, as to the specific purpose. All of the other items, as I said before, are housekeeping but this one seems to have some kind of a different status. And, I think, until we find more information about what's going on, I think that this whole Bill should be held by the minister until a proper explanation is provided.

Now we know because it was introduced this spring there's a good possibility that it'll go over to next spring before it's

approved by the legislature. And just on that point alone, unless there's better information provided to those of us on this side of the House, I don't think there's any reason for this Bill to proceed.

But as I said, Mr. Speaker, *The Police Act* governs those police forces which are regulated by the province of Saskatchewan and primarily those are the municipal police forces, as I've said, primarily Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, RM of Corman Park, Estevan, and Weyburn. And so if in fact the intention of this legislation is to take out Saskatoon or Regina or both of those ones from under *The Police Act* and put them under a contract with the RCMP, this is making a substantial change to how policing is handled in this province with very little explanation, with very little idea of what's being intended.

And so, Mr. Speaker, until better information is provided to the legislature, to the people of Saskatchewan about subsection (4) of Bill 164, I do not think that this matter should continue to be dealt with in this legislature. And it should be withdrawn by the minister. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I will adjourn the debate on this particular Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 164, *The Police Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 165

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 165** — *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Amendment Act, 2011* 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. I'm rising in debate on *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Amendment Act, 2011*. A number of the measures contained in this amendment seek to clarify and tighten up certain of the provisions around the conduct of guardianship and the reporting requirements involved therein, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's possible therefore to characterize a lot of the measures contained in this legislation as housekeeping in nature, and of course there will be consequential amendments to *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act* and *The Public Trustee Amendment Act, 2001* arising from this piece of legislation.

In surveying the explanatory notes, the legislation itself, and perusing the minister's first reading speech ... or second reading speech on this measure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a number of items come to the fore. First off, the fact that of course the Act sets up procedures for the appointment for a personal or property decision maker to assist in the day-to-day affairs or property management of adults who are incapable of or need assistance in managing their personal or financial affairs.

Again there's a range of severity or intensity as it regards the different kinds of decision makers. There's the personal or property co-decision maker that might be appointed for a person who requires help with decision making but does not need full guardianship services. Where an adult is unable to make his or her own decisions, that might necessitate the appointment of a personal or property guardian who can be appointed pursuant to the Act. And the other sort of form that is utilized, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is where an adult needs a guardian for a short period of time, a temporary personal or property guardian might be appointed for no longer than six months.

Now as these individuals conduct their affairs pursuant to the Act, there are a number of . . . Of course this is a fairly serious matter, Mr. Speaker, where an individual isn't capable of conducting their own affairs, so it is a fairly heavy responsibility, not just for the people that are assuming this responsibility, but also for the state as they regulate the performance of the duties prescribed under the guardianship Acts.

So in terms of that balance that they're trying to strike and the balance that this legislation tries to refine or uphold, again some of the measures in this Act can be characterized as a refinement or as housekeeping in nature, tightening up certain of the reporting requirements, tightening up some of the accounting requirements and clarifying some things that perhaps should have been initially anticipated when the legislation was brought in but have come forward since, which in its own sort of trajectory, Mr. Speaker, is very much the definition of . . . This is what the government should be doing, is responding to the situations as they arise.

And again in terms of the kind of powers that the individuals that have assumed guardianship, be it on a temporary basis or a permanent basis, the ability of an individual to make decisions as regards to their property or their funds or the conduct of their affairs, these are all fairly serious matters. So there should be some very distinct and particular measures brought to bear by the legislation and by the regulations to ensure that everything is on the up and up and that there's full accounting made of the decisions made and of the funds that are often involved in these decisions.

One of the amendments adds protection that will allow the court to recognize foreign guardianship orders. Again there have been . . . This helps to expedite some of the practices that have already been in place, and again helping to expedite the process but at the same time requiring that equality be assured in the foreign jurisdictions that are recognized under these guardianship orders and that the individuals involved in Saskatchewan are receiving the full protection of the law.

[15:15]

One of the interesting measures in the legislation, it also goes to the clarification of inventory and accounting provisions to make it clear when and what a property decision maker is required to provide. Again if the onus on the individuals discharging these duties isn't very clear and the requirement for information isn't very clear, that can impact the quality of the information coming forward and the timeliness of that information coming forward. And on the timeliness front, they're changing the filing

time for the providing of inventories from six months to three months and again trying to strike that balance between what is reasonable in terms of the time required in gathering this information, but at the same time making it timely enough to ensure that there's been a proper conducting of the affairs and how that can be reflected in the proper accounting and inventory provision.

Another change in the legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that on the face of it seems fairly reasonable, it concerns the forms by which annual accounting is made concerning the activity in a given guardianship file and the amounts that are involved. Again this has currently existed under the legislation, but decision makers haven't been required to use it according to the minister's second reading speech. Again this can lead to a problem with the quality and the quantity of information and whether or not that is adequate or not.

So in terms of the Public Guardian and Trustee office receiving and reviewing all the accountings and being able to ensure that the accounts are complete and accurate, it is important that you can have a standardized form by which these reports be made and that they are again timely in terms of when individuals are appointed as guardians and the kind of powers that that entrusts to an individual over individual files.

Right now when an individual should die, there's a lack of clarity as regards the question of final accounting. The Act moves to provide a new provision for a final accounting within six months of an adult's death or of the decision maker's discharge or removal. Again a fairly reasonable proposal, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and one that would seem to fall in line with an approach where you continuously work to refine legislation so that it meets up to the . . . serving that balance, that I referenced at the top, between the rights of the individual and the responsibility of the state as regards to the conduct of property guardians or guardians more fully put.

Under the amendments there's also a requirement that will allow the court to require a temporary property guardian to file a bond. Presently they're not required to file a bond. Again this has to do with making sure that there's that proper safeguarding of assets and individuals' rights that have been placed into guardianship. And on the face of it, that does not seem to be untoward.

There's another amendment concerning a fee schedule that may be established for the regulations. Currently the decision maker is allowed to charge fees only if the fees are set by the court. And I'm quoting here from the minister's second reading speech:

If an order for fees is not made, the decision maker cannot charge a fee. In practice, however, decision makers either fail to request a fee at the time the original application's made or do not know how much the appropriate amount is to request, or else they will indicate they will not charge a fee and later change their minds at the accounting stage. A fee schedule will provide decision makers with a guideline as to the fees that they may charge. It will also make it clear that if they want to charge more than the schedule permits, they will need a court order.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as regards the proper accounting of the affairs of an individual under guardianship, the proper discharge of those duties by the guardian or decision maker, this is fairly fundamental that you would have more clarity as regards what the appropriate fees are, and at the same time allowing for the court to respond in a particular way to a particular circumstance that may be encountered. So again, that would seem to be a fairly reasonable measure.

Another measure contained in the amendments that seems to make sense is when a decision maker is appointed by the court, there will also be provision for appointing an alternate decision maker. So again, in terms of making appropriate use of the court's time, making the process as user-friendly as possible, to have an alternate decision maker appointed in the time when all this is initially undertaken as opposed to going back to the courts should the decision maker be discharged or be unable to carry on the duties. And instead, having somebody that is ready to go as an alternate decision maker appointed again when the initial consideration is being made, seems to be an eminently reasonable proposition and would be an improvement to the current procedure.

Also clarified is the question of, how much can be paid for ongoing support to an individual's family? What kind of gifts can be made out of an adult's estate if that need arises? There are certain measures that are contained in the amendments that clarify those circumstances. And again, some things that perhaps have been implicit before, Mr. Speaker, draws them out to be more explicit and more narrowly defined and prescribed under the law.

And again, trying to withdraw the grey areas that in some circumstances, I'm sure you're aware, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and certainly we've seen cases come before the public's attention where . . . that the proper discharge of guardianship can result in some very unfortunate circumstances where individuals are making inappropriate use of funds or taking advantage of loopholes that perhaps were arguable under the law, and making them more narrowly prescribed and defined and therefore better guarding the affairs of those placed under guardianship.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the legislation seems to follow what is normally a fairly sensible approach to legislation in that when you bring in a law, and as experience accrues over time, you find out where the loopholes are. You find what the law of unintended consequences might be kicking up on your doorstep. So in terms of seeking to better refine the way that *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act* ensures that balance between a legal regime that is fairly straightforward and easy to access by individuals and fundamentally safeguarding the affairs of those placed under guardianship, this legislation on the face of it seems to be on that train.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the interest of allowing others to participate in this debate, and I'm sure other of my colleagues would be happy to rise to hold forth on this legislation, I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 165,

*The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Amendment Act, 2011.* Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's certainly my pleasure to rise and offer a few remarks on Bill 153, *An Act to amend The Provincial Court Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill repeals the civil division of the Provincial Court and appears to transfer significant responsibilities currently handled by Provincial Court judges to justices of the peace. In some limited cases, Mr. Speaker, there might be some merit to doing this. However there are some potentially serious implications for the quality of service being provided to people appearing in court and for their right to a fair hearing. And, Mr. Speaker, that's always a great concern that we have for the people of the province of Saskatchewan — that the court systems and the judicial systems are something that are accessible and are working efficiently for all peoples of the province, Mr. Speaker, and not just a select few.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of questions that arise from having read through the minister's comments on this Bill and the explanation that we've received from the Sask Party government so far. And those are for instance, what functions are being transferred out of the Provincial Court? What types of cases are going to be handled by the justices of the peace? What is the potential impact on the service that people receive when they go to court? How will their rights be impacted? Will those rights be impacted? And whose rights will be impacted? Who stands to benefit from this change? And, Mr. Speaker, ultimately, who requested these changes?

And, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately a lot of these questions that I've just stated are questions that we are stating as opposition members in the legislature on many of the Bills that are being brought forward by the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. There are always many more questions than we ever have answers to, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that we are asking questions about the various Bills that come before the legislature, asking questions about various issues that arise throughout the province, Mr. Speaker, and we're very hard pressed to get any answers. We certainly receive a lot of responses. There's no question that the responses are blustery, long, and empty for the most part, Mr. Speaker. But we don't receive any answers.

The Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, are looking for answers. And that's what the NDP opposition is doing in this

legislature, Mr. Speaker, is ensuring that the people of the province are getting the answers that they deserve for the questions that they have on what their government, the Sask Party government is doing, especially when there is no consultation on a lot of the things that the Sask Party government is proceeding with, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill also allows for greater public disclosure of the results of investigations into the conduct of judges by Judicial Council. Now on the face of it, greater public transparency is a good thing and could increase public confidence in our justice system. But, Mr. Speaker, what's interesting to note about the fact that it appears that this will have more public disclosure is that this is coming from, this Bill is being introduced by a government that goes out of its way to be less accountable to the public, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, today was a very good example when we look at the discussions that took place today in question period. And obviously one of the large issues that is in the mindset of Saskatchewan people right now is, what is exactly going on with the situation between the Carlton Trail College and St. Peter's of Muenster, Mr. Speaker? So when it comes to . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I'll remind the member from Regina Walsh Acres we're discussing Bill 153, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010*. Can she please return to it? I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So as I said with respect to Bill 153, it's interesting that this Bill is supposed to be offering more public disclosure with respect to the results of investigations into the conduct of judges by Judicial Council. It's interesting that we have a Sask Party government bringing this forward because public disclosure is something that they're not necessarily fond of, Mr. Speaker.

And as I said, we don't have to look any further than question period today. When asked about questions regarding Carlton Trail and St. Peter's at Muenster, we have absolute lack of disclosure, lack of accountability, and of course we have a minister who is now getting very irate about . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I would first of all ask the member to direct the remarks through the Chair and to return to Bill 153, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010*.

**Ms. Morin:** — So, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister for Social Services has so much to offer, then perhaps she can answer some of the questions that I had just posed to the Chamber. Perhaps she would like to be more open and accountable. Maybe she would like to offer more public disclosure on the questions we have on this Bill and so many other things we bring forward in the legislature, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I said, we're finding it very ironic that the government is looking for others to provide more disclosure and be more open and transparent, and yet the Sask Party government itself does not feel that they are held to the same standard, Mr. Speaker. It's absolutely atrocious. And for that minister, for the Minister of Social Services, to sit there and spew from her chair, Mr. Speaker, is absolutely ironic.

[15:30]

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

**Hon. Mr. McMillan:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — State your point of order.

**Hon. Mr. McMillan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite who's making a speech right now has twice indicated that a member is in her place here. I believe that the rules state that you may not comment on the presence or absence of a member, Mr. Speaker. I would ask her to be more careful in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Furber:** — To speak to the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Proceed.

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, the member is simply engaging with the conversation across the floor, the accusations that are coming at her from the government members. Certainly there's been no direct reference to the presence or absence. She's simply referring to people who are commenting and talking to her today, so I would expect that your ruling would reflect that, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I would remind the member to, on the point of order, to direct your remarks through the Chair and not to engage and talk about the other members not . . . [inaudible] . . . in conversation. I will point out that on Bill 153, that the Bill right now we're discussing is *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010*. I would ask the member to discuss that Bill that is before the legislature right now. I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to Bill 153, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is talking about providing greater public disclosure of the results of investigations into the conduct of judges by Judicial Council, Mr. Speaker. Now clearly any time there is going to be more transparency, accountability, and public disclosure to the people of the province of Saskatchewan, it's something that we obviously are greatly in favour of, Mr. Speaker. It's something that Saskatchewan people are looking for on all matters, Mr. Speaker.

So as I said, there is no question that that's something that we would be supporting as an NDP opposition, but clearly it's also something that Saskatchewan people and the NDP opposition are looking for from the Sask Party government on all matters that are related to the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And it's quite ironic, Mr. Speaker, quite ironic that we are seeing less and less open transparency and accountability and public disclosure from the Sask Party government. Instead we see more tirades, Mr. Speaker. We see more outrage, Mr. Speaker.

We see cancellation of a debate. There was a debate that was requested . . . well not a debate, sorry. There was an investigation that was requested in this legislature today to

provide more public disclosure, which is exactly what Bill 153 is looking for. Bill 153 is looking for more public disclosure. And so when that public disclosure was asked for today by the NDP opposition in this legislature during question period, what did the Sask Party government do? They said no. They said, we won't let the auditor look into that situation. They said the people of Saskatchewan aren't entitled to the information that they are entitled to with respect to another investigation that was done, or research that was done with respect to the Meyers Norris Penny report, Mr. Speaker.

So the Sask Party government said no, we're not going to let the auditor look into the situation with respect to Carlton Trail and St. Peter's of Muenster. We are not going to provide more transparency. We're not going to provide more public disclosure, which is what Bill 153 is asking for. And we are not going to be more accountable to the people of the province of Saskatchewan. That's what the Sask Party government is saying, Mr. Speaker.

So they expect others to be more accountable, like in Bill 153. They expect others to be more accountable through public disclosure and yet, as you can hear, Mr. Speaker, they want nothing to do with it when it comes to themselves, Mr. Speaker. They want nothing to do with it when it comes to reporting to the people of Saskatchewan about . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I've asked the member to direct her remarks through the Chair.

**Ms. Morin:** — So, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government is obviously telling the people of Saskatchewan, do as I say but not as I do, Mr. Speaker. That's what the Sask Party government is all about. It's do as I say but not as I do because the Sask Party government wants nothing to do with being open, transparent, and providing public disclosure, and yet they expect others to do so in Bill 153, Mr. Speaker. Quite ironic.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is also the same government that fires public servants who try to disclose information that's in the best public interest. Mr. Speaker, let's look back not too far with respect to a potential dangerous offender that was out on . . . How should I say it? He was at large without having the government provide that information for the public in terms of their knowledge, Mr. Speaker. So what happened when the NDP opposition brought forward the information that this individual was at large and potentially still a risk to the public, Mr. Speaker? Instead of the government, Sask Party government, taking responsibility for that, instead of them saying, we had made a mistake, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Point of order.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — State your point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — The member has repeatedly, despite admonishments from the Chair, repeatedly refused to speak to the Bill before the House. The member knew which Bill she was rising to speak to. I think all members would appreciate if she were to be speaking to that Bill, which the rules of the Assembly require.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, to respond to the point of order.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to make a number of points in regards to the Government House Leader's point of order. First of all, Mr. Speaker, there's a long-standing tradition in this Assembly that allows a great deal of latitude when speaking to a motion, Mr. Speaker. In fact such a ruling was brought down just one week ago by Mr. Speaker.

As well I'd like to point out that in his consideration, he was bringing up, bringing the Speaker into his point of order and into his debate, Mr. Speaker, which is highly inappropriate. Mr. Speaker, I think that the long Assembly or the long tradition of this Assembly is to allow members to speak with a great deal of latitude on Bills, Mr. Speaker, and that is all this member is doing.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — On the point of order, we have a tradition of giving some latitude on when we're speaking the Bill, but I'll remind the member that it has to be about the Bill. You can't be varying all over the ways not even close to the Bill. So again I'll remind the member to be addressing the issues and tying them to the Bill that we're speaking, which is Bill 153, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010*.

The Bill that is before is 153, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010*. I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, so with respect to Bill 153, which is *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*, as I said, the Bill is looking for greater public disclosure of the results of investigations into the conduct of judges by Judicial Council. Clearly this is something that the NDP opposition would support and that the people of Saskatchewan would support. But, Mr. Speaker, it's ironic that the Sask Party government is asking of others to do this very thing, which is be more open and accountable to the public of Saskatchewan, and is refusing to do that itself when it comes to its own practices, Mr. Speaker. So as I said, it's do as I say but not as I do.

So now, Mr. Speaker, this is the same government that fires public servants who try to disclose information which is in the best public interest. As I was saying, there was a prisoner at large, Mr. Speaker, and yet when that information came to light, instead of making sure that the public of Saskatchewan had that public disclosure on that situation, they decided instead to engage in a witch hunt as to, oh my goodness, who actually leaked that information and therefore was able to be brought to the public's knowledge through the NDP opposition. So instead of being more open and accountable to the public of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, instead of providing more public disclosure as Bill 153 is requesting of the judges and respective Judicial Council, Mr. Speaker, instead of doing that, they decided to engage in a witch hunt. They decided to find that employee that leaked that information despite the fact it was for the public's safety, Mr. Speaker. It actually had to do with the safety of the public because this was a dangerous criminal, Mr. Speaker.

But that's how the Sask Party operates. They like to do as I say but not as I do, Mr. Speaker. So it's very interesting that in Bill 153 we're seeing a request for more public disclosure when the Sask Party government is quite the opposite when it comes to their own practices, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is also the same government that's proposing new public interest disclosure post that would ensure allegations of wrongdoing essentially never see the light of day, Mr. Speaker. So again we have an ironic situation with Bill 153 expecting others to provide more public disclosure, and yet it's quite the opposite of the practices of the Sask Party government and quite the opposite of the practices of what obviously the members want to offer the public of Saskatchewan. Because otherwise, Mr. Speaker, you wouldn't see the outrage that we're seeing in the Chamber today with us talking about the fact that they're asking more public disclosure of others and yet not willing to provide that themselves to the people Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, with respect to Bill 153, we can all . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Proceed with your point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, Bill 153 is before the House. Simply repeating the number and title of the Bill is not speaking to the Bill, Mr. Speaker, which the member opposite clearly is not. The rules of the Assembly require there to be at least some pretence of speaking to the substance of what's actually in the legislation, which is not occurring.

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

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Proceed.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, the repeated attempts by the Deputy Government House Leader to intimidate the member from speaking what she believes is the appropriate, the appropriate discussion on this Bill in the House is inappropriate, Mr. Speaker. There has been a long history of allowing broad latitude. Mr. Speaker, this attempt every few minutes by the Deputy Government House Leader to intimidate a member in this Assembly is inappropriate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Again I will reiterate on my past ruling, and I will bring the member . . . Or if I have to, I will get a copy of the second reading speech, and I will go through it. But I will ask the member — she has the Bill in front of her — to speak to Bill 153, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010*.

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So with respect to Bill 153, the Act to amend *The Provincial Court Act*, Mr. Speaker, one of the provisions in this Bill, Mr. Speaker, as I've been speaking about, is respecting public disclosure and that there is a desire in this Bill to have more public disclosure of the results

of investigations into the conduct of judges by Judicial Council, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, this is something that we certainly would support. It's obvious that transparency and accountability is something that the NDP opposition feels very strongly about, as do the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, we get chuckles and giggles and outrage from the Sask Party government sitting opposite in the Chamber, Mr. Speaker. So obviously there is a difference of opinion between the members that sit on that side of the House and the members that sit on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. And obviously, Mr. Speaker, there is a difference of opinion of the members that sit on that side of the House and the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, because oddly enough, the people of Saskatchewan have many questions about this Bill and many other Bills that aren't being answered. They have many questions about many issues in Saskatchewan today, like for instance maybe even getting an answer to one of the questions that was asked in question period today about Carlton Trail and the St. Peter's College in Muenster.

So with respect to Bill 153, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that we are looking for public disclosure from others, and yet the Sask Party government feels no sense of accountability whatsoever. Not even so much as when the NDP opposition asks for an investigation by the auditor into the situation with respect to St. Peter's and Carlton Trail, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government shuts down the motion, Mr. Speaker. So with respect . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I will ask the member to return to the Bill that's being spoken and not about events that happened in question period.

[15:45]

**Ms. Morin:** — So, Mr. Speaker, with respect to Bill 153, it's interesting that they're looking at wanting more public disclosure from the judicial system, judiciary system, Mr. Speaker. But it's also the same government that comes up with new and innovative ways of spending taxpayers' money without having to account for, for instance, a \$27 million loan guarantee to their friends at Amicus, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, again we have no accountability. And Bill 153 is requesting accountability from the judiciary, but again we see no accountability and transparency from our own government that's expecting it, through Bill 153, of the judiciary through this Bill, Mr. Speaker. So it's very interesting that we're saying, they expect something from others but they don't hold themselves to the same standard. The Sask Party government feels that they are not responsible to be open and accountable and transparent to the people of Saskatchewan and provide the public disclosure that they are asking for in Bill 153 with respect to the judges and the Judicial Council, Mr. Speaker. So it's very interesting that we are seeing this ironic situation, Mr. Speaker.

Now another situation, example, Mr. Speaker, is changing provisions to the superannuation Act to hide pension benefits paid to former employees or, for instance, their attempt in Bill 9 to spend \$350,000 without public disclosure. Now, Mr. Speaker, we can see countless examples where they're asking

for public disclosure in Bill 153 of the judiciary whereas when they speak about themselves or their own situations, they want to ensure that there's no public disclosure.

And I'm sure many people have forgotten about Bill 9, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure people, many people have forgotten about the fact that under the NDP administration that was in power for 16 years — which is something that they love to tout, Mr. Speaker; they love to talk about how the NDP was in power for 16 years — in those 16 years, Mr. Speaker, up until 2007, having a discretionary fund of spending of \$50,000 was enough under the NDP administration. Well what did the Sask Party government want to do when it first got elected? It wanted to introduce Bill 9, which allowed discretionary fund spending of \$350,000.

So in Bill 153, we see that they're looking for public disclosure of others and yet wanting to hide public disclosure to the tune of seven times the amount of the previous administration that was in power for 16 years and had no problem operating with that amount of discretionary funds, Mr. Speaker. And what's interesting about that is that the discretionary funds still have to be reported, Mr. Speaker. They still have to be reported, but they don't have to be reported for a certain period of time.

Well the problem is that if it takes too long for that reporting period to take place, Mr. Speaker, then it becomes very clouded. And so they were more than willing, the Sask Party government was more than willing to take a fund or amount of funds to the tune of seven times of the original amount, Mr. Speaker, and have that not reported to the public for a significant period of time. So with respect to Bill 153, we're seeing a desire for more public disclosure, and yet on the other hand, the Sask Party government is always looking for ways to provide less public disclosure, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting. Why is the Sask Party government holding judges to a standard that it won't even apply to itself, Mr. Speaker? Why is that? In Bill 153 they want judges to provide more public disclosure, and yet I've provided countless examples — and, Lord knows, I can provide many, many more but I think I'm losing my voice — that would provide examples of the lack of transparency, the lack of accountability, and the lack of desire of the Sask Party government to provide any public disclosure, Mr. Speaker.

Now I know that they're thrilled that although my voice is coming back from last week, it's not at 100 per cent strength because I may not be able to carry on as long as I'd like to in terms of providing more examples. Because why, Mr. Speaker? They don't want to hear the truth about what's going on. They don't want the people of Saskatchewan to know the truth of what's going on. They want to keep hiding the truth from the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And so with Bill 153, we see that desire to have others provide more public disclosure and thereby be more accountable and transparent. And yet what is the Sask Party government content in doing, Mr. Speaker? They're content in ensuring that the people of Saskatchewan don't have all the information. They're content in that the people of Saskatchewan don't have the proper accountability and transparency that they should expect and have from their government, Mr. Speaker. They're quite

content, Mr. Speaker. But, so as I said, they're expecting a different standard from the judges under Bill 153 that it's not even willing, that this Sask Party government isn't even willing to apply to itself, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this Bill also allows the government . . . They're hoping that I'm finished, Mr. Speaker, but I've still got a ways to go. My voice is still strong enough to carry on. So, Mr. Speaker, this Bill also allows the government to appoint temporary judges currently serving on the bench in other provinces. Now the minister said this was to address cases where all available judges on the Saskatchewan Provincial Court have a conflict of interest with one or more of the parties involved in a particular legal matter. Now, Mr. Speaker, that would seem to be sensible enough. We certainly would want to prevent any situations where there is a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Speaker, so this is obviously something that we would see as a step forward and as a good change under Bill 153.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's also a provision to bring eligibility for disability benefits to the same standard, which is three months, as provided to other provincial government employees. And again, Mr. Speaker, having a level standard is not something that we have any concerns with, Mr. Speaker. It would seem that that would be a logical thing to do as well, and so we have no immediate concerns with that as well, Mr. Speaker.

Now we also support the changes to the nature of the Law Society representation on the Judicial Council. Currently the president of the Law Society serves on the council and this results in frequent turnover on the council. So this Bill would allow representatives of the Law Society to serve for a longer period of time and allow the Judicial Council to retain their experience. And, Mr. Speaker, any time you have any type of committee or council or anything to that effect, it's important to have some longevity. It's important to have what some would call corporate memory, Mr. Speaker, because it allows things to move forward in a more progressive way hopefully and not repeat some mistakes or do research into some things that have already been sought out before, Mr. Speaker.

This would also hopefully enhance the quality of the service provided to people who bring complaints before the council, and clearly, Mr. Speaker, this is a change that we could support as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we can see when we look through the Bill, there are a number of changes that are taking place in this Bill — some which obviously we don't have any major concerns with, some which obviously we have more questions about. And I want to repeat those questions because, as I said, despite the fact that there has been a lot of interaction while I've been speaking to this Bill, Mr. Speaker, from the Sask Party members opposite, despite the fact that there has been a lot of points of order and complaints, Mr. Speaker, the questions that I posed and the questions that many of my colleagues posed, Mr. Speaker, still haven't been answered. And there's been absolutely no one from the Sask Party government that has volunteered to provide any more clarity on those questions, Mr. Speaker.



So I just want to repeat those questions and see if we have anybody that wants to provide some answers on these questions and provide some more clarity, Mr. Speaker, to not just myself but obviously the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and the members on the NDP opposition side.

And those questions are such: what functions are being transferred out of the Provincial Court? Mr. Speaker, we'd like to know, have some greater information on specifically what functions we're talking, speaking about, Mr. Speaker. The remarks in the second reading speech were somewhat vague, Mr. Speaker, and despite the fact that there have been other members of the opposition that have asked some of these questions, we still haven't been provided any answers, Mr. Speaker. So again we are still looking for some clarification as to which functions are being transferred out of Provincial Court, Mr. Speaker.

And also, Mr. Speaker, what types of cases are going to be handled by the justices of the peace, Mr. Speaker? We know that there are some cases that wouldn't be as concerning, that would be, could be sent to the justices of the peace, Mr. Speaker. But in a lot of cases, that would not be the appropriate route, Mr. Speaker. So we would like to know what the Sask Party government has in mind in terms of which of the cases they're speaking of or thinking of that would be handled by the justices of the peace, Mr. Speaker.

And what is the potential impact on the service that people receive when they go to court, Mr. Speaker? Is there any impact? We don't know that. What are the impacts? We'd like to have some more details, Mr. Speaker, on that question as to what are the impacts for Saskatchewan people when they are looking for these services with respect to the courts, Mr. Speaker. And how will their rights be impacted? Will their rights be impacted? Those are questions we have, Mr. Speaker, and those are legitimate questions on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

As I said, any time you're making changes to any Bill, Mr. Speaker, you want to make sure that those changes merit the changes that are being brought forward, Mr. Speaker. You don't want any consequences coming from those changes through the Bills that would actually pose more problems into the future.

And, Mr. Speaker, you know, a colleague of mine spoke to this Bill on November 15th. He's the member for Lakeview. And I'd like to just repeat one of the comments that he made in his remarks, Mr. Speaker, because of course my colleague is a member of the bar and would therefore have a greater depth of knowledge with respect to some of the proposed changes under Bill 153. And obviously if my colleague has some concerns, obviously then I would like to heed those concerns and have great respect for what my colleague's opinion is of any changes that are made to anything with respect to the court systems in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So my colleague said on November 15th, and I quote:

... when the legislature or the executive branch of government deal with the Provincial Court or with anything related to any of the levels of court, we have to be especially vigilant in what we're doing to make sure

that there aren't any unintended consequences or that the intentions ... make sure that the intentions are entirely clear as we proceed.

Mr. Speaker, that was a quote by my colleague, the member from Regina Lakeview. As I said, he's a member of the bar. And, Mr. Speaker, I trust the fact that he has some concerns about some unintended consequences that may arise out of the changes to Bill 153. And I would like to have some of the questions answered that I posed before the legislature today to provide some more reassurance that those unintended consequences aren't going to be something that is going to exist because of the changes to Bill 153.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a couple more questions. Whose rights will be impacted? And that's a question that we have not yet had answered from the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. They haven't been able to tell us whose rights have been impacted. I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Sask Party government has done enough research and has done enough work on this Bill with respect to the changes that they're bringing forward as to whose rights will be impacted. Because, Mr. Speaker, as my colleague, the member from Regina Lakeview said, we don't want unintended results or consequences from changes that are made to the judiciary system, Mr. Speaker. So we want to know whose rights will be impacted.

And, Mr. Speaker, with that question also goes the accompanying question: who stands to benefit from this change, Mr. Speaker? Again that question has not been answered. Who stands to benefit from this change, Mr. Speaker? Because if there isn't any benefit from the change, then why would the change be made in its entirety? As I said, there are certain components of this Bill that we don't see any large concerns with, but there are certainly some questions that we'd have with this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

So we want to know who stands to benefit from the changes to Bill 153, Mr. Speaker, and make sure again that the people of Saskatchewan have full public disclosure on that information, Mr. Speaker. Because as we've seen with the Sask Party government, there are many times when their friends stand to benefit from the changes that the Sask Party government puts forward, Mr. Speaker, and that is not serving the best public interest for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So again I'm certainly not opposed to the fact that Bill 153 is seeking more public disclosure. I am certainly finding it ironic that this is coming from a government, a Sask Party government that doesn't feel that public disclosure and being more accountable and being more transparent to the people of Saskatchewan is a priority that they should be held to or a standard that they should be held to, Mr. Speaker. So we want to know: who stands to benefit from these changes?

[16:00]

You know, Mr. Speaker, one only has to look at the Amicus deal and one can see ... where one can see who stands to benefit from the Amicus deal, Mr. Speaker. The Amicus deal is obviously benefiting their friends. It's benefiting their supporters in terms of financial supporters. It's benefiting some of their ... links to their family members, Mr. Speaker, to the

tune of a loan guarantee of \$27 million on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

But, Mr. Speaker, Bill 153 doesn't apply to the Sask Party unfortunately. Bill 153 can't make them more transparent. It can't make the Sask Party government provide more public disclosure. Bill 153 can't make the Sask Party government be more accountable and more open and transparent to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So I don't know, Mr. Speaker, if we'll ever really know the story on what happened with Amicus, Mr. Speaker, because as I've said, we know that there are a number of . . .

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Proceed with your point of order.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, I've been listening very carefully to the member opposite, and I looked through the notes from the Minister of Justice when he presented this Bill. And this Bill is about temporary judges, Law Society appointments, public hearings on discipline of judges, and reducing the waiting period of judge disability allowances, Mr. Speaker. And the member opposite has not mentioned any of those subjects, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the member opposite debate Bill 153 and not whatever else it is she wants to talk about, which is irrelevant to the Bill, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, to respond to the point of order.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Proceed.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In responding to the point of order, I want to make two or three basic comments, Mr. Speaker, the first being this: the minister's interpretation of what the impact of the Bill is is his interpretation. Each member of this Assembly gets to make their interpretation and speak to this Bill as they feel it impacts the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't have to be based on what the government's view of what the impact is because, Mr. Speaker, they have a particular view of each piece of legislation and the impact may or may not be as they indicate.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the Bill, as many Bills do, talks about accountability, openness, and transparency, Mr. Speaker, in one form or another. A member can relate other issues relating to transparency, accountability to the Bill; Mr. Speaker, there's longstanding traditions here. And Mr. Speaker, thirdly, the government's continued attempts to intimidate a member of this Assembly by standing up and saying point of order doesn't mean it's a point of order.

[Interjections]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. Order. I will go back to a ruling that was done by a former Speaker Hagel. And I will read his quote:

The hon. member will be aware the item before the House is a second reading debate on The Pipelines Act. And this of course requires that debate would be two things. One, it would deal with the principles of the legislation that'd be proposed before the House. And secondly, it would deal . . . the debate would deal with the Act itself.

And the Chair has been listening for quite some time to the hon. member's remarks and having [quite] a bit of difficulty finding the connection between the hon. member's remarks and the Act which is before the House. I'm sure that the hon. member will want to conduct his debate in such a way that he'll be debating the principles of the Bill and of the Bill that was before the House, The Pipeline Act, at this moment.

That is a ruling by a former Speaker, and that is a ruling that I will stand by. So I will ask the member to discuss the Bill and the principles of the Bill.

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to Bill 153, Mr. Speaker, I actually would like to provide some clarification to the Government House Leader, given his remarks, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government House Leader has kindly read a portion of the second reading speech by the minister. And Mr. Speaker, in what he had stated to the speaker himself, he talked about how there is a desire for more public hearings when looking into the actions of judges in the judiciary, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, public hearings provide public disclosure. That's what public hearings do. They provide public disclosure. In other words, when there are public hearings, there is information that is provided publicly to the people of Saskatchewan. That's what public disclosure is. It's public hearings. So, Mr. Speaker, with respect to Bill 153, when we're talking about public hearings and public disclosure, that's exactly what Saskatchewan people are looking for from their government on all matters, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, you know it's interesting that we are looking at Bill 153, which is asking for public hearings with respect to the actions of conduct with respect to judges, and yet when a motion was put forward today in the legislature to have a greater accountability of what's going on with Carlton Trail and St. Peter's College at Muenster, the Sask Party government itself doesn't want public hearings or public disclosure as Bill 153 is looking for, Mr. Speaker. No, they want quite the opposite. They absolutely quashed the motion because they have a majority. They don't want the auditor to look into it. And of course the only question Saskatchewan people can have is, why, Mr. Speaker? What are they hiding, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — What is your point of order?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, the Bill in question has to do with temporary judges, Law Society appointments, public hearings on the discipline of a judge, and reduced waiting period for the disability payments for a judge. The member has

repeatedly not spoken to the contents of the Bill. The member clearly has a text which she is unable to deviate from.

Mr. Speaker, the rules of the Assembly, the rules of the Assembly and, as you quoted, the ruling from previous Speakers require that there at least be some tenuous relevance to the contents of the Bill when members are speaking. And I would ask that she pay attention to those rules.

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

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Proceed.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, we have a Bill before the House. The interpretation in that Bill by the minister doesn't necessarily mean that's the interpretation by any member of this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the members of this Assembly have a right to speak to the Bills. The continued interruptions by members of the government who have no desire to listen to the Bill . . . Mr. Speaker, I have heard repeatedly the member go back and speak about Bill 153, *The Provincial Court Act*, and her interpretation of what the Bill's about. If the member . . . And drawing in references to other things that are done in context to this Bill.

Now if the members don't believe that or don't want to listen to that, Mr. Speaker, that is in fact their problem. But, Mr. Speaker, the interpretation of the minister is not the interpretation of the Bill. And each member of this Assembly has a right to bring forward their interpretation of what this Bill means.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Bill before the legislature is a Bill, and that is what is to be discussed, not a total interpretation of what the member may or may not think of what it is. I will refer back to the Speaker Hagel of what . . .

Order. Order. Order. Order. We are discussing the Bill 153. I will ask the member to discuss the principles of the Bill and the things that surround the Bill and also not . . . I've heard the member repeat a number of things, and there's also a ruling here also repeating . . . of not to keep repeating a thing over and over again. I will get it if I have to. I will ask the member again to stay on the principle of the Bill that's before us, Bill 153.

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to Bill 153, *The Act to Amend The Provincial Court Act*, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to have to reiterate unfortunately despite the fact that I haven't had the Sask Party government listen to the comments I've made with respect to the Bill.

And, Mr. Speaker, some of those comments are simply this. So, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about a Bill that's expecting more public disclosure of the results of investigations into the conduct of judges by Judicial Council. I made a good point about that. Matter of fact, I made numerous points about that in terms of the expectation under Bill 153 of judiciary which is not the same standard that Sask Party government is applying to itself, Mr. Speaker. I made many, many references about that, Mr. Speaker. So perhaps I'll just leave that for a moment.

I also spoke, Mr. Speaker, about the fact that this Bill allows government to appoint temporary judges currently serving on the bench in other provinces. Now the reason, Mr. Speaker, that we want . . . How should I say? We don't have a problem with that particular notion, Mr. Speaker, is because we don't want to see any conflict of interest when those judges are serving on those cases, Mr. Speaker. So obviously the Sask Party members haven't been listening that attentively or they would have certainly known that is a reference that I made to, with respect to another one of the changes that is being proposed under Bill 153.

Another one of those proposed changes, Mr. Speaker, is — now this is deviating from script as was described — but we're also supporting the provision to bring eligibility for disability benefits to the same standard, which is three months, as provided to other provincial government employees, Mr. Speaker. That's something else I had talked about with respect to a proposed change under Bill 153. So perhaps now that I've mentioned it a couple times, it'll jog the memories of the members sitting opposite, Mr. Speaker.

Another one of those proposed changes, Mr. Speaker, was also that we support the changes to the nature of Law Society representation on the Judicial Council. Now as I said, currently the president of the Law Society serves on the council and this results in frequent turnover on the council.

This Bill would allow representatives of the Law Society to serve for a longer period of time and allow the Judicial Council to retain its experience. And this would hopefully enhance the quality of the service provided to people who bring complaints before the council. And, Mr. Speaker, we certainly support that change, Mr. Speaker. So there are a number of different things contained in this Bill.

Now obviously the one that is most ironic to the people of Saskatchewan and to the members of the NDP opposition is the fact that there is an expectation of public hearings of the results of investigations into the conduct of judges by Judicial Council which, Mr. Speaker, provides more public disclosure. Now, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that we're looking for more public disclosure under Bill 153 of the judiciary, and yet the Sask Party government doesn't feel that it's held to the same standard.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I've already provided a few examples. For instance, Carlton Regional College and Amicus, Mr. Speaker. But the Sun Country Health Region, there were individuals from that region here today that were looking for answers, Mr. Speaker, and didn't get them today. Unfortunately they got responses. And the Sask Party government is very good at providing responses, Mr. Speaker, but those are a long stretch away from being publicly accountable and providing answers, Mr. Speaker. So Bill 153 is looking for public accountability with respect to the judiciary, and yet unfortunately the Sask Party government doesn't feel that it's held to the same standard of public accountability, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let's also look at the accountability that the Sask Party government has to the people of Saskatchewan when it comes to chiropractic care, Mr. Speaker. Under Bill 153, the Sask Party government is asking the judiciary for public

hearings with respect to the conduct of judges and yet, Mr. Speaker, we can't find any information out about the conduct of the Sask Party government when it comes to dealing with contracts or negotiating contracts in this province, Mr. Speaker.

For instance under . . . The chiropractors negotiated a deal with the government, Mr. Speaker. And unfortunately the Sask Party government decided to renege on that deal and furthermore decided to cut the benefit to the people of Saskatchewan for the health care that they need, Mr. Speaker. And there were thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands of names brought to the legislature, Mr. Speaker, of people who were upset about this. And what did the Sask Party government do about it? Nothing. They plowed forward with their plan to cut the chiropractic services to the people of Saskatchewan in terms of the supplemental benefit.

So, Mr. Speaker, under Bill 153, there's an expectation for more public disclosure, and yet the Sask Party government doesn't feel that it's held to the same standard of public disclosure, Mr. Speaker. It just doesn't make sense. It just doesn't make sense.

So as we see, there was no consultation with the public. And therefore the people of Saskatchewan lost a health benefit that was of great benefit to many, many people in the province, Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. What is the member's point of order?

[16:15]

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, the member has been encouraged repeatedly to speak to the Bill, Bill 153. She repeatedly has refused to speak to the Bill. She has repeatedly refused to follow the rules of the legislature, Mr. Speaker. And again we would encourage and ask that the rules of the legislature be followed by the member opposite who has flagrantly disregarded them up until this point during this intervention.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, to speak to the point of order. Mr. Speaker, since last time the Speaker was on his feet and the last intervention by the Government Deputy House Leader, I listened very carefully when the member went through every single clause of the Bill and explained each clause and what her position was and what she believed the Bill was about, Mr. Speaker. And in the last . . . Mr. Speaker, I don't know that I can call what we see before this House anything but intimidation of a member of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, there has been latitude on Bills for a long time, Mr. Speaker. And this continues, Mr. Speaker. There's little or no doubt that this is an attempt to stop this member from having her debate on this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I've been listening carefully to the debate, and I have also heard the point of order raised by the Deputy House Leader and the response by the Opposition House Leader. And I would like to remind the members, and I

believe other Speakers as well have, in the past, have reminded members of the importance of relevance to the debate.

But let me also . . . *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* reminds members that there's also the . . . Sometimes it's difficult to derive the importance or the relevance, and that's why as Speakers we're obligated to try and not only remind members to be relevant, but also trying to remind members to make sure the debate is entwined into the relevance of the question before the Assembly. On page 620, it says:

Notwithstanding their importance regarding relevance in debate, these rules remain difficult to define and enforce, and not least because such enforcement must respect the freedom of debate enjoyed by all Members.

So Speakers past and present, no doubt in the future, while they will remind members of being relevant to the debate, also have refrained from trying to restrict the debate, and this has been a long-standing practice. So I've listened to the point of order, and I don't believe the point of order has been well-taken. I would ask, however, given the point of order, that the member, in debating the question before the Assembly, the Provincial Court, address the issues in her debate and tie it to the legislation of the Bill that she's currently speaking to. I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to Bill 153, as I said, there are a number of changes in this Bill that are being proposed, Mr. Speaker, and some of which the NDP opposition doesn't have any serious concerns with, some which we just find ironic, and one of them obviously is the greater accountability and disclosure by the results of investigations into the conduct of judges by Judicial Council, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, again we have concerns about the fact that those standards don't seem to be applied to the Sask Party government when they're providing information to the people of Saskatchewan as well. And so, Mr. Speaker, having said what it does in Bill 153 with respect to providing greater public disclosure and accountability, Mr. Speaker, we would hope that the Sask Party government would want to hold themselves to that same standard. But unfortunately we have seen far too many examples that are of the opposite nature, Mr. Speaker. And I've already listed a few. And obviously there's, you know, a number of other ones, like for instance no consultation on *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, despite the fact that the minister said that there was contact made with six organizations, five of six which said there wasn't.

So again, Mr. Speaker, public disclosure is something that the people of Saskatchewan are looking for. It's something that the people of Saskatchewan should be able to expect, Mr. Speaker. So with Bill 153 wanting to make a proposed change to provide more public disclosure, Mr. Speaker, this is the standard that we would assume and hope that the Sask Party government would feel that they should be living up to as well, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, you know, there are . . . For instance there's another case before the courts with respect to the \$3 million PC [Progressive Conservative] trust fund where members of . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. I would ask the member to address the Bill before the Assembly, second reading of *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*. I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, we're also looking for greater public disclosure on many other issues, one obviously being the fund that I just had mentioned, and many other topics, Mr. Speaker, like for instance, who are they speaking to? Who are they consulting with on various other Bills that are brought forward, Mr. Speaker? So for Bill 153, we'd also like to know who's going to stand to benefit from the changes in this Bill, and who requested the changes to this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

So as I said, there's a number of changes that are being proposed with this Bill, and some appear to be worthy of support; others raise serious questions and require more information, both from the government and from people outside government, before the opposition is willing and ready to support this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I am going to allow many of my colleagues to have their remarks on record with respect to this Bill, Mr. Speaker, and I will adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Walsh Acres has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 153, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — 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:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 154, *The Provincial Court Consequential Amendment Act, 2010* be now read the second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — The Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**The Speaker:** — The Bill stands referred to the Standing

Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### Bill No. 161

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 161** — *The Election Amendment Act, 2010* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I join in the debate on Bill 161, *The Election Amendment Act, 2010*. I think there's been a lot of discussion, Mr. Speaker, from a lot of different individuals already, sharing concerns with this Bill, some of the stuff, the concern, the photo ID. And you know, the whole process of this Bill, people are asking, where does it come from? What's the purpose of it? What's the reason? Who's asked for this?

I've heard a lot of questions about this Bill coming forward and concern from leadership. I've attended meetings where photo ID, whether people truly understand what that means. And they're very confused. They're not happy. And at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, it is truly . . . People want to trust, and they want to trust their governments and the people that make the rules and pass legislation and laws. And they want to make sure at the end of the day that their concerns are addressed, their voice is heard.

And there's a group of people that will, and I hope not, but I think at the end of the day will not be able to cast a vote, will not have the proper ID that's being required, the change. We don't know why. But I know there are some people very upset to know why all of a sudden, this coming out at this time, what is it about, this Bill? Why do all of a sudden we have to have such strict regulations to make sure people in this province have a right to vote? People are wondering about this. You know, it's just, they're very suspicious. They're concerned. Some of them have expressed they're even alarmed that this type of ID and the process . . . And then when they get told, oh, no, no, you guys have got nothing to worry about; no, no these Bills, nothing to worry about. No, no, we're not trying to . . . We're trying to involve and make sure people have a vote. We want to make sure they have a right to vote.

Well when you bring in, I guess, a Bill like this and legislation that's going to truly, and I think, attack individuals' right to vote, then, like it or don't like it, at the end of the day, the Sask Party government is clearly going to have to have their . . . people turned away because of this legislation. People will not have the ID that they're going to need or the information required in the regulations for them to cast their vote. That is totally wrong. It goes against the democratic process. We know that.

We hear so many concerns that people are not engaged in our political process because they don't come out and vote, the frustration. And if we start bringing in legislation that even goes against encouraging young people . . . And I've heard some of the mayors are concerned about young people, the Aboriginal population, that if you discourage them at a young age, at 18 when they have a right to vote, that they may not get involved in the system. And we may hear ministers tell them, oh, no, no,

no, that's not what it's about; we're going to make it really easy and simple. I question that.

After this process and the debate goes through and this becomes law, it's too late for people that are really concerned out there and thought, well, we put trust out there. We were told certain things, and we believed this is not going to stop young people from voting; it's not going to stop our community members from casting votes, residents of our province. It's not going to go against individuals. It's not going to stop; it's not going to deter people. Mr. Speaker, Bill 161 is exactly that. It is going to stop people from casting a vote. It's going to stop a certain group. And we've heard it very clear, Mr. Speaker, the concern. And the group, the most vulnerable will be the ones that will suffer under this legislation.

So we could see why the Sask Party would love to have this, this Bill come forward and these regulations followed, to stop individuals from casting their vote. And some of these individuals are seniors, the, I guess, low-income, the poor, the people living in poverty, individual students. And you know, you look at our seniors. And traditionally the NDP Party has got a lot of support.

And I sometimes question, why now? Why this? Who asked for this? Where's the lineup? Where's the petition? Where's all the people with their concerns? You ask and, no, there is nobody. It just, oh it just . . . We thought about this.

And you know, and I have to believe this. We have a, you know, a department and Department of Justice. And we have a Justice minister and, you know, he's supposed to bring legislation forward. I'm actually surprised and, I have to be honest, Mr. Speaker, disappointed that he would bring such legislation forward to stop, to stop individuals from casting their vote, especially when you're hearing on the federal side of it, they're pushing and saying, we've got to get more of the, more of our Canadian citizens, more our provincial citizens voting because right now the numbers don't look good. They're not engaged. Well why is that?

But when you actually come up with Bills like this, 161, to eliminate that, and you want to make sure that you're saying that people have a right to vote, and you believe that as a . . . The Sask Party government tries to tell us that's what they believe. We want to make sure those individuals that have a right to vote are voting.

Well I have suspicion with the timing of it, who they're targeting with that. And they can sit here and say, oh well SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] is going to go out and it's going to make sure that they're doing photo ID shops, and they're going to go do workshops, or whatever they want to call them, community visits, whatever.

In some of the isolated, the rural communities, it's not that easy for some of the individuals to get the ID that they want. And yes, some will have proper ID. And they do, and that's fine. But some of them will have challenges. I know for the First Nations, they're limited to a number of treaty cards that they receive. That's the information I've been given, provided. And they're concerned of that process.

[16:30]

So I've heard individuals say, well I've been waiting some time and some of them, it might be a year, could be two years for a new card. They've lost their card, their status card, and it's going to take time for them to get one. And there are only so many handed out at one time by the government. So it's very concerning to see even, on that side of it, if they're going to accept status cards from band members. What if that band member doesn't have a card?

And then you go a little further and you want to talk about overcrowding. And I'm going to give you an example of some homes we'll have. In northern Saskatchewan right now in some of our communities, we have overcrowded. There's a lot of people living in one or two homes in different areas and they might have a large number of people living in them. Now the phone bill may not be in their name. The power bill may not be in all their name. I'm sure that it's not on the phone bill, whether it's SaskEnergy, SaskPower, whether their insurance, whether their name's on the actual receipt when they pay the rent.

Now if those individuals are living in that house, and how do they all get on the voters list, we say, or if they have ID to bring a . . . bills to show. Maybe they don't have photo ID. So we're hearing all the different things, the ways that they can . . . Oh no, we're going to fix it. We're going to make it so it's possible that all individuals get to cast a vote. And I've seen some people very frustrated when they were turned away from the polls in the federal, when they tried to cast their vote. I've seen some of those individuals that were very frustrated because they didn't have the documents that was required and they left pretty upset, and I've seen some of them . . . the conversations from individuals. Very alarming.

So it concerns me when people don't have, or feel like they don't have the access to vote or the democratic process, we call it. And we fight for that. And my grandfather fought for that. He was a vet. He fought hard. He believed in that, and he served his country well and made us all proud. And he was asked to do that and when he asked . . . He volunteered to do that. And he wanted to protect the democratic process and he did that. Very clearly, he did that with honour and he was honoured for that.

And to see some of the legislation, Bill 161, and seeing where we're going, where this Sask Party government's going, very concerning some of the stuff that's coming into today. And as things unfold, I think, more and more is going to come out, and it's going to come out. It's a trust thing, Mr. Speaker, trust.

Our residents, people that elect us to come here and represent them, they want to trust us. They want to trust the government. The government has an obligation to be transparent, open, and to truly say we want all people to vote. And people should not feel like, if you do vote a certain way, you should be attacked. If you belong to a political organization you shouldn't be attacked. There should be some protections. And you talk about Bills that they want to come in and, you know, whistle-blower legislation, and I've seen different Bills that they've brought forward.

When they talk about, Mr. Speaker, that they want to protect individuals, employees coming forward . . . And we've seen what they've done with individuals, and it's pretty alarming to see that kind of behaviour from the Sask Party government and a government that's supposed to be respected of all the people, protecting them, protecting their right to vote, their right to employment, their right to share. They're the public. The public wants to know that its servants, you know, that are serving them in the different capacities with the different ministries . . . And I do say that. It is an honour to work for the province and to serve the people and they are, the employees that do it, do it because they want a career. They believe in it. They want to do their job.

And there's many of them, whether it's our police force, whether it's, you know, the health science people, whether it's our doctors, our chiropractors, our teachers who are valuable . . . teachers, they're not feeling so . . . But there's many people who serve and they want to do the right thing. So when I see a Bill like this coming in to jeopardize a process, we see it's a trust. People want to trust. And they put in their government and they say, yes okay, we elect you. We trust you. I tell you, do not take the people for granted. And I think right now that's going on big time.

And, you know, you can laugh and can juggle back and forth and have comments that we want to make and, you know, you can kid each other and you can make comments to each other, oh you know, good luck. Oh yeah, good luck, back and forth. But, you know, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the people want a government that takes care of the needs, takes care of their family, the social problems that we have. And there are many problems going on in our province right now.

Yes, we know the economics is good. You're hearing it — record revenue. And the people will trust the government will do the right thing. And you know, Mr. Speaker, you look at the Bill 161 and you wonder. It is a trust thing. And you wonder, where exactly is the Sask Party government going with this? And just how far, how far will they go to stop people from casting a vote? And, you know, when you hear individuals talking out there and community members and leaders concerned and you're in meetings and you're hearing them talk about it, what's this all about? And I make sure that they educate themselves, that they're the group of individuals that may not get to cast their vote. And they may be the young people. They may be the Aboriginal people. There maybe are seniors, some of that group, some of the people living in poverty — and I've talked about that — students, you know, will it be some of the immigrants? How many people will be turned away?

And I know the government of the day that's bringing this in wants to say, oh no, no, that's not what this is about. No, no, no, trust us. No, no, no, we're not about that. We're not trying to do that. But, Mr. Speaker, that's the problem. Outside of this House people are starting to wonder. They trust the government. They want to make sure our government's taking care of their finances, the public dollars. They want to make sure that those dollars . . . And we see some of the concerns coming out, and my colleague before me expressed it very well. I know it didn't go over well. Government and some of the ministers did not care for that, and of course want to attack.

But you know, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, it's very clear. It's about the people of our province having a right to vote. And any time you limit individuals from casting a vote or being a part of the democratic process, it's very alarming. And I tell you, I want to make sure. I've got a young grandson. He's going to be turning 18. He wants to vote, but he better make sure that he, he better make sure that he has the proper ID to vote. You know, you're going to try to make sure he has that. But I hope, I hope that he can sign an affidavit or somebody for him saying, yes, you know, he can vote. You know, he can vote. And if need be, somebody could sign an affidavit saying, yes he has the right to vote. He's a resident. He's here.

And whether it's myself or it be somebody else to sign an affidavit saying he is a resident, he is 18, he meets the criteria, then, Mr. Speaker, he should have a right to vote. Or any individual. They should have the right to vote by signing an affidavit. Why not? It has some teeth in it. Put some teeth in it, if that's the case. You put some teeth into it now.

The Justice minister and his officials could come up with an affidavit that would probably be pretty secure, that says if you sign this and you're not the person you're saying you are and you're not a resident, then charges will come. And I think the Justice minister and his officials could come up with a, you know, a kind of affidavit like that very clearly. It could probably do that quite well. But to come forward and cheerleading on the photo ID and carrying this on, it's a little concerning and disappointing with the Justice minister going in that area.

I'm sure there's different areas they could have come in with and different ways. They could have consulted, talked to I guess our seniors, First Nations, the Métis, students, people who may not have the finances right now because of the cost of living in this province. It's a beautiful province, but the cost of rent, utilities, food is going up. Have they consulted those individuals? No, I don't think so.

Justice minister and his officials came up with it, if that's what they did, so why couldn't they just come up with a simple thing, signing an affidavit that holds you as the person signing it? And if somebody's going to sign that with them saying that yes, this is the person I signed and hold them accountable, so there could have been some other options rather than go to the photo ID and eliminate.

You should be encouraging people to vote. It's a democratic process and you should not be turning people away from the polls. They have a right to vote. And if you're going to engage them, Mr. Speaker, then do it and encourage them. Don't come up with regulations and, I guess, Bills like 161 to cut them out from the democratic process.

We find it very, very concerning. And when I hear young people saying they want to get involved in the political process and they'd like to vote, but you know unfortunately some of them are going to get turned away. And they may say oh no, no, no, that's not going to happen. Trust me, it's going to happen. People will be turned away. People will be turned away. We've seen some of them being turned away. And they can say, oh well, they didn't have the proper ID. They should have went to the SGI road . . . I guess, what do you want to call it?

Workshops, ID workshops that they were going to do. The SGI, the road show, with the SGI going around and making sure everybody has ID.

Well then in our rural areas and maybe in some of our northern communities, people aren't going to have the access to that. And they want to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that their voice is heard. And many of my colleagues have expressed themselves. There's been different groups that have expressed themselves with concerned individuals that are concerned about this Bill. It's going further, you know. There's another Bill that's coming forward again in regards to, you know, the Human Rights Code, and that's concerning.

People are starting to see certain things that are concerning them. It is the trust thing. And I know that some of the members on the other side have to feel that they're not comfortable with this. There has to be someone questioning it, Mr. Speaker, has to be, saying, is this the right Bill? Are we doing the right thing? And if they're not, I hope they are looking at it, Mr. Speaker, and making sure that it isn't going to affect some of the individuals back home that won't get a chance to have the democratic process and vote.

And, you know, Mr. Speaker, maybe sometimes . . . You know, unfortunate we take that for granted, and some people do. But I'll tell you, when you talk to the veterans . . . And I said earlier my grandfather, and many of my great-uncles fought with him, his brothers, they served. And I tell you, they did it because they wanted to ensure democratic process. They wanted to make sure that we still had, and our families and their grandchildren, we had a beautiful country and a province, and I respect that. And to see that being jeopardized by the Sask Party government, you know, it's sad. It's a sad day if this legislation passes.

They can do the right thing. They can revoke this, or they can just cancel the Bill. They can withdraw the Bill. They can do a lot of things with this Bill, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't have to go forward. They can do the right thing and make sure that people have a right to vote and not take that vote away from them. Because if you do take a vote, one person loses their opportunity to vote. You have definitely affected the outcome of an election.

So I want to make it very clear, Mr. Speaker, I do not support this Bill. I have a lot of leaders, community people are concerned. They want to make sure what exactly is the outcome of this Bill, and they are concerned. And I heard the mayor. They've talked about it in meetings. I've heard different individuals out there just saying, what exactly is this photo ID?

And we heard a lot of different organizations coming forward that are concerned about this, very concerned, very concerned about this type of a Bill. That this Bill will eliminate individuals and they can . . . You know, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, I don't think we have many people coming forward with their concerns. And we didn't see the petitions. We didn't see all this. And we asked that — who and what organization, what group brought this forward? How many complaints have they had from the election officials? And I don't think there's going to be too many of them because we haven't heard of them and I'm sure we would have been receiving that.

So that makes it very clear to me that this isn't about individuals, groups, or the election officials bringing it forward, Mr. Speaker. It's clearly about the Sask Party government. It's clearly about the Sask Party government. It's clearly about the Sask Party government agenda, eliminating individuals . . .

And you can go to meetings. And, you know, they're going to spin it the way they want and they're going to try to make sure that . . . Oh no, no, no. We want to make sure every citizen has a right to vote. We're the caring Sask Party government. Well guess what? There's a lot of people questioning that. And as things unfold, and more and more will unfold, and as people come forward, Mr. Speaker, and voice their concerns, the concerns of the way the running of our finances, the running of our ministries, and some of the stuff that are going on within the government itself . . . Individuals know things. They'll claim they don't know things. They will be held to account for the things that they claim they didn't know.

[16:45]

So at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, I think at election time we should make sure that all the individuals have a right to vote, have a right to vote so they can make sure that they're holding their government to account. That will be your evaluation — all of us. You will get your chance to be evaluated. And the process is by the residents of our province, citizens of our good province getting to cast a vote — one vote, one individual. There hasn't been a lot of problems, a lot of issues . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . But, you know, you know, very clearly, very clearly you have some of the members wanting to come and join in. This is my opportunity to my bring my concerns of my constituents and the people that have shared their concern. So at this time I would ask them, you know, to please allow me the time to share what people are sharing with me. And I'm bringing that forward.

So let me make it very clear, Mr. Speaker. People are very concerned. They want to make sure that they have a right to vote. The democratic process, we should fight for that. Many of us do, and I believe, I believe that individuals, individuals want to have that right.

If you were to go out there and probably, maybe out in some of, some of . . . well different countries, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, some of the other countries out there, I don't think they have a democratic process and a right to vote, one vote for every citizen. That isn't so. Pretty scary.

And when you see some of the actions of the Sask Party government, and it's almost like they're taking away individuals' right to vote, intimidation. And some of my colleagues shared some of the other things that people have been told: maybe, you know, being targeted because of your political beliefs, because you don't believe in their philosophy, the Sask Party's philosophy. You don't believe in what they're doing and some of the things they're doing, Mr. Speaker.

So a Bill like this coming forward is very concerning to a lot of people. And, you know, you're going to have individuals asking many questions about this. And at the end of the day we're going to debate this, and this is the right venue to do that. And we'll have a right to share our views. And you know what? You



know, you made a ruling earlier, Mr. Speaker, which, you know, it was very clear that we have a chance to have the debates. It's protected and I commend that you did that. And you saw clear to protect the democratic process and you made a ruling that clearly gave us an opportunity to debate and talk. So I have to say that, you know, Mr. Speaker, that opportunity should be given for all Saskatchewan residents, and that's why I'm here debating this Bill 161, very clearly. Photo ID: how far will it go? Who'll it impact? Who will not be able to cast a vote? And why should they not have that right?

And I talk about whether the Justice people, the minister couldn't have come up with a process that makes it very clear that individuals get to vote. And like I said, it's an affidavit. It could've been drawn up and it could've had some teeth to it, making sure that citizens of our province, our citizens have a right to vote. And if you had some teeth in that, you know, that declaration, it would be very clear that that person would — or an affidavit, whatever you want to call it — that person would sign that and a witness. And they would be scrutinized if someone appealed that or had concerns, whether it was flagged or somebody had concerns about it. You could go and say, well hold it here we have a concern, and we want to investigate. But I think we would have the individuals and the election officials would look into this. And it would be up to them to make sure, very clearly, that the provisions that provided residents of our province to vote were followed, and that individual got to vote in that area. So there are opportunities.

But I go back, you know, to thinking about some of the concerns that are coming forward, and we'll see them unfold over the next while. And we look at, I guess, some of the record revenue that's out there. People are questioning that stuff. It's along with the finances. They trust the government will take care of their interest and make sure they have affordable housing. So it's a trust thing.

And you know, when you look at this Bill and different legislations that this government will bring forward, you want to make sure, people out there want to make sure that this government's bringing legislations, whether it's protecting their home, whether it's making sure they have affordable housing, whether it makes sure they have adequate roads, adequate health care, adequate education. There's a lot of Bills that will come forward that we'll pass through this House, and we'll debate them and we'll talk about them.

But I go back to this, Mr. Speaker. It is about a trust thing. The people out there have to trust their government, want to trust the government. But at the end of the day, when they see a government turning their back on them, ignoring them, not listening to their concerns, not consulting them, not truly engaging them in that, you know, in that process that they want to, the democratic process that they want to engage in, let's make it very clear that those individuals . . . And I encourage them, and there's probably a lot of them listening right now — get out and vote. Make sure you get out and vote. Send them a message, send a letter, send something to your MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] telling them how you're concerned and the issues that you feel, that you don't think it's right that we stop people from the democratic process, what this Bill could do. And make it very clear that one person that gets turned away from the polls is one too many. And nobody, if

they have a right to vote, should get turned away. Nobody. It's a democratic process.

And like I said earlier, many people have fought. Many arguments have been debated. Many Bills have come through this House and have been debated. People have made rulings to protect the democratic process. If you see what's going on in our world right now, it's pretty sad some of the things happening to the democratic process. And when you start eliminating certain things, and you start passing legislation — Bill 5, Bill 6, Bill 43, I think Bill 80 — when you start introducing Bills like this that go after individuals . . . And we're not doing justice to the people that elected us, that asked us to represent them.

So that's an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to talk about Bills, and Bill 161 is exactly one of those Bills. I think this thing should be thrown out, shredded, and never brought back again here. Now the Justice minister, I know he appreciates that. He's probably going to shred it tomorrow, so I'm glad to hear that.

But, Mr. Speaker, very clearly, I know the people back home take this very serious. Individuals that are bringing this issue forward, and my colleagues have made it very clear, they're very concerned. And they've expressed themselves well to make sure that this House knows exactly the issues and what's going on.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, I wonder at the end of the day when individuals are turned away from the polls, when they can't vote, who then do they get to criticize? Is it then too late? And then I think it is too late when one person gets turned away. And I think there's going to be hundreds turned away by this legislation — hundreds. There could be thousands turned away because they wanted to vote, they wanted to get rid of the Sask Party government, but they won't be allowed to, to get rid of them. Thousands of them maybe. Maybe ten thousand. Maybe it's going to be a hundred thousand. They're going to try to get rid of that Sask Party government because of some of the shenanigans going on.

And, Mr. Speaker, you know what? You just watch, you watch what the people are saying out there. They're not feeling the economic boom, if you want to use that word. They're not seeing the economics. They're very concerned about their finances, about their families. And it's a trust thing. It's a trust thing. They want to trust their government will make sure that they're taking care of them.

And when they see a government bringing in Bill 161 they're very concerned about that because it goes back to . . . I guess I want to make a comparison. They go back to other things, Mr. Speaker, about their education of their children. It's a trust thing. About their senior homes for their seniors, about their roads, about the condition of their homes, if you can call some of them a home. They're very proud people, and they're struggling to make ends meet to provide food.

But I'm just using this as an example, Mr. Speaker, to compare. People want to trust their government, but when they see Bills coming forward that take away from them and take away their democratic process or their democratic right to vote. And that process . . . But you know I want to focus. The government

says, oh we're listening and, you know, our ears are open. And we're willing to consult. We're willing to talk.

And I say to you, if you're that way then why don't you change this? You're hearing people with concerns. Have an affidavit. The Justice Minister and his officials can draft one up to make sure nobody gets turned away that has a right to vote. And if somebody wants to sign a document or an affidavit and they want to do something that's not proper, and somebody flags it, then the law, there we go. And the Justice department could deal with that and could deal with them. And I'm sure we have enough people, scrutineers, watching. We have election officials there. There's a process and they're trained well to make sure that that happens.

I find it odd that we would even bring this Bill forward without much thought of it. You didn't consult anyone. Maybe you thought it was the best idea, and you brought it forward. And that's okay, but unfortunately, you know what? I don't think this is what's best for our Saskatchewan residents, and I ask you to reconsider this. And for the members, vote against this Bill. You can vote against this. The members opposite, you can vote. You can vote against this Bill that takes away the democratic right to vote for those . . .

And like I said earlier, there may be one, there may be ten. There may be hundreds. There may be thousands. There may be 10,000 people get turned away that wanted to vote and get rid of the Sask Party government, but you won't let them. But let me turn that around to you. Those individuals might want to vote for the Sask Party. They might want to vote for the Sask Party and send . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, they might. One or two of them out there would do that.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, it's very concerning. And I wanted an opportunity, and I'm glad I could join my colleagues in getting in on the debate on Bill 161. I think it's crucial. I expressed some concern from people back home, and I will go back home and share that with them. And I will express to them that we on this side of the House, the official opposition, made it very clear. We debated this. We talked about it. We tried to ask the government, the Sask Party government, to reconsider and to support us defeating this Bill. And it may not happen.

But at this time it's getting late in the day, and I'm glad I got to take part in this. I am prepared to . . . I know my colleagues want to talk, so I'll adjourn debate at this time, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 161, *The Election Amendment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. Being now the time of recess, 5 p.m., this Assembly will recess until 7 p.m. this evening.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Lingenfelter .....6789  
 Norris .....6789  
 Broten .....6789  
 Wotherspoon .....6789

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

Higgins .....6789  
 Forbes .....6789  
 Vermette .....6789  
 Broten .....6790  
 Quennell .....6790  
 Wotherspoon .....6790

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

Wilson .....6790

**Spring Free From Racism Event**

Lingenfelter .....6791

**Z99 Radiothon**

Schriemer .....6791  
 Trew .....6791

**Social Work Week**

Ottenbreit .....6791

**Prince Albert Team Wins AAA Championship**

Furber .....6792

**The Good Old Days**

D’Autremont .....6792

**QUESTION PERIOD**

**College Governance Issues**

Broten .....6792  
 Norris .....6792

**Investments in Health Care**

Quennell .....6795  
 Reiter .....6795

**Administration of Health Region and Long-Term Care Issues**

Junor .....6796  
 Reiter .....6796

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Bill No. 620 — *The Government and Member of the Legislative Assembly***

*Accountability and Transparency Act (withdrawn)* .....6797

**Bill No. 621 — *The Member of the Legislative Assembly Ethics Act (withdrawn)*** .....6797

**STATEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**Passing of Ernest Boychuk**

The Speaker .....6797

**Ruling on a Point of Order**

The Speaker .....6798

**MOTION UNDER RULE 59**

**Audit of Colleges**

Broten .....6798

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 149 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2010***

Chartier .....6799

**Bill No. 150 — *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2010***

Atkinson .....6800

**Bill No. 144 — *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010***

Harrison (referral to committee) .....6802

**Bill No. 155 — *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010***

Trew .....6802

**Bill No. 164 — *The Police Amendment Act, 2011***

Nilson .....6803

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Bill No. 165 — <i>The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Amendment Act, 2011</i></b>                         |                              |
| McCall .....   | 6804                         |
| <b>Bill No. 153 — <i>The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010</i></b>  |                              |
| Morin .....  | 6806                         |
| McMillan (point of order) .....  | 6807                         |
| Furber (point of order) .....  | 6807                         |
| Harrison (point of order) .....  | 6808, 6809, 6812, 6814       |
| Yates (point of order) .....   | 6808, 6809, 6812, 6813, 6814 |
| D'Autremont (point of order) .....   | 6812                         |
| Deputy Speaker (point of order) .....  | 6807, 6808, 6809, 6812, 6813 |
| The Speaker (point of order) .....   | 6814                         |
| <b>Bill No. 154 — <i>The Provincial Court Consequential Amendment Act, 2010</i></b>                                    |                              |
| <b><i>Loi de 2010 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010</i></b> |                              |
| Harrison (referral to committee) .....   | 6815                         |
| <b>Bill No. 161 — <i>The Election Amendment Act, 2010</i></b>  |                              |
| Vermette .....   | 6815                         |

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