



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

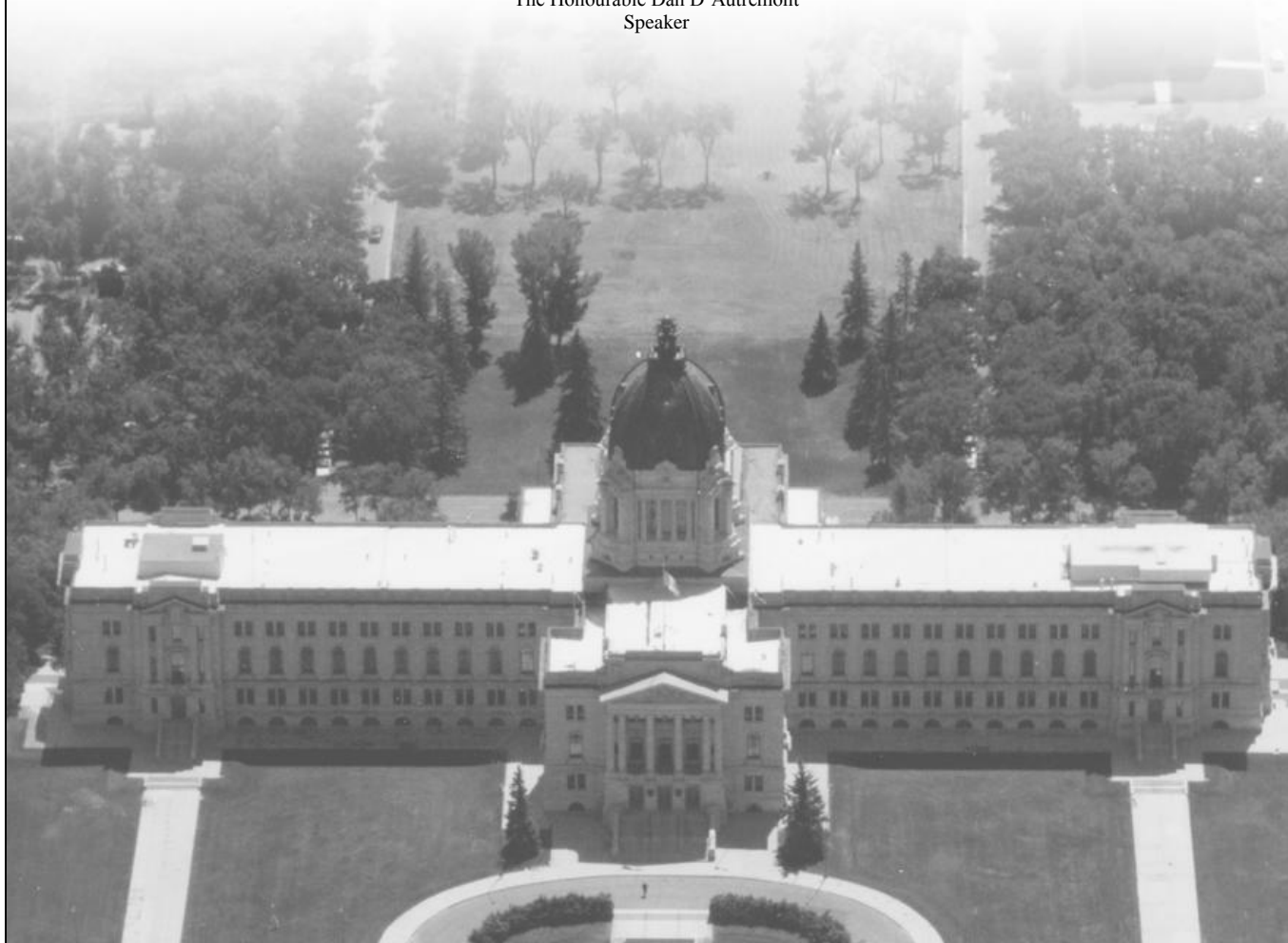
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Dan D'Autremont  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — John Nilson

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce a group of individuals who are guests in a couple of our galleries today. But first, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to preface this introduction by officially proclaiming March 9th until March 25th Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2012 in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to all the members of the Legislative Assembly a group of French immersion students from École St. Andrew and from Campbell Collegiate. I think the St. Andrew group are over here and the Campbell Collegiate group are up in your gallery. And we also have a special representative from the francophone community who is with us today as part of these celebrations. Mr. Paul Heppelle is the president of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, known as the ACF, an organization which has just recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, and has continued to build and strengthen the francophone community here in the great province of Saskatchewan. Would our honoured guests please stand and be recognized.

We welcome all of our guests to their Legislative Assembly this afternoon.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Monsieur le Président [Translation: Mr. Speaker], I want to join with the Provincial Secretary in welcoming the guests from L'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise to their Assembly. Certainly in this, the 100th anniversary of the ACF [l'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise], the proclamation of the Year of the Fransaskois, it brings an extra mood of excitement to Rendez-vous, which is always a great time.

So I want to say to Mr. Heppelle, Monsieur Simard, and everyone here with the ACF, the French immersion students as well, bienvenue à votre Assemblée législative, et vive les Fransaskois et vive la francophonie. Merci, Monsieur le Président. [Translation: welcome to your Legislative Assembly, and long live the Fransaskois and long live the francophonie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

**Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, it gives me great pleasure to introduce 36 grade 8 students from the Regina Christian School in the heart of Regina Douglas Park. It's important for me to note that they . . . to point out to everyone

that Regina Christian School is in my old alma mater, Campion College high school. And I was there visiting the other day, and our crest prominent in the hall is still very prominent. They are accompanied by their grade 8 teachers, Mr. Geoff Glasspell and Ms. Karen Wiens. If we might all welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

Aussi, aussi, Monsieur le Président, while I have the floor, je vous présente 48 students, quarante-huit étudiants de l'École St. Andrew's elementary school, qui sont ici pour la célébration de la semaine de la francophonie.

[Translation: Also, Mr. Speaker, while I have the floor, I present to you 48 students from L'École St. Andrew's elementary school, who are here for the celebration of the week of the francophonie.]

If I may ask, I'd like to point out another significant event and initiative that Tracy Parrott and Ms. Cruikshank are undertaking with their students, and that is their hall of heroes. You know the Highway of Heroes that we celebrate in Saskatchewan that recognizes the contributions of fallen soldiers and veterans who have participated in many conflicts. The hall of heroes at St. Andrew School has done a great deal of work to bring to reality the great contributions of our veterans. And these grade 4 and 5 students are learning this first-hand, and we thank you for that initiative.

Monsieur le Président, if we might welcome all of our students to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — At this time I would like to introduce Ms. Colette Langlois who is with us today in the Speaker's gallery. If Ms. Langlois could please rise? There she is.

Ms. Langlois is the director of research, library, and information services at the Legislative Assembly in the Northwest Territories. Ms. Langlois is here to learn about the organization of our Hansard branch and the production methods utilized to put together our daily verbatim reports. With Ms. Langlois is Lenni Frohman, director for parliamentary publications of our own Legislative Assembly Service. Please join with me in welcoming Ms. Langlois to Saskatchewan.

At this time, I would like to remind our guests not to participate in events on the floor of the Assembly, which includes applause. Thank you.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for protection for late-night retail workers by passing Jimmy's law. We know that in the early morning hours of June 20th, 2011, Jimmy Ray Wiebe was shot two times and died from his injuries. He was working at a gas station in Yorkton alone and unprotected from intruders.

And we know that armed robberies, such as the one that took place in Regina on January 23rd, 24th of this year, show that Jimmy's law is needed to give workers added protection in his

workplace. And just this morning, Mr. Speaker, I read of another headline, "Station robbed at gunpoint," in my own riding on Avenue H last night just after midnight.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately enact Bill 601, Jimmy's law, to ensure greater safety for retail workers who work late-night hours.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the city of Saskatoon and Moose Jaw. I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition from Saskatchewan people calling for the Sask Party government to support the Saskatchewan seniors' bill of rights. The petition notes:

That many Saskatchewan seniors live on fixed incomes and are victims of physical, emotional, and financial abuse; that Saskatchewan seniors have a right to social and economic security and a right to live free from poverty; that Saskatchewan seniors have a right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to enact a Saskatchewan seniors' bill of rights which will provide Saskatchewan seniors with social and economic security and protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of trappers of Saskatchewan. The current regulations being enforced are creating challenges that are a concern to our traditional trappers.

The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that the experience gained through practical experience be valued; and in so doing to cause the government to review the current legislation and regulations with respect to trapping regulations and firearm use in consultation with the traditional resource users.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many good trappers of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

### Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie Week

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate our Fransaskois citizens on having March 9th to 25th designated as Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie Week in the province of Saskatchewan. During this time of recognition, Saskatchewan's 17,000 francophones and 35,000 francophiles will join 9.5 million of their counterparts nationwide in a showcase of the vitality of francophone culture and heritage. For more than 100 years we have benefited from the presence of French culture and language in this province.

Mr. Speaker, francophone organizations provide employment, immigration, and community development programs within the province, as well as immigration and interprovincial migration services. This year one of those organizations, L'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, celebrated their 100th anniversary as acting as spokesperson for the Fransaskois community. Greater interaction leads to greater understanding. All Saskatchewan residents are invited to attend the numerous activities taking place across the province during this time of celebration.

Festivities are held in March throughout Canada to promote French language and francophone culture and coincide with the International Day of the Francophonie on March the 20th.

I would encourage everyone, no matter what their heritage, to take part in this cultural celebration. I'm pleased to be able to rise today to highlight the importance of the francophone community in our great province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Luther Invitational Basketball Tournament

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Luther Invitational Basketball Tournament. This event is one of the longest running tournaments in Western Canada and always provides excitement and entertainment for those attending.

This year was no different. In the final game, Regina's own Riffel Royals narrowly defeated the Kelvin Clippers with a 67-65 win. The game went back and forth and both teams gave valiant efforts, but in the end, it was Riffel who secured their first win at the LIT [Luther Invitational Tournament].

Drew Hunter had coached the Luther Lions for many seasons. This year, he passed the torch on to his brothers Adam and Joel. With their work, combined with that of event organizer Dave Hall, one-third of the student body, faculty, alumni, parents, volunteers, fans, and friends, the event was a tremendous success. Sixty years is a long time, Mr. Speaker, and I believe the lasting success of this tournament reflects the leadership of students, staff, and alumni, and the sportsmanship displayed by players, coaches, and fans. May these facets continue for many

years to come.

Please join me in thanking all those involved to help make the 60th LIT so outstanding. It is an exceptionally proud sporting tradition in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

#### **Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Convention**

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak about the 107th annual Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities convention on in Regina this week. And I would like to welcome all convention delegates to the Queen City.

Our government understands the great economic, cultural, and social contributions the rural areas have made to Saskatchewan. Our government is committed to rural success. Our government has invested a record \$2.2 billion in our first four years to repair our highways and improve nearly 6000 kilometres of road. We've created the first ever rolling five-year capital plan to address the provincial infrastructure deficit, and increased revenue sharing to rural municipalities by 86 per cent. This funding is unconditional, based on economic growth, and allows municipalities to determine local priorities and fund projects accordingly.

This morning, 1.8 million was announced for animal control under the going forward agreement as well as 210,000 for the grain bag recycling pilot program.

Rural Saskatchewan is going to continue to be a great driver of our economy. Industry and agriculture require world-class infrastructure. Business and government require predictable and stable sources of revenue. Our government is committed to continuing to provide these necessities to our rural municipalities.

I would ask all members to join me in welcoming our SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] representatives to Regina and thank them for the great work they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Building a Better Future**

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, earlier this spring, February 22nd, I attended the annual youth conference, Building a Better Future, sponsored by Lac La Ronge Indian Band health services and Senator Myles Venne School youth council.

At that gathering, Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to address the youth that were in attendance. I spoke about the importance of staying in school, the impact of drug and alcohol abuse in our communities, and I also praised them for their participation in the gathering.

Mr. Speaker, the conference offered a mixture of information: motivational speakers, workshops, fun events, and entertainment, and of course, a celebration of Aboriginal

culture. The workshop included such topics as suicide prevention — a very serious issue in our northern communities — leadership development, healthy relationships, FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder], and addictions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Lac La Ronge Indian Band health services group, in particular the prevention and recovery unit, in sponsoring this worthwhile activity for our First Nations youth. Thank you.

[13:45]

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

#### **Farm Family of the Year Award**

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Ross family of the Estevan area. The Ross L-7 Ranch was awarded the 47th annual Farm Family of the Year Award, an event that both the Minister of Agriculture and I attended.

Lester Ross and his brothers moved to the Estevan area in 1906. The hearts of Lester's son and daughter-in-law, Cyril and Helen, were always in the livestock business. They crossbred their stock with imported cattle, had an artificial insemination business, and raised and trained quarter horses. Cyril won his team penning event at Agribition in 2008 at the age of 86, Mr. Speaker.

Brian Ross currently heads the Ross L-7 Ranch. Brian married Rosalie Viken in 1970. He is an entrepreneur who attended the North Dakota State University and worked for the Department of Agriculture. The Rosses took over an artificial insemination project and raised cattle.

Brian has been president of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and a founding director of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association. Brian and Rosalie have three sons, Chad, Michael, and Jeremy. Chad and his wife, Crystal, own a cow herd and feedlot while Michael and his wife, Zoe, and Jeremy and his wife, Carol, are all veterinarians. The ranch is still busy. The Ross grandchildren are involved in cattle and horse activities and a new generation of ranchers are busy learning the ropes. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Ross family on winning the Farm Family of the Year Award. Thank you.

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

#### **Prince Albert Council of Women's Hall of Fame**

**Ms. Jurgens:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March 8th, 2012 marks the 47th year the United Nations celebrated International Women's Day. Mr. Speaker, the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Sask Rivers and I had the pleasure of attending this year's International Women's Day celebration hosted by the Prince Albert Council of Women. This year women from Prince Albert and area joined together to celebrate by inducting three worthy women into the P.A. [Prince Albert] Council of Women's Hall of Fame.

Christine Taylor was inducted in the adult mentor category followed by Melissa Menzies in the youth role model, community, and school volunteer category. Lastly, Marjorie Naanair was inducted posthumously.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of knowing Marj personally. She was selfless, caring, vibrant, empathetic, and a dedicated volunteer. I first met with Marj when we were colleagues on the race relations and social issues committee now known as the social infrastructure committee in the city of Prince Albert.

Marj was always looking out for people and was very outspoken for those that could not or would not speak for themselves. Her loss is deeply felt by our community.

I would like this Assembly to join me in recognizing Christine Taylor, Melissa Menzies, and my friend Marjorie Naanair for their induction into the Prince Albert Council of Women's Hall of Fame. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Batoche.

#### Music Educator Honoured

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the tireless efforts of Batoche constituent Ann Mueller and congratulate her on the recent honour that she has been bestowed. Ann, the retired executive director of the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, the SMEA, was recently awarded the highest tribute a music educator can receive. The internationally renowned Canadian composer Stephen Hatfield was commissioned by the board of directors of the SMEA to write a song for Ann in recognition of her contribution to music education in Saskatchewan.

Her composition, "The Gentle Rain from Heaven," was performed in Ann's honour by the Saskatchewan Honour Choir and conducted by Stephen Hatfield himself. This touching, emotional tribute was shared by her colleagues, friends, and family at the music conference in Regina. In her introduction of the world premiere of Ann's song, Phoebe Voigts, the artistic director of the world-famous Saskatoon Children's Choir spoke of Ann's special touch in all the ongoing work and special projects in the music community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all members to join me in thanking Ann for her 28 years of dedicated service to the SMEA and congratulate her on her recent honour. Thank you.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Representation

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier has had sufficient time to rethink his decision to introduce legislation that will change the electoral process in Saskatchewan and not count young people under the age of 18 in the drawing of the constituency boundaries. My question is to the Premier: is he prepared to pull Bill 36 and then introduce new legislation that will include everyone in this aspect of the electoral process?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The practice that this Bill will follow is that adopted in Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Yukon. In those provinces, they deal with registered voters only. In Saskatchewan we will be dealing with people over 18. It is a fair and reasoned approach. That is how electoral costs are borne. That is how you determine the various things that are paid for by the government or the allowances that are there.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is how we deal with elections, but that is not how we deal with children. And that is not how we deal with vulnerable people . . . [inaudible] . . . We move resources around and we allocate them where the needs are, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to do that. Where there is a high number of children in one area, we will commit resources to schools, social services, and everything else that is required regardless of how many MLAs represent a specific area or which party those MLAs belong to, Mr. Speaker. Our commitment is towards the citizens and the children of our province.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier continues to talk out of both sides of his mouth. On one hand, he says he represents everyone in the province. And the next sentence he says that it's fair to exclude future voters under the age of 18 in this aspect of the electoral process.

So my question is to the Premier: where was this in your electoral platform? Where was this in the Throne Speech? Why the change? If the government represents everyone in the province, why is he excluding young people under the age of 18 in this important part of the electoral process?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, no one is excluded. This government will continue to represent all the people of the province of Saskatchewan. People of the age of majority vote. That's the method of election as well, and it'll be the method for drawing maps.

And, Mr. Speaker, there is a precedent for it. In 1979 under the NDP [New Democratic Party], the number of constituencies were set at 65 — 63 in the South, 3 in the North — and it was based on the voters list, Mr. Speaker. Now is it that member's contention that the Blakeney government did not represent young people? Is it that member's contention that the Blakeney government did not provide a voice for families?

Mr. Speaker, the argument doesn't hold any water. This government will continue to represent all of the province of Saskatchewan. We'll give voice to everyone's concerns, young and old alike, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier said, "Elections are about people 18 years and over, but the services and representation that governments provide and oppositions

provide are about everyone.”

The Premier has it only half right. Elections are about everyone. Young people under 18 count, and they need to be included in the equation that is used to draw constituency boundaries. Many young people that won't be counted in this redistribution that we're going into will be voting in the next election. Seven provinces and the federal government count everyone in the formula. In this day and age, we make sure that we include everyone right across the board.

So my question to the Premier is this: elections affect everyone in the province and the changes affect everyone. Will the Premier agree today to pull Bill 36 and hold public consultations before he takes the step of excluding young people?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't think the Blakeney NDP government excluded young people. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, clearly, Mr. Speaker, the process for electing members of the Assembly, the process, the election process is about people who are of voting age. Election issues are about families. Election issues are about seniors. And then the government's keeping of promises made in a campaign are also about families.

Mr. Speaker, the government will continue to represent everybody in the province. The electoral maps, the electoral map in the province — as is done in Quebec, as is done in Prince Edward Island I think, and as is done in the territory — will be based on a count of people who could vote. So you have electoral districts of people who can vote based on a count of people who can vote, Mr. Speaker. I think that makes some sense.

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

### Injectable Drug Supply

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's currently a nationwide shortage of a number of injectable drugs due to significant challenges at a plant in Quebec. The Canadian Medical Association has said the situation is very serious, has actually said if something is not done, we actually look at going back to an 1890s style of medicine. Local health care professionals in Saskatchewan are also concerned especially as this relates to cancer patients and patients in palliative care. We know that health professionals are sounding the alarms, as this is a very serious matter.

My question to the minister: what is he doing to ensure that patients suffering with battling cancer and individuals in palliative care, what is he doing to ensure that they have the necessary medications that they need?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're very aware of the fire that happened in the Quebec plant back on March the 4th that has affected the production of certain injectable drugs for cancer to offset some

illness that they may face. So we have been very aware of that. We've followed through. We've worked with the federal government and governments across the country, but more importantly with the health regions, directly with the health regions, the 12 health regions and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

We are faring fairly well in the province right now. We have an adequate supply to cover off the next week or two. If we continue to get the supply that we have received, Mr. Speaker, we don't see a big effect affecting our residents here in Saskatchewan. Some of the steps that are being taken is removing patients off the injectable drug into an oral application, Mr. Speaker. So the precautions are certainly being taken by our government, by the health regions. And I can say that we are in contact with other governments as well as the federal government on a really, quite frankly, probably on a daily basis to monitor this as it moves forward.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Many cancer and palliative care patients require injections of fentanyl to manage their pain. Dr. Ken Stakiw was the medical director of palliative care in the Saskatoon Health Region, and he informs me, as the minister just stated in his answer, that fentanyl in some cases can be given orally as well with a syringe. I'm told, however, though that it can be very uncomfortable and very problematic for patients. Also it often requires a number of doses in order for the individual to receive the appropriate amount of medication. For many patients also in palliative care, the provision of fentanyl orally simply isn't an option for them.

Dr. Stakiw says that a suitable substitute drug for fentanyl is Abstral, which is a dissolvable tablet that is placed under the patient's tongue. I'm told that it costs around \$10 per tablet. It's been approved by Health Canada, but it is not currently covered by the Saskatchewan drug plan.

My question to the minister: is government willing to add Abstral to the Saskatchewan formulary, especially in light of the shortage of injectable drugs that we are seeing across the country?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said in my previous answer, we are working with the health regions and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to manage through this. Right now we feel that the adequate care is being given. We have, as I said, moving from the injectable to the oral, that's not possible for all patients, but by doing that we're extending the injectable supply that much longer out because we have transferred patients off of that. We're looking at it as we speak today, and it's manageable. And as long as we continue to receive a reduced amount from Sandoz, but the amount that we feel will be allotted, Mr. Speaker, we feel that we can meet the demand and the need. But in the event that that is not possible, we'll be looking at all options.

As I said, I was on a conference call with the prairie provinces

as well as Ontario. And we are putting together a game plan, Mr. Speaker, and lobbying the federal government to make sure that all options are looked at in the event that the supply is not adequate for Saskatchewan.

[14:00]

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the shortage of injectable drugs is beyond the minister's direct control, and I appreciate that there's a formal process for adding drugs to the provincial formulary, but I hope that the minister will agree that this is a very unique situation. He's expressed some of his opinions about that, and I hope that he will agree that there is more to do. And he just talked about considering other options. The last thing patients need, especially when they are battling cancer or in palliative care, is to worry about their medications, worry about chasing down the necessary medications in order to deal with their pain.

My question to the minister: given the shortage of injectable drugs at this time, at least on an interim basis, will he consider and will he approve the addition of Abstral to the formulary so that doctors, physicians like Dr. Stakiw are able to deal with the pain associated with the treatments that their patients are undergoing?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, as I have said in my previous two answers, we are monitoring the situation. We feel comfortable in the province right now. Having said that though, that doesn't mean that we're not on a daily basis working with the health regions and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to meet the needs and the demands of our citizens. And in the event that we see that supply starting to shorten significantly, we'll look at other options, led by the federal government and certainly lobbied to by the provincial government.

I won't, Mr. Speaker, go any further than that because it wasn't only a few years ago that there was a shortage of an injectable drug for H1N1. And I remember what the opposition had to say on what we should have been doing at that time, Mr. Speaker, was the exact wrong thing, Mr. Speaker. We took the advice from the experts here in Saskatchewan and across Canada, Mr. Speaker, managed H1N1 very, very well. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm taking that advice from the experts again. And I think we'll handle this one very well without the advice of the opposition.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, I heard the minister's response talking about the advice of experts. And the point that I would like to make to the minister is that it's physicians and it's care providers in the province who are concerned. It's those individuals in a national and a provincial context who are raising alarms. The addition of this, this additional drug is an option available. And I think that for the minister to say that it is simply an issue that he doesn't need to pay attention to is a concern.

My question to the minister: will he give it serious consideration, based on the requests coming from health professionals, that this additional drug be added? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't know what in the previous three answers would have given that member opposite the idea that I'm not taking this issue seriously, that we're not looking at every option, Mr. Speaker. I have said that in the previous three answers. Mr. Speaker, he'll have one physician that would like to see us move in one direction. We have the Ministry of Health and physicians, our chief medical officer and others within the ministry, as well as a federal ministry, Mr. Speaker, that are on top of this, are looking at every option, Mr. Speaker.

I will take my advice from those professionals as we move forward, not the opposition, Mr. Speaker. We've seen what they wanted to do with H1N1; it was completely the wrong direction, Mr. Speaker. We will take the advice of our professionals and make sure that the citizens of Saskatchewan receive the care they so deserve.

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

#### Identification and Removal of Asbestos

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that last week it was uncovered that seniors at St. Mary's Villa were subjected not only to the removal from their homes but also, also possible exposure to asbestos. We also know that this dangerous insulation material has been used in buildings throughout Saskatchewan.

To the minister: what is this government's plan regarding asbestos in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the members will be aware, asbestos was used for many, many years as an insulation and for a variety of different uses and was a legal substance to be used. Mr. Speaker, in the last number of years, it's determined that asbestos causes enormous health hazards when it is moved or becomes airborne — mesothelioma and a number of things that have affected firefighters in our province.

Mr. Speaker, we have moved forward to try and protect firefighters and give them additional coverage through the Workers' Compensation Board. We have, in the situation at St. Mary's, ensured that through our occupational health and safety unit that the asbestos that is in that building has been removed in complete compliance with the existing regulations so that no threat was posed either to workers that were working on the facility or to people that were in the building at the time. Mr. Speaker, that is the plan that we have, and that is the plan we'll continue to have.

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



**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, people may be exposed to asbestos in their workplace, in their communities, or in their homes. And we know recently, Mr. Speaker, a Saskatchewan man has made national headlines because of his fight with terrible effects of asbestos exposure. Howard Willems of Saskatoon, contracted mesothelioma while inspecting a number of older food plants here in the province. He argues, and I quote that, “Everyone has a right to know when they go into a workplace or when they’re going into a building, it is safe.”

To the minister: is this government willing to take the necessary steps to develop an asbestos registry here in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the experts at occupational health and safety have told us that asbestos, when contained or when not being moved, does not pose a risk. Mr. Speaker, it is when asbestos is removed or in the process of reconstruction that it becomes airborne and becomes a risk for people that are working in and around it. It is necessary that steps are taken during those types of reconstruction process, and those steps are always carefully supervised by the experts and the officials at occupational health and safety.

To the extent that asbestos already exists in buildings, where it is not moved or not subject to human exposure, human contact, it does not pose a risk. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the practice that is adopted in most other jurisdictions. And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to look at it. We’ll continue to adopt best practices.

We do not have a recommendation from our experts at OH & S [occupational health and safety] that a registry would provide any additional benefit and might in fact alarm people unnecessarily or cause the asbestos to be moved or disturbed. The goal should be that it remains as it is, where it is, and we will deal with it appropriately.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — I think that answer provides cold comfort to many people such as Howard after the fact because he just didn’t know. We know that this product has been used in schools, hospitals, and senior care homes, as well as countless other buildings. And people need more than a registry, more than the guarantees of when it’s just being moved. They deserve increased regulation and enforcement of asbestos disposal or usage here in Saskatchewan. To the minister: will this government commit to not just a registry, but also increased regulation and enforcement designed to protect Saskatchewan people from asbestos?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, last year we introduced legislation that expanded the coverage in the presumptive cancers that may well be caused by asbestos or by other toxins that exist for firefighters. We will continue to ensure that asbestos does not become an increased or an additional hazard

anywhere in our province.

Mr. Speaker, we are following in our province, best practices. Those best practices exist throughout the nation. We are following those practices. We are in continual comparison with what is taking place in other jurisdictions. We will continue to do that. We will not go looking for problems, but we will monitor carefully and see that when problems do arise that they are dealt with.

The methodology that is used for removal of asbestos and identification of asbestos now is serving the province well and does not pose a risk, Mr. Speaker, as long as the asbestos is left where it is and is kept contained. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the advice we received from the expert at OH & S and we will continue to follow that advice.

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

### Federal Crime Legislation

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Other provinces have concerns about the federal crime Bill, specifically because of the costs that are so high and placed directly on provinces. Some estimates have put the cost of that Bill at hundreds of millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, all off-loaded onto the provinces.

Yesterday the Minister of Justice stood in this House and informed us, I quote, “. . . it is impossible at this point in time to make any kind of realistic assessment” with regard to the cost of this Bill. My question to the Minister of Finance: does he share this view?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Federal Bill C-10 goes a long way to protect Canadians. We believe that we need to protect our children from sex predators. We need to protect people from Internet stalking. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to support those provisions of the Bill. We know that this Bill will likely result in some increase in incarceration; a lot of the people that would be prosecuted in our nation now would be prosecuted under this Bill or would be prosecuted in any event. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to ensure that those people are prosecuted, as they should be. We know that it may well have an increase on the number of people that are in our correctional facilities.

I can advise the House, Mr. Speaker, that we have, since we formed government, increased our facilities to hold an additional 90 male offenders and additional 36 female offenders. The facilities that we’ve added for female offenders could be double-bunked so that they could hold an additional 72. Mr. Speaker, during the time that the members opposite were in government, they replaced facilities that they were in, but they did not add one single additional correctional space. Mr. Speaker, we will work to do what’s right.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, as I listened to the start of that answer, I thought Mr. Toews had joined us in the Assembly here today for a moment there, Mr. Speaker. You know, the budget's coming down in just a mere few days, but they've had this Bill for months, Mr. Speaker. It defies belief that this government hasn't budgeted for this cost. Mr. Speaker, either this reflects incompetence or it's a matter of not being straight to Saskatchewan people. Question to the minister: which is it?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we know that our correctional facilities are at capacity now. We know that they will have to be increased in the next short period of time. We will be working towards doing that. We will not want to go forward with a bunch of speculation as to the number of spaces that will be required till we know exactly the impact of that. The folks in Corrections, Public Safety and Policing are looking at a variety of different options to try and increase our capacity, and we will see what the impact of this Bill has.

The estimates from across the country vary greatly, and we're not going to participate in that type of speculation other than to say, Mr. Speaker, we anticipate that there will be an increase. Mr. Speaker, we support the things that are in this Bill, which include protecting our children. And I think, Mr. Speaker, everyone in our country wants to see that happen, including the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will get rid of things like house arrest. This Bill will deal with organized crime. It will deal with other things. It will keep people safe. It will prevent the traffic, abuse, and exploitation of vulnerable immigrants. We will work towards those ends, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Provincial Budget and Relationship with Federal Government

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, that answer is way off the mark. The question is about the budget itself and the finances of the province and about responsible government. The expensive crime Bill unfortunately is but one example. The examples of federal off-loading continue, Mr. Speaker.

Down the road we see health care transfers and OAS [Old Age Security] retirement security payments offering the same trend. It's a rubber stamp signature from this government when the cheques are coming directly out of the pockets of Saskatchewan people. As I stated yesterday, the costs this province bears in social services, justice, and health from the underfunded First Nations education system is also excessive off-loading, Mr. Speaker. Another example's in municipalities in the circumstance with the stroke of a pen, we have municipalities that are incurring hundreds of millions of dollars of increased costs. Mr. Speaker, off-loading once again. Why does this minister accept this off-loading from the federal government?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Advanced

Education, Employment and Immigration.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, we know how important it is to ensure that there is sound fiscal probity. And, Mr. Speaker, as a government under the leadership of our Premier and under the leadership of the Minister of Finance, that's what's been demonstrated, Mr. Speaker. We've seen that, not simply in a variety of public policy areas, Mr. Speaker — for example in post-secondary education, record investments of \$2.8 billion — we've also seen it in debt reduction, more than 44 per cent of the debt paid down. Mr. Speaker, \$3 billion, \$3 billion paid down, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as we look, as we look next week into the budget, Mr. Speaker, it's that kind of ethos of fiscal responsibility on behalf of the people of this province that this government is going to continue to offer.

[14:15]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it seems that there is no bill from the feds that this government is unwilling to pay, Mr. Speaker.

We're witnessing massive off-loading from the federal government onto our provincial books in file after file. The consequences will be felt by Saskatchewan people. We have a government that's now talking about cuts to core services in the classroom and in health, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: when will this government do the right thing? When will this government stand up for Saskatchewan people?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, I might draw reference to one specific file. And that is, Mr. Speaker, when the federal government pulled its money out of First Nations University, following the lead of this government as reforms were put in place, Mr. Speaker, and the provincial dollars went back in, we met with Ottawa. Ottawa put those dollars back in, Mr. Speaker. I think the member opposite mischaracterizes the relationship with Ottawa. It's professional and it's based on the interests of the people of the province, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

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

**The Speaker:** — Please state your point of order.

### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This being the first opportunity that I've had to review *Hansard* from yesterday, I'd like to draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to page 505 of *Hansard* and quote particularly rule 50(c) and (o) which refers to the use of a member's proper name in the House. The member for Nutana was speaking to Bill 36 yesterday. And I'll

quote, Mr. Speaker, from page 505. The quote is, “Brad Wall hates kids.” Mr. Speaker, if you could perhaps review and if the point of order is found to be well taken, remind the member from Nutana that the use of proper names is not permitted.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize for the use of a name in the House and I did do that yesterday as well. So again I apologize. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — Thank you very much. The member for Saskatoon Nutana has apologized for her error.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 27

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 27 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After a busy question period, it's nice to have a chance to enter into debate on Bill No. 27. And this is a continuation of remarks that I made last evening, Mr. Speaker, on Bill No. 27, *The Education Amendment Act, 2011*.

And for individuals who weren't watching the legislative channel last night around 10:20 p.m., this discussion occurred towards the end of the evening, as I was the last speaker, and I covered a number of topics in my earlier remarks. The topics that I covered, Mr. Speaker, basically talked about the importance of education for our society. As parents, as grandparents, as friends and neighbours, aunts and uncles, we do know that children are in fact what is most important to us in society, and that the education system has a huge role, a huge impact on the development of children and how well they are doing in life.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, as I said last night, whenever we're looking at changes to *The Education Amendment Act*, it's important to keep that in mind. It's important to come to it with that world view and that type of understanding because it allows us to ask the questions and allows us to do the thinking and the proper examination that is required on any piece of legislation. It's important, Mr. Speaker, that we be grounded in what is important, why we're doing something, what something is all about. And it's about the kids, Mr. Speaker. So looking at changes to *The Education Act* and the proposed amendments brought forward by the minister in Bill No. 27, I want to say from the very beginning that is what needs to be the main goal

and objective in what we are doing.

Last night, Mr. Speaker, I touched on a bit how this piece of legislation addresses the school year — the start of the school — that it would begin after Labour Day, Mr. Speaker. This was something that members opposite talked about in the election, and so the public knew about it. There wasn't a great deal of consultation, or any consultation, with families or with school boards or teachers but, Mr. Speaker, that is the course of action that the members opposite chose to take and is now why we have the amendments before us here, in order to allow the school year to start after Labour Day. It states that the minimum number of days will be 200 days or less and that it would begin after Labour Day. And there was a number of changes there to the section repealing sections 164 through 167.

The next section, Mr. Speaker, that I addressed last night on this piece of legislation, touched on a number of areas. The first one I described more generally as housekeeping- and modernization-type initiatives. It looked at things like repealing some obsolete provisions and making some changes and, for example, eliminating the education council as it had been dormant for some time — at least according to the minister's second reading speech — merging two boards into one, the teacher classification and teacher certification boards into one, given the amount of overlap, and also some adjustments that were required in order to be in compliance with federal legislation such as the *Copyright Act*.

Now the next portion, Mr. Speaker, that I addressed and touched on had to do with the case of educational funding, and in this section, Mr. Speaker, I talked about how it was within the members opposite's role as government to make changes to the way that schooling is funded. But I also stated that they need to be fully upfront and fully clear with Saskatchewan people that they are the primary funders for education, and as a consequence there are a number of changes that need to take place, I think, within their own thinking but also in the actions. The one is that there will be a tabling of documents from the divisions to the Assembly, recognizing that the financial responsibility ultimately rests with the provincial government.

We also had a very interesting discussion last night about how their decision around the funding has had implications for the relevance, the autonomy, and the ability of boards to make decisions as they see fit, based on their expertise and based on the role that they have been elected to serve in. And the example that I gave, Mr. Speaker, was how the moving of portable classrooms or relocatables now needs to have authority — or approval, excuse me — from the ministry, from the provincial government, which is a change because I think most people that have a bit of knowledge of what school boards do would think that deciding on things like relocatable classrooms would be more or less routine business for a school board. Well, Mr. Speaker, that has changed.

And I also talked about last night how that presents a number of problems and concerns for the public because now that the ministry has a say and final say and can determine and influence what boards are doing with respect to decisions such as the purchase of relocatable classrooms . . . I brought up the puzzling and somewhat and fairly disturbing situation of how the ministry was pushing a company in Swift Current to supply

portable classrooms throughout the province even though school boards have clearly said they can do it for tens of thousands of dollars less. They can do it faster and in many cases more efficiently.

And so the changes that the government has made, they're able to make those changes and they have made those changes, but it opens up a number of questions and has presented a number of concerns that we've seen in the time since they have made the changes. And I think that's an important thing to state on the record.

We also had a discussion last night on the topic of educational funding and how it is up to the province to provide funding now for institutions — the buck stops with them, so to speak — and I talked about how, for that reason, I've been presenting a petition for Hampton Village on behalf of my constituents who live in Hampton Village and Dundonald, who need a new school in this area, and how the existing Dundonald and St. Peter's schools are packed, are adding more relocatables every single summer. And it's a concern that many, many parents in the area have, and something that I hear about very often from people.

I had a bit of a problem, though, with some of the statements that the minister said in her second reading speech, and then that actually got into a bit of a discussion with the Finance minister last night who was very, very eager last night to enter in on the debate or on the issue of educational funding. And it was specifically on the issue of the new proposed schools in Willowgrove. And as I said last night, Mr. Speaker, members opposite approved the Willowgrove project, I believe it was in 2010, and gave an indication that it would be funded and supported. And the plan is, for those who don't live in the Willowgrove neighbourhood . . . I believe it belongs to the member from Silver Springs, so this should be of concern to him as well. But for individuals living in Willowgrove, expecting a school to be there, while the funding announcement was made in 2010, what I've heard, Mr. Speaker, is that some initial funding has been provided for the planning, but the final sign-off on the plans by the ministry has not occurred nor has funding flowed to allow the process to go ahead.

And as I said that last night, the Finance minister was very worked up. And he said, well they were sitting on it. And he said that the school board was sitting on the process to get the new schools in Willowgrove moving along. And I was surprised by that because the school board trustees that I know in Saskatoon, whether they be Catholic or public, are very eager to get the project going, understand the need and the urgency around it. So for the Finance minister to say that the school boards are the problem and sitting on it, I found that to be an odd statement.

So last night at the end of the debate, I sent a tweet, and it was an at-mention, Mr. Speaker. And it was something along the lines of, I said, interesting discussion tonight in the Assembly; as I talked about schools, the Finance minister heckled that the holdup is due to boards "sitting on it." And, Mr. Speaker, I do confess that's not a verbatim quote of the tweet, because I think that was more than 140 characters. But that was the tweet that I sent out. And I at-mentioned Ray Morrison, who is the Chair of the Saskatoon public school board.

So I found that puzzling. Perhaps this is a discussion that they will be able to follow up on. But then just before question period, the Chair of the Saskatoon school board at-mentioned me. And this is in public domain, so it's not like I'm relaying private correspondence here between the two of us. He at-mentioned, and what he said, quote, is: "Interesting. We are ready to go to tender and have asked for the ministry's approval to do so. Still hoping to open in fall 2013."

So, Mr. Speaker, good news that he still expects it to be able to open in 2013. But according to the Saskatoon public school board, the holdup is on the ministry side of things, waiting for sign-off and waiting for the cheque in the mail, so to speak. So an interesting position and perhaps something that either the member from Silver Springs or the Finance minister or the Education minister would like to clear up for the people in the Willowgrove neighbourhood waiting for a school.

The last portion, Mr. Speaker, of the piece of legislation that I will touch and address on, it was in the final section. And it had to do with changes that were being made with respect to how divisions may be allowed to borrow from financial institutions with the portion that divisions have to provide for projects, not having access to a tax base. And as I said before, that's a decision that members opposite have every right to make if they want to change the way that it is structured. But it's going to have implications for school divisions.

So they're basically ruling out sinking funds which, as I understand it, were funds where school divisions could hive off money over a period of time in order to build up a supply and co-operate in projects with the ministry. That's been eliminated, but divisions are allowed to go to financial institutions, I would assume regular banks or credit unions, and seek financing for their project.

Two concerns here, Mr. Speaker, the one being that I think it's important, if divisions are having to table their documents, I think it's important to recognize that this is part of overall provincial debt. And I think it's important for members opposite, the provincial government, the Sask Party government, to be upfront and clear with what the true debt levels are and what the burdens are around debt and what is the burden on the total, on the taxpayers of Saskatchewan. That's one concern.

The second concern with this approach that I identify, and members on my side of the House have spoken about this, is the possibility here that the minister's suggesting that school divisions go down a path of educational financing that could be more expensive than allowing borrowing through the province and thereby benefiting from a preferential borrowing rate. So that's a possibility, a real concern here that I think is an honest one.

My question is, if that is the situation, why is the government suggesting that, if they know they could save taxpayers of the province money, if there is a cheaper and a better way to do it, my question is why they would want to create a system that is more complicated and indeed more expensive for Saskatchewan people and probably not in the best interest of our children which, as I said at the beginning, is the guiding principle that should be used when talking about issues of education.

[14:30]

So, Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated the opportunity to speak to Bill No. 27 over the course of a couple of days, commencing remarks yesterday evening and then finishing them at this time. And I would hope that I've been able to identify some of the issues that I see as most obvious and concerning with this piece of legislation. As I said, some are a consequence of changes that the Sask Party has chosen to make around the school year, and so we know why that is there. Some of them, the changes proposed, are more routine in nature with respect to how boards may be structured and compliance with federal Acts. But, Mr. Speaker, there are also concerning aspects, and that has to do with education funding and that has to do with education financing, and I have sought to shine some light on that as well.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I do thank members for the opportunity to speak to this piece of legislation, and I would move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of the debate of Bill No. 27, *The Education Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 28

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 28** — *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This piece of legislation of course dovetails with the previous piece of legislation. And the dead giveaway, of course, is the title of the legislation and the Bill No. 28, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Education Act, 2011*. So this piece of legislation obviously has to be viewed as married to the previous piece of legislation that I just spoke extensively to.

As I said before, Mr. Speaker, over the course of two days I identified many of the main concerns and problems that I see with this legislation. As I said, when looking at pieces of legislation that affect children, it's important to always keep the children in mind and keep them as our top priority. Decisions that we make around education legislation must keep the children in mind.

So when we look at the different components of Bill 27 that I talked about, whether it's the school year, whether it is more routine business such as the organization and structure of boards, or whether it is the issue of how education is financed, this has huge relevance on the students — sometimes not in a major way that will affect the type of education in the classroom, but sometimes, Mr. Speaker, the implications and the results are felt in the long term. And that, Mr. Speaker, has

to do around the issue of, I think most clearly in this issue of education financing and borrowing and some of the costs associated.

If, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite are going down a path that costs Saskatchewan people more in the long run, I think that's a negative thing for children. So while it may not be felt in the classroom tomorrow, it will be felt by children or the children's children down the road. So I think that is an important concern.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the piece of legislation, at least in the minister's remarks, she talked a lot about different progress that had been made on building projects. And I recognize that some progress has been made. But I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that on many occasions, the level of progress that has been identified by the members opposite is overstated and not an accurate reflection of what is actually occurring on different projects. And I use the example of the Willowgrove school as one such piece. And I know that's a concern for people in Willowgrove, Mr. Speaker, but it's also a concern for people in other neighbourhoods like mine in Hampton Village who are waiting for the school and wondering when in fact pieces may fall into place.

So, Mr. Speaker, with those remarks, I've appreciated the chance to speak to Bill 27. I've appreciated the chance to speak to Bill 28. They have to be viewed together, as one is the consequential amendments flowing out of the other, and many of the comments are the same. So my remarks on Bill 28 won't be as lengthy as 27. But I will not be sending 28 to committee at this time because I think the two pieces of legislation need to stay together, and I know I have many colleagues who want to and wish to speak to Bill No. 27. So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 28. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of Bill No. 28, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 29

[The Assembly resumed debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 29** — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to stand and get into this discussion on Bill No. 29, *An Act to amend The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*.

It's a critical piece, and as reviewing my colleague's remarks and the minister's remarks, I think the office of maintenance enforcement orders has done an amazing job since its creation

in 1986. But it's one that is fraught with a lot of sensitivities because, you know, when I've been out knocking on doors, you never know when you knock on a door, sometimes there's an angry person behind it who has some issues with government, and quite often it's around maintenance.

And you know, as I've talked earlier this week about some of the other issues, this one is a tough one. It's a tough one. But it's really good to see that it has an enforcement rate of 91 per cent, I understand, and \$35 million collected annually. That means an awful lot to families who . . . When you're in a single parent situation, it's a tough go, and it really is a good thing in terms of making sure both parents step up to the plate. But I know sometimes it's hard and we get into discussions with some parents who feel that it's not quite right, and they have real issues with maintenance orders. And I just have to say to the folks who work in this office, I think hats off to them because they do a phenomenal job.

But I do want to say — this is something like I said last night about the Ombudsman and all of these Bills that come before us — has the government taken some time to actually talk to the people who use the services to say, how can we do this better? Now this is a particularly tough one to do that because clearly, more often than not, these folks are not happy campers. Because when you're being told that you have to pay your maintenance orders and it's being enforced, I can imagine there's a lot of frustration and anger and a lot of emotions rise to the surface. So it's hard for them to say, so how could we have done this better?

And likewise on the other side when things do go well, you kind of have two biases there. But if there is a way of finding out how can we do this better, I think that would have been of interest to me as part of the background notes here for the minister's remarks, because quite often when we have the office's perspective . . . And they are professional people who really know quite often what they're talking about. This is their sphere of work and their experience is phenomenal. So I do have to say I respect their opinions an awful lot, but it would have been interesting to see, because I think sometimes we need to reach out to those groups that we don't often ask. We provide a service and then they go away and we don't really say, so how did it go? How did it work? How are things? How can we help you better in terms of legislation? I'd be interested to know that, and I think that it would be of interest to many of our colleagues on the floor about, so how are things? How are things going?

The other issue that I have and I would like to raise with all of these pieces of legislation that's coming before us is around the issue of a lean government. And while many of us can say, well it's an admirable goal, a good thing we are trying to do, you know, if we can do more, more efficiently with less, then that would be not a bad idea. But quite often we don't fully understand what's happening in the government's inner workings and so when you have an office like the maintenance enforcement office orders, are they going to be subject to the same lean expectations and are they also part of the 16 per cent reduction over four years? I hope not, because these folks provide very important services. And if they are going to be asked to do more with less, and we know that there is a trend in our society that actually is marital breakdown happens more

and more, and yet we've got to turn to families to say to both parents, you've got to step up to the plate, this makes it a tough situation, a very tough situation.

And so I'm curious to know and will be asking that question in committee about, is this office that we hear such good results from — a 91 per cent enforcement rate and collecting some \$35 million — are they going to be part of the lean process? Are they losing some 16 per cent of the workforce? Now I imagine it's not a big workplace. I don't know what the full-time equivalents are in that office, but I've got to imagine there are a few. I've got to imagine that this not easy work, and you've got to have professionals, and if you're telling some that just because of an ideology that 16 per cent of the workforce has to go and your office is included, this is going to be a hardship on families, and one that they weren't really counting on. And one that, if you can look at their numbers you say, wow, they're really providing a service, and they're with it; they're doing good work.

So I do have a question. We'll be raising that question in the committee when we get to it. But I think that in many ways this is a piece of work that I think has a lot of merit. I mean there will be questions. I think that there are some things as we modernize language . . . It's always good so people know what you're talking about and the Act doesn't become a historic document but a living document, because clearly people can't afford to have things misunderstood.

So I think there are some things. I'd like to ask some questions, you know, and I'll pose them now. And so the minister, I know, he may actually read these remarks or somebody may in his office. I hope they do so they can prepare for committee and they don't come in: I've never heard of it.

But I think this is an interesting thing about a new customized computer system to keep track of maintenance orders and payments owing and received. So that's very good. I think that's a sharp thing. And whenever we can use technology, that's an absolutely excellent thing. I know, for example, I have often asked this question for Social Services around the seniors' income plan where they're using a program or system that's outdated, and they really need to get up to date. And I really do think that if there are ways of making technology work for us, that's a huge thing, a huge thing.

I think that also I want to talk just a minute about this. The Bill adds a new provision to allow the court to order suspension of certain enforcement actions for periods of up to six months. And the minister talks about the payer's circumstances change and they're no longer able to meet their obligation. So the support order can be changed through agreement or a new court order. But in some times, some cases, the payer may be unable to meet his or her obligations only for a short period of time. So this is a bit of flexibility, and that's I think an appropriate thing as long as it's not abused, and we don't get into, I think, being too fluid. Because it must be hard on the family. And if there seems to be some pressure to accept these temporary orders, that would become a problem as well. So we'll monitor that and just see how that goes.

I see it will not affect the enforcement already in place with respect to driver's licence suspension, federal garnishment or

federal licence suspension or a registration in land titles or personal property registry. So it doesn't go too far. It's just a temporary thing, but I think that it speaks to some common sense. So that has something that we'd like to know more about, but I think it's an important thing.

Also talks about maintenance, enforcing maintenance orders against assets located in Saskatchewan in cases where the payer lives elsewhere. That seems straightforward.

The confidentiality provision with respect to the release of information retained in a maintenance enforcement office, I think that sounds somewhat interesting that, especially in terms of the recipient, that the director of MEO [maintenance enforcement office] may complete a demand for information with respect to the recipient. I think that's interesting that how we can lose track of people, it seems. Occasionally the maintenance enforcement office may require information about a recipient such as a new mailing address. So I guess things are pretty . . . Things happen out there. And I shouldn't be surprised, you know, in a province of over 1 million people, that life — especially when you're at that age when you're having children and you're working and you're trying to find jobs throughout the province — you may end up having to move and so . . . But it is interesting that somebody would not know the recipient's mailing address. So to me it makes common sense that actually this would be something that we would want to do.

[14:45]

So I think this is relatively straightforward. But I do want to just reiterate that I think this is an important piece of legislation in terms of just being on the record that these folks do a good job and that it's important that whatever tools we can provide for that office, that if it's something that works and it's within reason, we should do all we can to help them out. And it seems that with, you know, in partnership with that collaborative law initiatives that the minister's taken, that it makes sense to pull this all together.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think that this seems relatively straightforward and I don't have too many more comments. I think that, as I said, we'll be watching how the lean initiative impacts on, I think, all of government, but particularly those who are in vulnerable situations such as families who've gone through a separation and there's children involved. We want to make sure that their services are there and there in a timely matter, that they're not caught in a bind because the services have been reduced.

So I hope that takes some account, especially when you have . . . and I think a lot of credit goes to the MEO for the work that they've been doing. If they can achieve a 91 per cent collection enforcement rate, \$35 million into families, that's a huge, huge amount. But this also speaks to the common sense of when families, both partners are under a lot of stress. And they need to be brought together, both through that collaborative law and this idea of suspension, temporary suspension of payments, I think is very important.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think I've made my comments clear. And I think that Bill 29 is one that I know many of my

colleagues will have a few comments to make as well. But I'd like to move adjournment of Bill 29 now. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of Bill No. 29, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 26

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 26** — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2011* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure this afternoon to rise and speak about Bill No. 26, *An Act to repeal miscellaneous obsolete Statutes*. And, Mr. Speaker, I will be looking at this from the perspective of a legislator who has been here a number of years but also looking at it as to the use of the word obsolete. Because clearly the word obsolete is defined by the government of the day, and we will look at that word as we look at the various pieces of legislation that are being repealed.

So for the public, when they see a Bill that's called a Bill, or *An Act to repeal miscellaneous obsolete Statutes*, there's an assumption that these are old laws that serve no purpose and should just be deleted. Now there's sometimes that's true. But let me read the list of the ones that we're going to talk about this afternoon, and let the public be the people who decide what should happen with these particular Bills.

The first one is *The Collective Bargaining Agreement Expiry Date Exception Act*. And then we're going to talk about *The Communications Network Corporation Act*, then *The On-farm Quality Assurance Programs Act*, and then *The Soil Drifting Control Act*, and then finally *The Special Payment (Dependent Spouses) Act*. And we're going to examine whether these particular pieces of legislation are obsolete and therefore meriting being repealed by the legislature.

So let's start with the first Act, which is called *The Collective Bargaining Agreement Expiry Date Exception Act*. This particular piece of legislation went into effect in December of 2005, and it was actually legislation that came back a number of different times to effectively make sure that when IPSCO was dealing with the United Steelworkers that they could enter into longer term agreements than *The Trade Union Act* at that point would allow. It also applied to Shaw Pipe Protection, which is another company that works together with IPSCO in producing pipe for the oil and gas industry. Because of the relationship between the union and these particular companies, over the years they made a special request which was a joint company request and a union request to have this legislation passed, which effectively gave an exemption to the particular agreement that they would have entered into.

And so what's happened since this last piece of legislation that has allowed for the exemption is that there have been some amendments to the labour legislation which allow for this type of agreement to be within the law of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, on the first Bill that's included in *An Act to repeal miscellaneous obsolete Statutes*, I think there's agreement that it's obsolete. So that's one that doesn't make any sense anymore because the provision that it provides is included in other legislation in the province.

Now the second item listed in the Bill is called *The Communications Network Corporation Act*, and I think it's appropriate to think a little bit about the history. The particular Act that's in effect right now in the legislation was passed and became effective in June 1990. And at that point this was an important part of the communications within the province. It dealt with a number of issues related to the education network that had been developed, and it basically created the provincial television station for our province.

And, Mr. Speaker, it was something that was, I think, of great pride to the government of the day — Premier Devine, and I'm fairly certain Mr. Gary Lane and others — because it was a further enhancement of the important things that could be done with SaskTel and with the other telecommunications issues that were happening in the province.

When the government changed in 1991, that particular legislation was left relatively the same way that it was and used I think very effectively to build on the history that had been developed to set up SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network], basically our provincial television system which had many aspects of the education, but it also had aspects of entertainment. But the most important thing that SCN did was that it told the Saskatchewan stories to us. It told stories to all parts of the province about who we were and what we did.

Part of that ability to tell the story came from the fact that they had a relatively modest budget which they could use to be partners in developing shows for the television station. And because of the quality of the filmmakers in our province and the actors and the writers and all of the technical people, many of those films have travelled around the world telling others about what kind of a place Saskatchewan is.

And, Mr. Speaker, the hopes and the dreams of the previous governments, and then the Romanow government and the Calvert government, around SCN were based in this particular legislation. We know that the development of the film industry in Saskatchewan was very much dependent on the kind of leverage that came from SCN. And, Mr. Speaker, this particular legislation has been brought today to be declared obsolete. I fundamentally object to that perspective on dealing with the legislation because the government of the day has made a political decision to sell the people's network of the province of Saskatchewan. There were many who objected, but it was sold. And guess what? It was sold again. It was sold again. Now we have Citytv, which is Toronto-based, as our provincial network. Now they make some little bows here and there to it being SCN in Saskatchewan. But even if you look at the programming documents that they put out or their screen, they got SCN in a little place. But it's Citytv is the big, big emblem on this one.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation, even though it's only one page long, what it includes, this, the declaration that SCN or the Communications Network Corporation of Saskatchewan is obsolete, I think that's not right. It's something that should not have happened. And we know it's causing a great deal of difficulty for our film industry. We know that four years ago we had probably 8 or 900 people who were the technical background — young, important jobs that were available to make films in Saskatchewan. And that was effectively maybe three or four full crews, maybe that. Now we're down to 250 to 300, and people are saying, we can't make a living doing that in Saskatchewan any more.

I know many of the people in the film industry are watching very carefully what happens next Wednesday in the budget because there's questions about the commitment to Saskatchewan people of this government as it relates to what has been a very important industry in Saskatchewan.

I think I can say without a doubt that shows that have played in Saskatchewan came from the skills developed at SCN. So *Corner Gas* or *Little Mosque on the Prairie* or all of those shows, they wouldn't have been created without the technical skills and the writing and everything else that came from the SCN corporation. So, Mr. Speaker, when they say that this piece of legislation is obsolete, what they're trying to do is push the scraps under the rug or hide away the fact that they've destroyed an important institution in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, it's that kind of decision that this government has made in quite a number of areas which the people remember. And they see what happens now on Citytv. It's just like any other channel that has some various shows. You know, we have hundreds of channels if you want to chose now, but we don't have SCN, which we felt was our station which told our stories to us but also to the world.

So, Mr. Speaker, on that second one, *The Communications Network Corporation Act*, I fundamentally disagree that it's obsolete. I fundamentally disagree with the decision of this government. And unfortunately with some of these kinds of decisions that are made, it's very hard to put the white and the yolk back in the egg once you've smashed it.

[15:00]

And so, Mr. Speaker, here it is, a Premier Devine pride that's been destroyed by this Premier. And so we don't understand that one, and we will continue to say that it was a mistake. Now it's unfortunate that that political decision was made, but we know that especially the people who have lost their jobs in this whole area know why they've lost their jobs. And they will not forget.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the next item on this list is called *The On-farm Quality Assurance Programs Act*, and this is a more interesting one. And it's declared to be obsolete because it hasn't been used. But in some ways, this may be the piece of legislation that 10 years or 20 years from now, we go retrieve it and bring it back and pass it again. And let me explain why.

This was a Bill from 1998, and it basically sets out a system of quality assurance for all types of food. And it was at a point where there weren't pieces of legislation like this in very many



places. And so the plan was — and I guess still is, from some of the people, although they're not in the majority any more — to set up a system whereby we as consumers could know what the quality was.

I'll give you an example. Many of us go to the store to buy wine. And one of the things that, if you're a discerning wine buyer, you will look for VQA, vintners quality assurance. Well that's the same words here, on-farm quality assurance.

The whole idea was for farmers in Saskatchewan, whether they were large grain, lentil, canola farmers, or whether they had berries or whether they had vegetables, that they would be able to develop a system within their area of production that could give them a VQA or an OQA [on-farm quality assurance], we would have probably called it here, or OFQA [on-farm quality assurance] assurance. So when one went to the store, you could say, well I see these berries, but I want ones that have the quality assurance from Saskatchewan, certified by the province of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, we know that when you buy wine, you'll always pay a little more for the VQA wines because you can know where the grapes were grown and how the wine was produced.

Well there's a similar concept behind this Bill that has been lost. Now the minister, when he was presenting this Bill last week — I think it was the Minister of Justice, not the Minister of Agriculture — basically presented the information that he had. But I don't think he totally understood what the ultimate goal of this particular legislation was. And that was to make sure that, in Saskatchewan, we could go worldwide and say, well that's a quality assured food from Saskatchewan and it has the endorsement of a program under legislation of the Saskatchewan legislature, and that it's a very good product to buy. And probably that one would pay a little bit more for it because of that particular concern, or that particular characteristic of the food.

Now we have producers in Saskatchewan who have developed systems that are not under a provincial registry system that allow you to go, and go to a website and actually see the produce and where it's grown, if it's a plant or vegetable. Or you could also see where your beef comes from or your bison or other things. And so there are some methods of doing that. But they don't have the kind of designation that you would have in British Columbia or California or in France or Germany or Australia where it says, well that particular food product comes from Redvers and surrounding areas and it has the quality and . . . I guess the word is terroir. It's the special ingredients in the growing of the food that make a difference.

Now probably 14, 15 years ago when this legislation was introduced, there wasn't the same kind of discussion about this in Saskatchewan. But now we know we have a mustard festival in Regina to celebrate the fact that most of the mustard in the world is grown in Saskatchewan. And it's the kind of product that would have benefit from this kind of a program.

The minister says that, well we don't need this any more because the Canadian national food and agriculture department has a method of dealing with some of the safety issues. Well,

Mr. Speaker, that's good. We all would like to know that our food is safe. But this had an added aspect that was specifically from Saskatchewan, which would have benefited all of us.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think on this particular legislation we may see it come back again either in this . . . It could go in this form or it could go in a similar form to give our Saskatchewan products that special quality assurance mark, but more importantly to assist us in distinguishing the kinds of foods, grains, canola, all the different things that we produce here that others are quite interested in receiving.

So on this particular Bill, the third one, we accepted that the first, collective bargaining agreement expiry date exemption Act, well that one's obsolete. On the second one, we absolutely disagreed with the destruction of SCN, the communications network corporation. On this on-farm quality assurance program, we think this is a missed opportunity that shouldn't be just thrown out at this point but should be remembered as the first step in developing something very special for Saskatchewan which a number of people have been asking for, and which was there and now is being tossed out.

Now the next Bill is called *The Soil Drifting Control Act*, and this is clearly legislation that was developed in response to the problems of the 1930s in Saskatchewan. And if we can describe it like the historian would describe it, this is maybe some of our first climate change legislation in Saskatchewan because it was a response that allowed for a rural municipality to override some of the property rights to deal with a soil drifting issue and on the request of a number of the local people where the problem had arisen.

And so, Mr. Speaker, what would happen would be that there would be a request that came from I think it was 40 people, to end up creating some special land use bylaws that would deal with the climate change issue of drought and the drifting soil. And as a result, then they could end up developing various orders that were very specific to the area where they lived. And these orders would sometimes implement the types of soil conservation methods that we have now but also some, I think, probably ingenious solutions that people had at that point.

But if you look to see what kinds of orders that could be made, listen to the list. It's pretty interesting. This is section 3(1) of this Bill that we're tossing out, a municipal bylaw, an RM [rural municipality] bylaw. It's appropriate we talk about it today when SARM's meeting. A bylaw may contain provisions requiring adoption of the practice of strip farming. That's something we know, or the growing of cover crops. That's, I think, probably called no-till now, and the providing of trash cover or the spreading of straw or other refuse on cultivated lands. Well that's another way of a straw spreader or something to put an extra layer to prevent the blowing of soil. They also could make an order prohibiting the burning of stubble. And that's something which still causes problems today for lots of different reasons in addition to the soil drifting issue.

Another order they could do is either prohibit the cutting of trees or requiring the planting of trees, and that would be a decision made on a municipal basis that would override the local property rights. Another thing they could do is they could require people to use certain types of machinery, or they could

prohibit other kinds of machinery that would cause problems with the drifting. And overall they could govern how people tilled their soil, and they also could regulate or prohibit the growing of certain crops in special areas. So obviously on some particular high places or hilltops where the soil was sandier, they would end up requiring there be special remedies to deal with the possible soil drifting.

So when you look at the subtitle of the Act in the legislation we're looking at, it's called *The Soil Drifting Control Act*, but when you actually look at the Act, chapter S-54, it's called *An Act respecting the Control of Tillage Operations*. And so what it is recognizing is that there's a responsibility to your neighbours to do appropriate tillage of your soil and there's also a responsibility of the community to keep track of what you're doing.

Now that's not necessarily the type of legislation that the present government would be interested in. But I think it does go to the point of talking about, well what are the things that we need to do in the 21st century to respond to both flooding issues and the drought issues? This is a particular piece of legislation that was dealing with drought. And so, Mr. Speaker, it's possible that it's obsolete, but I think that there are questions about some of the practical solutions that are in this legislation as it relates to the control of tillage operations, as it relates to the control of tillage operations, as it relates to our long-term concern here on the prairies about both drought and flooding. And if you think about it, on the flooding issue, if you had the ability to tell people what kind of machinery they would use, well you could deal with some of the trenching that goes on and other things that actually cause more troubles than they're worth. Now we have some other pieces of legislation that attempt to do that, but I would say this particular piece of legislation is about as direct and as simple as it comes because it gives the responsibility to the local rural municipality.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't think this one is quite obsolete. It's clearly from a different time period in how it was written, but the ideas and the concerns are still valid concerns today, and in some ways may even be bigger concerns than they were after the and during the '30s when that particular drought was here. So, Mr. Speaker, on that one I would say it's not . . . The wording in some parts may be obsolete, but the concept of legislating and providing tools to deal with climate change is as modern as they come. And what we should want to see is, well what is replacing legislation like this so that we can deal with the issues of the 21st century? So, Mr. Speaker, that's *The Soil Drifting Control Act*.

[15:15]

Now the final Act in this particular piece of legislation, the final Act that's going to be repealed is called *The Special Payment (Dependent Spouses) Act*. And this legislation is, relates to *The Workers' Compensation Act* and some of the deadlines that were in the legislation and how widows were treated in — well widows or widowers were treated — when the legislation was changed.

And so effectively what this particular piece of legislation did in 1999 was address some of the concerns that were raised by women who were left out, and inappropriately left out. And so

that's a time when a piece of legislation will fix a problem that's been identified, and that's a good thing. But I think also it's clear that those particular problems have all now been identified and those issues dealt with, and so this is a piece of obsolete legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's do a little scorecard here on the Bills that are included in Bill No. 26, an Act to repeal miscellaneous "obsolete" statutes. *The Collective Bargaining Agreement Expiry Date Exception Act*, I think that's obsolete. It's function has been taken over by another piece of legislation.

*The Communications Network Corporation Act*, repealing that is a mistake. Doing what the government has done to our television station, our communications station, our film producing partner is wrong. And to repeal the Act is wrong when you don't have anything to replace it. So that one, I disagree with this particular Bill.

*The On-farm Quality Assurance Programs Act*. It's legislation that maybe was too far ahead of the producers in Saskatchewan. But, as we can see, there are more and more people concerned about exactly where their food comes from, and this was legislation that would allow that type of designation, similar to a wine with the vintners quality assurance program. So I don't think it's obsolete legislation; it may be just legislation that was ahead of its time. So I would suggest that the Department of Justice keeps that one handy, and we can bring it back when there's a few more people that are really concerned about where their food comes from.

*The Soil Drifting Control Act*, the language in this one may be obsolete, but the concept of legislating in a very practical way on a local basis to deal with climate change issues, in this case it was drought but also on the flooding and water issues, I think that concept is still there. And so we need to understand, and maybe we'll find out in committee, what's going to be replacing the kinds of remedies that are here because they're quite practical, local remedies to solve problems.

Then the final Bill that's being repealed is *The Special Payment (Dependent Spouses) Act*, and that Act has served its purpose and it's no longer necessary, so that clearly is obsolete.

So two out of five, I guess, are obsolete. And I disagree with the comments on the others. Now I know many of my colleagues also want to speak about these Bills, and so I move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Leader of the Opposition has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 26, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2011*. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 35 — *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 2007 sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif***

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

Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased today to wade into the debate on Bill No. 35, *An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2007*.

Basically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill has come forward in light of a conflict between upcoming elections in 2015 and conflict of the writ period for the federal election which would fall on October 19th, 2015 and to the provincial election which was scheduled to fall, now that we have set election dates, on November 2nd, 2015. So this piece of legislation comes out of that particular conflict, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And what it's proposing is that where the writ period for a fixed date federal election would conflict with the writ period for a fixed date provincial general election, the provincial election would be moved to the first Monday in the following April.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the fall when this piece of legislation was introduced, we heard the Premier express some concerns about the overlap of the writ period. And he had said he was writing a letter to the Prime Minister to urge or encourage the Prime Minister to change the federal set date. We haven't heard yet what that response has been, so we're debating a piece of legislation and we're not quite sure where the Prime Minister falls on his willingness to look at a different set date for the federal election.

But I would agree that overlapping writ periods is problematic. I know even with the federal election last year in the spring of 2011 and then the election in the fall of 2011, there was some serious voter fatigue. So I believe that it would be problematic to have these writ periods overlapped.

The one thing that the minister did, when he spoke to the Bill for the first time, the one thing the minister did say the goal of this Bill is to avoid, quote . . . Actually I won't quote him. I'll just paraphrase the minister. He said it was to end gaming, or so we don't have gamesmanship in the choice of an election date, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Well I would argue that we should be avoiding gamesmanship in the whole entire electoral process, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Gamesmanship in the electoral process, whether it's around election date or anything else, should be avoided at all costs.

And I would point to perhaps some gamesmanship that's happening with another piece of legislation, Bill No. 36, that's in front of us right now, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That's proposing two particular things. It's proposing that we add three more MLAs here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Well this side of the House, the opposition, is not in favour of this.

I find it interesting that in one sentence that the Premier has said, that one of his new MLAs, he was basically giving one of his new MLAs permission at one point in time to be able to do two jobs. And so I don't know what MLAs on that side of the House do. I've never been a backbench government MLA. But I know the work that goes on in my constituency and the work that I have to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this is not a part-time job.

So I find it ironic, when we're talking about the electoral process, that the Premier, again out of one side of his mouth,

could be talking about being willing to let one of his MLAs serve in a part-time capacity, but telling the rest of Saskatchewan that we do need three more MLAs. I think that is incredibly problematic, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I said, I know what my day looks like, and there is not room to do this job part-time. But the Premier seems to think that there was the possibility to do that. So it flies in the face of the need to add three more MLAs, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The other piece of Bill 36 that's problematic is the fact that citizens under 18 will not be included in the count when it comes to establishing boundaries, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I know, I have a 14-year-old daughter myself. She follows politics in large measure because her mother's in politics, but she's quite upset about this idea. By the time the next election rolls . . . By the time we have the next provincial election in April of 19 . . . of 2016 — I was almost a century back there, Mr. Deputy Speaker; there's too much noise here going on in the House — but by the time the next election rolls around here, she will be 18, Mr. Deputy Speaker. She will be 18 years old, and she will not have been included in the boundary redistribution count and in terms of determining . . .

The Premier at one point said, this is about voters. Well it isn't just about voters, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is about citizens. And the next election will be held in 2016, and there will be many people not included in the boundary count who will be of age to vote. So just to be the devil's advocate, it is in fact about voters. There's a whole bunch of voters who will not be included in the count. The next election after that, if it's in April 2020 or in 2019, my daughter will be 22, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Members, there seems to be quite a few conversations across the floor. I would ask that members take their conversations behind the bar so that I can hear the member from Saskatoon Riversdale and so that she has an opportunity to put her, make her comments. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, people like my daughter, citizens like my daughter, will not be included in this count. And despite that, they will be eligible to vote in the next two provincial elections, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That's absolutely reprehensible that we're not . . . It was interesting today in question period today too, when the Premier said, well in 1979 this is what the NDP did when they were in government. Well in 1979, is that how far back we have to go, Mr. Deputy Speaker? This is 2012. This is 2012.

Let's go back to 1979. Let's find out how many women were sitting in this Legislative Chamber, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There sure as heck weren't very many; that's not to say that there are nearly enough now. So let's go back to 1979 and see what that looks like. Well, quite frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't want to go there. This is 2012. This is about democracy. This is about making sure that citizens are counted and my child, my two children count, especially though the one that will be eligible to vote in the next two elections where this will be impacting her life and her cohorts.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that gamesmanship is a problem when it comes to, definitely to the choice of an

election date, but it is a problem when it comes to any part of the electoral process, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That is an incredible problem.

So I know that I do have colleagues who are interested in wading into this debate at a later time and have much to say about this as well. We talked a little bit about the overlap of the federal and provincial election dates. And yes, that is problematic, definitely that is. But there are things that this government is doing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again related to gamesmanship that are problematic as well. So I'd like to leave it for my colleagues to also enter into the debate here in the next few days and over the course of this session. And with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 35, *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 36

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 36 — *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act, 2011*** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont and looking forward to hearing his comments.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's nice to see you sitting in that chair here today, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

When we're looking here, I'm pleased to enter in on debate on Bill No. 36, *An Act to amend The Constituency Boundaries Act, 1993*, but I'm disappointed that we have this piece of legislation before this Assembly. And you know, sometimes we talk about the intended consequences that we need to analyze and then the unintended consequences that we need to make sure we've had proper consultation on. On this piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's in fact the intended consequences that worry me most, and it's the intentions of this government as it relates to misplaced priorities and as well to their treatment of the voting public. And this Bill follows suit after many, many changes or many, many acts of this government that haven't been in the best interests of the electoral process here in the province of Saskatchewan.

[15:30]

We need to have recognized that under this broader context. This is the same government that, just before the last election in fact, brought forward changes that reduced, aimed at reducing — if you can imagine, Mr. Deputy Speaker — the number of young people that were going to be able to vote in the last election, suppressing the vote of young people, suppressing the vote of First Nations and Métis, and suppressing the vote of

seniors across this province. So we need to look at this in that broader context.

This is the same government that doesn't have the best interests of Saskatchewan people in mind. And when I say that, the best interests of Saskatchewan people are best served when all people in the province have the ability to engage in the democratic process and are encouraged to engage in the democratic process. And it's been disappointing to watch a government, on many fronts, thwart and step in the way and suppress and eliminate or reduce that opportunity for far too many people in this province. And we should in fact be focusing our energies on the very opposite of that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that's increasing voter participation of all Saskatchewan people, regardless of demographics or age.

So certainly with this piece of legislation, that does a couple of things, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It eliminates the counting of youth, people under 18 years of age in constituency boundaries, discounts their voice, discounts their needs, eliminates them from that process. We find that wrong.

We also find it to be incredibly misplaced priorities to be expanding the number of elected officials in this Assembly at a time where this government's going to be cutting front-line services for Saskatchewan people across this province, core services that have been there for many years — making cuts in the classroom, making cuts in health care, making cuts that impact people's lives, reductions in retirement security in all constituencies of this province coming down the pike by way of changes at the federal level. And instead of responding to the needs of a growing Saskatchewan, we see a government more interested in cutting the programs and services that are received to Saskatchewan people, and in fact increasing the number of politicians. And this is offside with the voting public and it's certainly not in the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

We have an exciting opportunity here in the province where we're growing as a province, where we have a young, vibrant First Nations and Métis population in this province, where we see many new Canadians that are coming into our province building their lives in Saskatchewan, thus influencing who we are as a province. But with all of this, there's also a need for planning — long-term planning, short-term planning — and making sure that we're meeting the needs of Saskatchewan people. And it speaks to questions of quality of life and well-being and our broader focus of what public policy should be all about. And it's disappointing that instead of taking this tremendous opportunity and putting forward a vision and a plan that addresses the needs of Saskatchewan people and that puts communities in better positions as they move forward, enables young people and families, we see a government that's instead interested in their own electoral interests ahead of that of Saskatchewan people's interests.

So we're very disappointed with what's been put forward here on this front, disappointed to see the elimination of those under the age of 18 from being counted in the electoral counter within constituencies. And I find it really hypocritical of this government who, like we all do, we have constituents come and join us in the Assembly, often school groups, Mr. Speaker, and I believe typically we introduce those students and do so with pride, and I would say that on both sides of the Assembly. But

the double-talk, Mr. Speaker, is squarely on the side of the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, on this front, because they introduce those students and welcome them into their Assembly, to your Assembly. These are the words that we should be using. These are the words that I utilize. It's the kind of words we should all be utilizing. But then we see the sort of double-talk, Mr. Speaker, when we see a government then that's discounting that voice across this province, the voice of young people when they're not going to count them in the electoral boundaries.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm sure you can imagine that there are specific needs of young communities, specific needs for young families, specific needs for First Nations and Métis communities, and I say that specifically because this is where we see a burgeoning young population occurring within this province. And there's specific needs and policies that we need to be putting as a top priority to be advancing the best interests of Saskatchewan people and making sure that we're improving the lives of Saskatchewan people. This is from an economic perspective, from a social perspective. It's about doing the right thing to improve the lives of Saskatchewan people. And awfully disappointed to see a government choose to deliberately discount that voice, to deliberately exclude the voice of young constituencies across this province, of young people with specific needs that are going to be so vital to the future of this province, to the success of this province, to the bright future that we must all be pushing for, Mr. Speaker. And that's a huge disappointment.

Not only is the Sask Party offside with the public on this legislation, they're offside, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the research. They're offside with the evidence. There's nothing to support what this government's doing. The changes have been described as gerrymandering, Mr. Speaker, which is incredibly unfortunate. We see a government that's more interested in their electoral fortunes than they are in serving Saskatchewan people and fulfilling the better tomorrow that we should be, for all Saskatchewan people, making sure that young people are part of the bright future that we must be working towards here in this province.

I know there's been specific data that's come out on eliminating those youth under the age of 18 from this, from constituencies, eliminating those voices. I might just read into the record and share a little bit of that discourse with you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and with the public. We have some information that was received by a leading academic, Canadian academic, political science academic, Dr. Dennis Pilon, professor of political science at York University. I quote: "Further to this, one of my colleagues suggested that the impact on First Nations communities could be negative as well, given their larger proportion of youth."

These are the points that I'm making, Mr. Speaker, and I often think of constituencies like my good friend from up in Cumberland or from Athabasca or from all across southern and central Saskatchewan on this front, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But here we are with the deliberate actions of government to discount the voice of these young communities, these young communities who we need to find better ways, Mr. Speaker, where we need to find ways to engage and reach out and to find solutions that bring us a better economic and social future, not

only for the lives of those individual children but for our future.

I'll read a little bit more from Dr. Dennis Pilon. I quote, "While these people are not voters, they nonetheless draw on services of MPs or MLAs." So this is the whole point, that these, of course, aren't voters. But there's specific needs of young communities, and certainly that's not in their best interest to see young communities' voices discounted. So whether we're talking about child care or whether we're talking about tuition or whether we're talking about employment opportunities and skills training and education — all of those aspects are discounted through the deliberate actions of a government who's looking out for their own electoral interests and not the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

I go on, and quote, "The Bill will advantage the Sask Party." So it's pretty deliberate what we see here is that this Bill, as I will quote again here from Dr. Dennis Pilon of York University, a leading academic in political science in Canada, political studies in Canada, I quote, "The Bill will advantage the Sask Party." Disappointing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that at a time where we have a growing population, at a time where we have many challenges and opportunities that exist across this province, that we have a government that's more interested in their electoral prospects than they are in Saskatchewan people's best interests. So that's but a few examples as it relates to the unacceptable, disappointing discounting of youth in this province through the electoral process.

When we're looking at the need with the government pushing forward an agenda to increase the number of MLAs in this province, we stand opposed to this. We have to put this in a broader context. As I've said, we're growing as a province. We have needs and services, programs that are needed to Saskatchewan people. And we have a government that's speaking about austerity — cutting those very programs. Instead of leading by example, they're increasing the number of MLAs at a significant expense, over 700,000 to Saskatchewan people.

And I know it's been covered in many, many different discussions in the public, many different dialogues in the public, but also in the newspapers. And I quote from a March 13th article in the *Leader-Post*. The question in the article and the title in the article is, "Do we really need three more MLAs?" And the article goes on to explain why in fact that's not in the best interests of Saskatchewan people, and why in fact it's very inconsistent with a government that's speaking of austerity and making cuts. I quote that article:

I haven't met anyone outside the premier's inner circle who thinks adding more MLAs is a good idea. And, no, I have no idea why he didn't mention all this in the November election. That's a good question, too.

And we see this on many fronts. A government that didn't run on this in an election campaign, didn't consult with the public, didn't share this idea with the public, won a mandate on different matters, different issues, and now is forging ahead with an agenda that is all about their electoral interests and not about Saskatchewan people's interests. It's about being straight with Saskatchewan people. It's about sharing in the exchange of the goals of government, the objectives of governments. And

this is certainly a surprise to Saskatchewan people.

A question at the end of the article, or statement I should say, “You might . . . ask your nearest government MLA . . . if he or she’s not too busy.” Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I look across the Assembly here today, and I see benches of MLAs, Mr. Speaker, that don’t look very busy to me, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I think there is more than adequate resources, with the number of seats we have in this Assembly, to meet the needs of Saskatchewan people. And whether you’re sitting in the back on the government side and reading a newspaper, or whether you’re looking at different aspects, Mr. Speaker, what we need to be focusing on is Saskatchewan people. So I’d argue that we have adequate representation for Saskatchewan people.

And you know, it’s pretty interesting here. I hear one of the long-time backbenchers shouting out from his seat here, Mr. Speaker. A good person; I like him. But unfortunately he’s getting angry about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And what he’s questioning is whether, you know, how this nine-member operation goes about doing their work. And certainly the answer, of course, is that certainly these nine members in this official opposition are busy members and are occupied with the important responsibility of responding to the needs of Saskatchewan people.

Now what would help Saskatchewan people on this front is if this government would simply be straight with Saskatchewan people, if they would do what they say they were going to do instead of running in an election and not mentioning these sorts of changes and then surprise, surprise, making these introductions. In this case, they’re creating three new MLAs at a significant expense to Saskatchewan people and then expecting and calling on Saskatchewan people to accept that somehow Saskatchewan people should accept cuts to the programs and services that many people depend on. There’s a huge inconsistency.

Mr. Speaker, if this government’s talking about austerity, there should be leadership by example from the centre of this government, not expansionary expenses as it relates to creating more politicians when what we need to do is be striving and working harder to meeting the needs of Saskatchewan people. So like I say, I’ll read again the quote there: “You might want to ask your nearest government MLA . . . if he or she’s not too busy.”

Mr. Speaker, I think it’s a fair question. It’s a fair question and it’s a fair point. And I would argue that there’s lots of representation in this Assembly the way it stands and lots of ability to serve Saskatchewan people. Unfortunately that’s not what we’re seeing from this government.

I’ll move on and quote a little bit more here:

What’s that you say? You can’t figure out why they’re adding five per cent more Saskatchewan MLAs at a time of “austerity” and when they’ve already set targets to reduce the overall civil service size by 16 per cent in four years through attrition. Yes, you’re right, this wouldn’t seem to make much sense given that you are far more likely to need the services of a government employee than that of an MLA.

Mr. Speaker, this move by this government is offside with Saskatchewan people. It rejects the research and evidence that supports addressing the needs of Saskatchewan people. And it’s inconsistent and hypocritical to call on Saskatchewan people to accept cuts or brace for cuts, as this Premier and government have been calling for, at a time when they want to increase the number of MLAs. And the question is, whose interests are you serving? And in this case it’s crystal clear — certainly not the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

[15:45]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this point in time I don’t have much else to say about this Bill other than to express my great disappointment with this agenda from the Sask Party. And to see a government that was elected on a mandate that didn’t include any of this, and now to be more interested in their own political hide or their own political fortunes than the best interests of Saskatchewan people, is a sad and sorry state in this province.

Instead of embracing and enabling and inviting First Nations and Métis people and young communities to be a larger part of our economic future, to engage these communities, to improve our social well-being as a province, we see a government that instead is pursuing policies that are in their best interests as a political party. That’s disappointing. And one of my colleagues here points out that of course this gets to, of course, a very unfortunate circumstance, which many have weighed in in the debate, and we have circumstance of gerrymandering that just of course is all about their interests and not about Saskatchewan people’s interests.

So we’re disappointed that we have a government, Sask Party government, that’s discounting, eliminating the youth from the political equation, from the political discourse, from the count in constituencies. We do believe that youth count in this province. We do believe that young people and young communities have specific needs, and we’re going to work hard to represent all Saskatchewan and all young people and all the people of this province. And I just can’t express enough how disappointed we are with this piece of legislation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this point in time, I move adjournment of debate with respect to Bill No. 36, *An Act to amend The Constituency Boundaries Act, 1993*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 36, *The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 30

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 30 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendments Act, 2011*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise again today and speak to the following, the sister Act to I think it was Bill 26, I'm not sure, but the one around maintenance orders, enforcement of maintenance orders. And this is the Act respecting consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2011*.

So these are ones that do the nitty-gritty, the detail of the larger Act that I had spoken to earlier in the afternoon. And so it's relatively straightforward; if you agree with one, then you must agree with the second. And so we have questions about the first one, and I outlined some of those concerns earlier today, particularly around the apparent success of the office of maintenance enforcement and that they're doing good work, it seems. You have a high percentage rate of enforcement, some 90-some, 91 per cent; and they collected over \$35 million last year, which goes a lot to helping out families.

But I am deeply concerned that while we can be, on one hand . . . And this is what this government does. On one hand, it does one thing but, on another hand, it does another thing. So it sends really mixed messages. Like it will update and modernize its language, but through its lean initiative where it's cutting 16 per cent of its employees, will this office be strong enough? It can have the strong legislation, but it means absolutely nothing if there's nobody there in the office to actually enforce the legislation. So the question will be, and we'll see what happens next week with the budget and what it means to this office particularly, but I think it's a sad state of affairs when we see many offices that deal with and help people with vulnerable situations or situations at risk.

Today I raised in question period a very parallel situation about asbestos. And the minister said, and he got up and said, you know, we have the folks who are doing the enforcement, the inspections, and all of that. But if those folks too are going to suffer from a 16 per cent decrease, that's a big problem. That's a huge issue. And so you can't be doing this and relying on your record, while at the same time you're cutting, cutting people. So in this case are we talking about cutting staff one at a time? This group is doing such fine, fine work. It's hugely important that we have people in the office to make sure that the i's are crossed, the t's . . . the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed. That's what you've got to do, because you can't get those two mixed up.

So it's really important when we go through the legislation. We see that this Act's to amend *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act*. *The Enforcement of Money Judgment Act* has to be dealt with. *The Labour Standards Act* has to be dealt with. *The Municipal Employees' Pension Act* has to be dealt with, pension benefits. So the list is long — *The Provincial Court Act*. And we can go through this, but at the bottom line, at the end of the day when the rubber hits the road, it really has to be that you have the staff to make things work.

And so I think that it's important that we will see how things pan out next week. We'll be asking those questions because at the end of the day we want to make sure people have the ability

to do the things that they need to do.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I won't be speaking long because this is a straightforward consequential amendments Act. And as I said, if you agree with one, you must agree with the other. Or if you've got questions of the one, I guess you've got questions with the other. Right? They go hand in glove. And as I said, I do. But I think the good work is there, and I want to make sure the good work happens. And we can't drop the ball on this. There's too many families, too many young people, too many children who are depending on the enforcement of these maintenance orders that you can't have a hiccup. You can't have somebody dropping the ball because of ideology.

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move adjournment of Bill No. 30, *An Act respecting consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2011*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 30, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 31

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 31** — *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 2002 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to enter the debate on Bill 31, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2011*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, what this Bill does is it basically provides the force of the court with foreign protection orders. So what it does, it defines what a foreign civil protection order is, and then it gives it weight so law enforcement officials here in Saskatchewan can enforce it.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is something that already happens within Canada. There's civil protection orders in other jurisdictions in Canada, and the legislation allows for us to be able to enforce these protection orders from other provinces. And now what will happen is a foreign civil protection order here will be able to be in force and enforced by our authorities.

So I just would like to read a little piece from the Act here, section 10.1, and the definition of a foreign civil protection order means that:

a foreign judgment, or a portion of a foreign judgment, made by a court in a foreign state, except for a foreign state prescribed in the regulations, that prohibits a



specified individual from:

- (a) being in physical proximity to a specified person or following a specified person from place to place;
- (b) contacting or communicating with, either directly or indirectly, a specified person;
- (c) attending at or within a certain distance of a specified place or location; or
- (d) engaging in molesting, annoying, harassing or threatening conduct directed at a specified person;

So the goal of this legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or this amendment, is safety of citizens. One can think about where this might come from. So you have someone moved to Canada, perhaps, who has a protection order from their home country. And perhaps this came out of police officers or other enforcement officials seeing these protection orders and wondering, can I enforce this? Is this possible? They know that the safety of individuals is absolutely imperative, but the struggle between the police officer seeing what an order is and then trying to figure out if they're able to enforce it, that time that can pass before they figure out, before something is actually enforceable, an individual may be put in harm's way, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So this Bill No. 31, *An Act to amend The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act*, is completely reasonable, and it sounds like a very useful Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, especially in light of the fact that we already consider civil protection orders from other jurisdictions across Canada. We're a province open to people coming from all over the world to call this wonderful place home, and sadly there are issues of violence, partner violence, that may be part of this problem, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It doesn't necessarily have to be partner violence, but this allows the opportunity for people who are new to our country perhaps to have a little added safety too. That piece to be able to speed up the process and say this is a protection order until deemed otherwise is, I think, a very valid piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So with that, it's a fairly straightforward Act so I don't have much more to say. So with that I'll leave it up to my colleagues in future debates on Bill No. 31 to see if they have anything to say about it as well. And with that I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 31, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 32

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 32** — *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2011/Loi*

*de 2011 modifiant la Loi sur les ordonnances alimentaires interterritoriales* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it's with pleasure that I rise today to speak to the debate on Bill No. 32, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2011*.

And I guess first of all I just want to comment a little bit on interjurisdictional support orders, and it appears this suite of Bills that the government has introduced today dealing with interjurisdictional orders of all kinds and sorts — my colleague just previously talked about ones relating to protection orders — and this one deals with support orders.

And as you know, this is a complicated world and families today are often spread apart through different jurisdictions, and life is complicated for a lot of families. So these kinds of Bills tend to try and make the whole divorce proceedings much more efficient and less troublesome for the people that are trying to get the orders through.

I guess I have to commend the Department of Justice staff for bringing forward these Bills and all the work they've done on these Bills. I know it's a lot of work for them, and given that there's going to be cuts over the next four years of 16 per cent, I think it's going to be much more difficult for those hard-working civil servants to continue to bring forth these types of Bills. A lot of these are difficult; they're administrative. And I know the work that is involved in bringing Bills forward. So my congratulations and commendations to the staff who will probably find themselves with less colleagues in the future to do this kind of important work. It's an unfortunate state, given the cuts that we know are coming and the announcement by the Premier that over the next four years we're going to see a large cut in the civil service — more than 10 per cent; 16 per cent — which has to be of concern to all the staff that are working for the minister right now.

At any rate, the minister has indicated that the reason for this Bill is to provide a procedure for registration of a foreign support order for enforcement in Saskatchewan. So it's a very basic Bill. It's been around since 1997 because this amendment is an amendment to *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*. And so it's just basically adding some procedures for registration of foreign support orders. And it also establishes a procedure for getting, for obtaining or varying a provincial support order where one party resides in Saskatchewan and the other party lives in another jurisdiction. Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's a common occurrence these days where people end up in different provinces. I know that, perhaps, in places like northern Saskatchewan where we've seen the demise of the forest industry . . . And I know there are a lot of families who have been split apart because of job requirements, and often that leads to separation and divorce. And those kinds of situations are regrettable but that's the way when the forest industry falls and we don't have any way to replace jobs. It's one of the situations that happens.



[16:00]

There is a national interjurisdictional support subcommittee that's been established. The federal Government of Canada is responsible for divorce under the federal law. That's federal jurisdiction. And so provincial laws have to work in conjunction with federal laws in order to ensure that there is harmony between the laws. That committee has been doing a lot of work since 2004, as a matter of fact. So it's taken six years and they, at that point, recommended amendments to improve the model legislation.

So thanks to our hard-working civil servants, Saskatchewan will be the third province to introduce amendments to the legislation following our Prairie province neighbours of Alberta and Manitoba. So what the amendments will do will require the court to . . . This is an important piece of the amendments, is to require the court to apply the law of Saskatchewan first. So that will give a lot of clarity in terms of the priority of the orders.

And currently when a Saskatchewan court gets that application for child support, they have to determine if they're entitled, they have to determine what law applies, and this amendment will just clearly say Saskatchewan first. That will be easier for the courts and it will speed up process, which is important to the people with the application.

So basically if you look at the Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's a number of changes that are being proposed. And the first one is in section 2, and again it's a definitional addition. And the term that's being added is a term, or definition, "request to locate." And in this case, it's a request to find someone to facilitate a variation application. Often in support orders, the person paying support, their circumstances change and they require a variation in their support order. And so the court is now . . . You can supply "a written request to locate a person for the purpose of facilitating a proceeding with respect to the establishment, variation, registration or enforcement of a support order."

And they've also repealed the existing definition of support order, and they're now instituting a new definition which seems to add not only a support order but where an administrative body — so that would be the enforcement office, the maintenance enforcement office — have recalculated the payment of support for a child if it's enforceable in the jurisdiction where the recalculation was made.

So what that suggests to me is that if a Alberta person is paying support to someone in Saskatchewan, and they apply to their maintenance enforcement office for a variation or a recalculation, that that could also fall within the definition of support order as is defined in *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Act*. So that's another new definition, or it's an addition to the definition support order.

In the next part of the law, division 1, there has been a few changes, and there's a new definition that's being added or changed. In our law it said "ordinarily" and apparently it's now being switched to the word "habitually." And again that's part of the harmonization that's happening across the country in order to bring, make it consistent with the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other

Forms of Family Maintenance.

So again, the people that are working on this nationally within the interjurisdictional support orders group or our own civil servants here who are paying attention to these things, they've identified that this word needs to be changed in order to be consistent.

Again we look into another change, and that's to section 5. Now section 5 is about the support application. So this is how a claimant would make an application in court for a reciprocating order to recognize an extra-jurisdictional order. So if you're living in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and you have a spouse that owes you support from Alberta, and you think that that's where they are living — sometimes people aren't sure where their ex is living — but you can start a proceeding here in Saskatchewan and that could result in a support order being made in that province.

So it identifies how you would start the proceeding. And what you have to do is complete a support application with their name and address for service and a copy of the specific authority on which you're basing your application for support, unless you're relying on the law of their jurisdiction. So you have some choices there.

There's a few changes here. Again we're changing ordinarily resident to habitually resident in the first part of the section, and the same language is being amended in clause 5(2)(b) where ordinarily resident is being switched to habitually resident.

And then that leads to clause 6 which is also being amended, and the same change is being made there. That's providing support application to the designated authority. So once you've filled out your application form and you want to hand it over to the designated authority, they review it, and then they'll send a copy of your application to the appropriate authority in the reciprocating jurisdiction. So again in this case, if you were filing in Saskatchewan, then the authority would send that order or the support application over to the other jurisdiction.

The change that's being made here, as I said, was just to change ordinarily resident to habitually resident. And I think there's a fine distinction there between the two words, but it is one that is obviously important and again brings harmony into the laws across Canada for this type of legislation.

Now section 7 is about provisional orders. So if the respondent that's living in the reciprocating jurisdiction . . . So if the person you've applied against requires a provisional order, then you can apply to the court to give them — even if they're not there in court, so they don't have to be present in court, and there's no requirement for notice — you can make a provisional order, taking into account the statutory authority that the application for support is based on. So that provides an opportunity. There again the change in that particular clause for section 7 is to switch ordinarily resident to habitually, so that brings everything in harmony.

Division 2 is regarding claimants that are habitually resident outside Saskatchewan. So the heading has been changed to put the word habitually in there. And in section 9 of the Act, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 1997*, talks

about the notice of the hearing. So there's a fairly lengthy section here that explains how the notice is properly given for the hearing. So if there's an application from you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for example, and you were applying to a designated authority, they receive your application, then . . . Oh sorry, this is where they receive it from an appropriate authority in a reciprocating jurisdiction together with information that the respondent lives in Saskatchewan. So this is the reverse situation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In this case there is an individual living in Alberta who wants to get a support order for someone in Saskatchewan.

So in this case they would fill out the application under their law, and it would be received here from a designated authority. And what the designated authority needs to do here is serve this notice that's coming from Alberta to the respondent, to the person that's being claimed upon, in accordance with the regulations.

So there's two things they have to serve. And service is just the process of having an official deliver documents to that individual and they acknowledge that they have received those documents. There's different ways to provide service. And usually, you know, that's done through sheriffs or law offices that will make sure that the person being claimed against, the respondent, adequately receives the application. So they'll provide the respondent a copy of the support application and a notice requiring them to appear at a certain time or to give documents required by the regulations.

Now what happens if you can't find that respondent, Mr. Deputy Speaker? That's what this section speaks to. So there's a woman in Alberta who wants to claim against a former partner for support that they believe lives in Saskatchewan. They're not sure exactly where, but they have good reason to believe it may be in Saskatoon. What does the designated authority do when they receive the application?

So they haven't served them, but they believe that they're ordinarily resident in another jurisdiction. Then they shall . . . oh yes, at this point, if the authority knows that that person might be living in Manitoba, they can actually forward that application on to the next person in Manitoba as well and notify them that they're doing it. And then they have to return the original application to the appropriate authority in the original location. So it's a bit complicated, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and you can see that it's always complicated once lawyers get a hold of things, but that's sometimes of necessity.

And in this case, section 9 is being amended by striking out again the words "ordinarily resides" to "habitually resident." So that occurs in a number of spots in the notice of hearing clause.

And then this goes on to section 10. There's a slight amendment there. In section 10, it's a time provision. So what it says here is, if they don't get the documents that they requested in the previous section within 18 months after the date of the request, the court can dismiss the application. The time frame here is being tightened up to 12 months. There's no reason for that given in the explanatory note, so I can only assume that 18 months was deemed to be too long by the wise people that were looking at the changes that are needed.

In the next section that's going to be changed, this is section 12. And this entire section is repealed, although the substitute proposal and the amendment is not a lot different. But I guess it's the nub of the changes, or probably one of the more important changes, and that's what law comes first. And I talked about that earlier when I was referring to the minister's comments.

But this is the section, section 12 of *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 1997* that's being amended to reflect the ability of the determining people, the people making the determination to apply Saskatchewan law first. And the way they've done that is they've added a clause that says a court shall first apply Saskatchewan law.

So that's the first order for the court to consider. It makes their life a lot easier and I think it makes the process a lot easier. And then "if under Saskatchewan law the child is not entitled to support, the court shall apply the law of the jurisdiction in which the child is habitually resident."

So in this case, it's determining whether there is entitlement for support or a continuance to receive support and the amount, the court shall first apply Saskatchewan law. But if the child is not entitled to support under our law, the court can apply the law of the jurisdiction where the child lives. So if this child is living in Alberta, an application is made against a parent here in Saskatchewan, the law here would apply first to determine the amount of support that's needed or the variation of the order, or all of those things. But if for whatever reason our courts say this law doesn't apply, then the court must look at the law from the jurisdiction where the child lives normally.

The second part of that clause, now there was three subsections, there's now two. And the clause describes that when you're:

. . . determining a claimant's entitlement to receive or continue to receive support and the amount of support, the court shall first apply Saskatchewan law, but if . . . the claimant is not entitled to support, the court shall apply the law of the jurisdiction . . .

So in this case, it would be a spousal claim for alimony. So this is a different sort of support that we're talking about here; it's not the child, but the spouse. And in that case, then the same rules apply. The court shall first apply Saskatchewan law. And then if there's no entitlement for support for the claimant, then you go back to the jurisdiction, the law of the jurisdiction in which the claimant and respondent last maintained a common habitual residence. So if they were living together in Alberta, you would apply the Alberta law if there was no eligibility under Saskatchewan law.

So in this case, the changes are really about applying the law of Saskatchewan first, and that's a critical change in this particular amending Bill.

The next section that's being amended in the Bill is section 13, and there's a new subsection that's being added after the rest of the section. Section 13 is about the order itself. So once the hearing is done, the court has to make an order, and it's in respect to either a claimant or a child or both. So the spouse and the child, they can make a support order, they can make an

interim support order and adjourn the hearing to a specified date. They can adjourn the hearing to a specified date without making an interim order, or they can refuse to make a support order.

And the subsection that's being added reads:

“A support order must specify the law applied pursuant to section 12, and, if the order does not specify the law applied, the order is deemed to have been made pursuant to Saskatchewan law”.

So again there's going to be more clarity about which law applies when these orders are being made. And the court order must include a clause that specifies which law is being applied, or if it doesn't specify it, if a judge forgets to specify it, then it's deemed to have been made pursuant to Saskatchewan law. I'm not sure how that's going to happen when the court finds that Saskatchewan law is not applicable and yet there's a deeming provision in the order that says it's Saskatchewan law. So there might be a little Catch-22 there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that our civil servants, I assume they've considered it. They're wise and able. But this may be something that could raise interpretation problems, at a minimum. So that's something that would be of concern.

[16:15]

Section 18 is now the next one that's being changed. And in this case, it's about the registration of the order. So this is part of the procedural stuff that goes on when these kinds of orders are being issued. It's a very administrative-type process and one that requires a lot of work by civil servants. And unfortunately I think the courts are going to find themselves subject to 16 per cent cuts as well over four years, so there'll be a lot less people able to handle all this administrative work. And the austerity that we're hearing about in the upcoming budget will likely affect people that are trying to get their lives in order through these types of proceedings.

So it's unfortunate that, you know, we create these fairly administrative, bureaucratic processes which are necessary to protect everyone and yet we see fit to cut the number of people that are able to do that kind of work, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a sad statement particularly when we know we're in times of prosperity and we see a lot of money being distributed in grants — just announcements made today again. So I'm not sure where the balance is or if they're speaking out of two sides of their mouth, but it seems there's some inconsistent messaging coming from the government here on these types of things.

So the people that are going to be left to register all these orders, there's several things they have to do. First of all the order has, the first part of the clause states that the order has the same effect as if it was a support order made by a court in Saskatchewan. So it deems to be, even if it's an extraprovincial order, it's going to have the same effect as it has in Saskatchewan. And when the order is registered, it can, both with respect to arrears and obligations accruing after and before registration, it can be enforced in the same manner as a support order made by a court in Saskatchewan. So in this case, if there is enforcement required, the court will have to, the court clerk will have to deal with the sheriff's office. Again we don't know

if we're going to have cuts in the sheriff's office and the number of people available to enforce these orders, but we will see, once the budget comes down, the kinds of cuts we're looking at in the next few years.

So we've added some subsections in this amendment Act, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2011*. And in this case we are looking at three additional subsections. The first one is the duration. So how long is this court order available and alive? And this subsection says that “The duration of the support obligation set out in an extra-provincial order or foreign order is governed by the law pursuant to which the order was made.” So if the court order comes extrajurisdictionally, then the duration of that order is under that law.

Then we go on to subsection (4). And this is an interesting addition to the Act, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The onus here and the burden of proving “is on the appropriate authority of the reciprocating jurisdiction to provide proof of the law governing the duration of the support obligation to the satisfaction of the designated authority.” So in here, in order to prove what the law is, it's on the appropriate authority of the reciprocating jurisdiction. The Saskatchewan court and the clerks and the sheriffs don't have to determine what the laws are of the other jurisdiction. That would be way too hard for them to do. So what this law says is the onus is on other courts. Now again, I'm not sure that Saskatchewan law can bind other jurisdictions to do that. Although we can say the onus is on them, clearly our law doesn't apply to those jurisdictions. So it will be interesting to see how this particular subclause plays out, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And then the next subclause says, even though we put the onus on them, if they can't determine the duration of the support obligation pursuant to their laws, then they can apply in Saskatchewan to apply the duration. So in the event the reciprocating authority isn't able to determine the duration — maybe it got left out; I don't quite know how that works — at any rate, the court of Saskatchewan could determine the duration. So that's something that will be helpful to the people here when they're not certain what the duration of the support obligations are.

The next provision that's being amended is section 19 of the Act. And again this is one about foreign orders where there is the language about ordinarily resident and we are switching it to habitually resident. In this case, this talks about registration of foreign orders and where the court has jurisdiction. So there's a few minor amendments to that subsection.

Then we go on to division 1, section 25. So in this case section 25(1) is again the changes to change ordinarily resident with habitually resident. This section is about the application to vary the support order so it sets out the proceedings for varying a support order. And when an applicant feels that their support isn't enough and they may have knowledge that their former spouse or co-parent, his financial or her financial circumstances have changed, so they can make an application to vary the order.

The next change we find is in clause 26. Oh, the heading has been changed as well of division 1. Here in subsection 25 of the

English version is again the change ordinarily resident to habitually resident. Same thing in clause 26(2)(b) and subsection 27(1) of the Act. So those words “ordinarily” are again being cleaned up to “habitually” just to bring harmony with the other jurisdictions across Canada. As I said, Alberta and Manitoba have already gone forward with these changes based on a lot of work that was done by the national interjurisdictional support subcommittee.

We’re getting into section 29(1), (2), and (3). Again the change is to strike out ordinarily resident and replace it with habitually resident. Subsection 30(3) is the same change as well. Section 19 is the notice of hearing clause for variation. So this is all about variation agreements now, not the original application.

And then we have subsection 31(1). Again this is more about the law of Saskatchewan and what applies first. So when we talked about the original application being made and that the courts have now the authority to determine that Saskatchewan law applies first, we have section 31(1) for determining entitlements to receive or continue to receive support for a child. So the first thing the court must do now is to first apply Saskatchewan law, so those words are being added to . . . Well in fact they repealed the whole section, but what they did is they just changed it to Saskatchewan law in 31(1). And the habitually resident clause is also being substituted in 31(3)(a). Sorry, that’s 31; 32 is the one where we put the Saskatchewan law, in section 32. So that’s been changed as a new subclause.

Section 32 is the order again. So the order, on the conclusion of a hearing in this case, the court can make a support variation order, an interim support variation order, adjourn the hearing, or refuse the order. And there’s a new subclause that’s saying that that support variation order has to specify which law is being applied pursuant to section 31. If it doesn’t specify the law applied, it is deemed to have been made pursuant to Saskatchewan law — so the same situation here with the variation orders as we had with the original applications.

We will have a little, slight change to clause 34(b)(i). Again the change from ordinarily resident to habitually resident.

And subsection 35 has been repealed and there’s a new one substituted. And basically it allows the court to vary a support order registered in Saskatchewan pursuant to part III or the former Act. And there’s also a reference to part II now that’s been added. If both the applicant and respondent accept the court’s jurisdiction, if they’re both ordinarily resident here in Saskatchewan, or if the respondent is resident in Saskatchewan and the support order was registered by the applicant — so if the spouse, applicant, is living outside of the province — as long as they’ve properly registered it then the court can make a variation on the support order.

The other thing that the section has changed is they’ve dropped a reference to *The Family Maintenance Act, 1997*. I just assume that that is a cleanup, a consequential cleanup of what’s going on here, and that *The Family Maintenance Act, 1997* may not be of force and effect any more. But I haven’t confirmed that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Then the next section — we’re getting close to the final amendments to the Bill — the next one is section 36(5)(a). And

in that case again, it’s the change from ordinarily resident to habitually resident. This is the appeal section which allows or sets out the terms for the appeal that’s required. And this particular clause is how the appeal decision is delivered to the resident if they don’t live in Saskatchewan. So the appeal order would be mailed or delivered to the other authorities in the reciprocating jurisdiction, 36(5)(a).

And then there’s a new section, 37(1). So this is again one of the more interesting changes in what is rather an otherwise somewhat mundane Bill. But this one here allows, it’s called the request to locate. So what it does is it allows a designated authority in other jurisdictions to ask our courts to locate an individual. I’m not sure how that’s going to happen or how the court will proceed to do that and again, given the cuts in our civil service, who’s going to be left to actually do the location. But we’ll wait and see because we don’t know how it’s going to impact them.

The designated authority can make inquiries about the whereabouts of a person named in the request to locate, and it allows them to respond to a request to locate and advise the reciprocating jurisdiction if they have been located. But I guess in the interests of privacy, the lawyers who have drafted these changes indicate they can make inquiries as to where they are, but they can’t disclose any information about that person’s address. So the person’s address won’t be disclosed to anyone, but the reciprocating authority will — is required — to make inquiries as to where they’re located. And I presume then the reciprocating authority will, here in Saskatchewan, will have to ensure that those documents are delivered to that location.

It takes a lot of effort to find someone who doesn’t want to be found, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this is a fairly onerous burden on the authorities. I’m not sure what kind of consultation that the minister has had with the authorities that are required to do that.

In his comments, he indicates that the new provision to establish location services in order to allow other jurisdictions to request a search for a person in Saskatchewan prior to sending any application to the interjurisdictional support order unit, he went on to say that the unit regularly gets application from jurisdictions that have reason to believe, but can’t confirm, they’re living in Saskatchewan. And now its, the ISO [interjurisdictional support order] unit can determine that he doesn’t live here and send it back, or it’s forwarded to another jurisdiction, wherever they believe he’s going to be living.

So there’s an attempt to streamline the process, but I’m not sure what kind of resources it’s going to take for our authorities and our civil servants to be able to actually do what’s required by this section. Because again it says that if they receive a request, they can take any steps they consider appropriate to obtain information about this person, and they can also advise whether or not they’ve found them. So this is going to be a bit more work for busy people, particularly when there’s going to be less of them available to do that kind of work. So I would caution the minister here to ensure that before they put additional burdens on the civil service, that there’s sufficient people available to do these kinds of things. Sometimes finding deadbeat dads can be like finding a needle in a haystack, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so this is not something that’s easily

undertaken.

The section 46, which is just a transitional clause, is amended again to replace ordinarily resident with habitually resident. And then the final changes to subsection 13(1), and this one here talks about adding a clause saying a person mentioned in . . . Oh no, that's the maintenance of enforcement orders Act. So it's a consequential change to *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*.

And that's basically what the premise of the changes are for Bill 32, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2011*. It appears that off the top this is something that's been worked on for a long time with our partners across the country and certainly with our federal partners in relation to the harmonization of the laws in the *Divorce Act* so that, for people applying for support, the administration of that order and the relationships with other jurisdictions runs smoother.

[16:30]

As I indicated earlier, I think we have to be concerned about the additional burden that these types of Bills put on the civil service, and that there's adequate support within the service to ensure that the meaning and the true meaning and intent of the Act can be adequately implemented.

You know, it's a good sign when jurisdictions are working together. And as I said earlier, it's difficult for families these days when people move around. And another example would be, you know, rural women in Saskatchewan who end up in a situation where they need to move as a result of a divorce and their spouse remains. And they have to go out of the province because they have family in other places. Or it could even be a case of domestic violence, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There aren't adequate housing and supports for women in rural areas right now who are suffering from those kinds of domestic violence.

And this is a case where the attempt that's being made by the Department of Justice is to streamline these processes. You know, it's unfortunate that families are split apart like that, and it's a difficult time for everyone. And given the economy that we live in now, it's so fluid that people are transitional from province to province.

So these types of Bills and the work that's being done by our colleagues across the country is important work, and again I just can't stress enough that it's important that the civil service be strong so that they can assist people to bring full force and intent to these types of fairly administrative legislation.

So given that, Mr. Speaker, I think that other of my colleagues are going to want to speak to this Bill as well, and I think they'll have concerns as well. But at this point, I would move to adjourn.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 32, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 33

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 33** — *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My pleasure to weigh in on discussion and debate here this afternoon as it relates to Bill No. 33, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2011*. Now this Bill is in response, I suspect, to something that's important to Saskatchewan people and that is some of the challenges and pressures as it relates to housing and affordability. And when I first saw this Bill being introduced by title, I was encouraged and hopeful that a government was or this government was in fact going to be doing something meaningful on the housing front, and something that certainly would connect with so many in this province who are facing challenges as it relates to the affordability of a home or of rent or for their children.

And I guess all I can say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that I'm greatly disappointed with the ineffectiveness of the Bill that's been put forward. We have a major crisis on our hands for so many people across Saskatchewan in so many communities, and we see ineffective legislation like this. It's really disappointing. And this is no solution at all, Mr. Speaker, to the housing pressures and crisis that face so many. So we're really, we're really disappointed that we don't see meaningful action on this front from this government. In fact we see steps in the wrong direction on this front.

Recently the Sask Party's cut a program that was part of the solution. When I say part of the solution, I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we're talking about housing, it's important we recognize that we're talking about comprehensive solutions, comprehensive tools to bring around affordability and to address the pressures that so many people are facing. There's not one silver bullet or one solution.

But this government actually cut part of its tool box to make things better recently when they cut the home purchase program that participated with the housing authorities, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And this program here worked where renters could build equity in fact in their homes. So lower income individuals wanting and struggling to make ends meet, but hopeful to gain some equity or to move into home ownership, had the opportunity to show disciplined approach to paying rent for a whole many of years but then being able to have an ownership stake or have ownership of a house, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'm incredibly disappointed to see a cut to a program like that that's meant so much to many families in this province. And unfortunately it's a tool like this that in fact should have been studied, consulted, and expanded to bring solutions forward on what's an incredibly meaningful issue to Saskatchewan people.

We talk about lots of important things in this Assembly, Mr.

Speaker. But in many ways, when you're talking about the adequacy or dignity of a home and the affordability of that adequate, dignified home, there's little more important than this file and this issue, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And unfortunately we've had a government that's struggled to manage the activity going on within the province. They haven't chosen a course of smart growth, Mr. Speaker. They've pushed away from utilizing tools and approaches that could be meaningful in addressing the housing pressures on so many in this province.

I know in my constituency I chat with many parents in fact who are so concerned about the impact of the pressures of and lack of affordability of housing on their children, whether it's that great barrier to that post-secondary education or whether it's that great barrier in building and starting that life with dignity and with some excitement for these young people. And we see it both as it relates to home owners or prospective home owners, but we also see it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as it relates to rent. And the two really do connect, and it's where we really do need to have a thoughtful, evidence-based, comprehensive approach to addressing this challenge.

Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, we're short on supply of housing in this province, specifically on the side of affordable rental properties. And this has caused a significant run on the prices that Saskatchewan people are paying. And I know that in many cases, we've seen what can only be categorized as unacceptable increases that so many young people and seniors and families have faced and increases that simply aren't felt on the other side of the ledger in the household finances, that being the wages that so many are receiving.

So whether we're talking about seniors who are on a fixed income or whether we're talking about young people working hard to earn a living — certainly those young families and young people — their income, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has in no way kept up with the pace of the massive increases to rent and the significant challenges of housing affordability in this province.

Now I think to go at this, it's about making sure that when you're growing as a province by way of your population, by way of your economy, that in fact you're bettering the lives of Saskatchewan people. And it's a different approach to policy and to government that this side of the Assembly takes than government. Their number one goal is growth — economic growth, population growth. And that's something that's vital and important to Saskatchewan's well-being; no doubt, would never discount it. It's something we're proud of, and we're proud of our record in bringing about economic growth and development in this province.

But the problem exists when a government doesn't have a game plan that goes beyond just growth. That's the end goal — growth in itself. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we believe something different on this side of the Assembly. We believe that that growth needs to be able to provide for improvements and well-being and quality of life, improvements in life and communities, Mr. Deputy Speaker. At the end of the day, that's what differentiates that side of the Assembly from this side of the Assembly. So we need to be utilizing that robust economy to make sure that we're bettering people's lives, not preventing dignified, quality living. And certainly when we're talking

about housing, this is a significant concern.

So I guess when we look at — and we go back a few years — if there was some significant challenges that we saw over the past few years. We had population that was growing in the province and economic activity, which was a good thing, but we saw no investment or inadequate investment, ineffective investment, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Back into addressing that housing supply and the challenges and pressures that exist in this province, quite simply, if you're growing as a population, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is something that we should be proud of and work towards. But then we need to be able to place that subsequent investment back into the social and physical infrastructure in this province. And I know when we look at so many aspects of that social infrastructure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we look at health, when we look at education, we've got pressures that are brought to the classroom or to health services that require a smart investment back in a strategic investment to make sure that in fact that growth is bettering the lives of Saskatchewan people. This is just the same for housing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I know it's why I've been on record and this opposition's been on record, in our time in opposition both this term and certainly the term prior, Mr. Deputy Speaker, calling for those meaningful investments in comprehensive strategies to address housing affordability in this province.

Dial it back to a new, young government that was elected in 2007, Mr. Speaker. And what was handed to them was billions of dollars, fiscal surplus, but more so, Mr. Speaker, a growing economy, a red-hot economy, and a growing population. What's incumbent of government at that point in time is to balance off the needs and pressures being realized by Saskatchewan people. And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that just never happened by this government. And what we stood and called in 2008, 2009, and 2010 for, recognizing that while a growing Saskatchewan or in a growing Saskatchewan that we need to be addressing things like having meaningful policy to make sure we're addressing housing supply, Mr. Speaker, that fell on deaf ears.

And we ended up having a significant, have a significant problem for Saskatchewan people, being felt by Saskatchewan people and being taken directly out of their pockets, but also their quality of life, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And we can do better on this front. We had the opportunity to do better and it's fallen on deaf ears. And it highlights the different priorities, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of that Sask Party government and this official opposition, Saskatchewan New Democrat team. Our goal would be to build a robust, strong economy that better the lives of Saskatchewan people, makes those improvements. That side focuses on a short-sighted and narrow approach to this, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And had that government prioritized the strategic investment that was required to place into housing over the past five years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in communities such as Estevan or in communities such as Regina or communities such as Saskatoon, all across — Weyburn, Mr. Deputy Speaker, North Battleford — the housing pressures are felt all across this province, had that government been able to have an effective strategy in placing some of those investments into increasing

supply as we had that robust economy and fiscal surplus, we'd be in a better spot here today, Mr. Speaker.

We say we'd be in a better spot. I say Saskatchewan people would be in a better spot and that the crisis that is for so many people, young people, seniors, families alike, that struggle to make ends meet and to pay for that rent or to the ever-elusive dream — and that's a sad thing, Mr. Speaker — the ever-elusive dream of owning that first home, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's unfortunate. And I guess, you know, members that catcall opposite, I would urge them to use their voices instead to, use their voices instead to bring to cabinet and bring to the Premier to say, listen, my constituents too are struggling with housing affordability. And this needs to be put onto the agenda of government.

What we've seen instead is, as I say, the home purchase program cut by this government, November of this year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, shortly after the election. Well it's disappointing. This is the kind of program or tools that we should be enabling. The idea that if somebody's disciplined enough to pay rent through a housing authority for many years that they should be able to build equity and move into home ownership, this is a common sense, meaningful policy for Saskatchewan people. And what they don't need is ideological pursuit of policies as we see by this government.

We've seen more on this housing file that's been disappointing where in fact this government brought forward \$200 million, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and with this, a potential opportunity to address some of the supply challenges of affordable rental units and to bring some relief and pressure off that market. And instead we've seen this government double down on what's nothing more than a failed solution in providing \$200 million to developers to build housing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you can imagine, that already exists in the price range that already exists on the market. Now that's no solution to the challenges Saskatchewan people face.

[16:45]

And there is no developers that I've come across and met with that have said to me that securing the capital that they needed to advance housing projects was in fact preventing them from building homes. So why this government would chose to become the de facto lender to Saskatchewan developers with \$200 million to build houses that are in the range of \$300,000, housing stock that already exists in communities, is disappointing.

It also is a cautionary tale, and one where why is government getting involved and intervening in a part of the market that's already relatively served, and in fact potentially causing some adverse effects back on to home valuations and on to circumstances for Saskatchewan people. Cranking up supply in an area that already exists, instead of dealing with the problems that exist for the end user, instead of looking at the real challenges — which is that we don't have enough affordable rental units, Mr. Deputy Speaker — again highlights the difference between that Sask Party government and the approach we would take.

Building a robust economy and focusing on growth shouldn't

be the endgame of a government. And that's what this government's content with — to put press releases out about population growth or economic growth — and that's not good enough, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That's something that's important. It's something that we're certainly proud of in building a robust economy and building the population of this province, and they're certainly important goals. But the broader goal of building economic growth and a population growth must be to better the lives of Saskatchewan people. And as we've called for, year after year — 2008, 2009, 2010 — this government had a blessed opportunity to place strategic investments back into communities to make sure that we could take some pressure off and to balance out and to make sure that a problem didn't exacerbate itself as it relates to affordable housing stock in this province, affordable rental units, Mr. Speaker, in this province.

So when we look at this piece of legislation, I guess the best I can say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that I'm underwhelmed and that I expected more, and this certainly misses the mark. And no solution to the real challenges that face my constituents, or the member from Athabasca's constituents, or the member from Cypress Hills's constituents, or the member from Estevan's constituents, or the members from Saskatoon's constituents. And we should be turning our attention to bringing meaningful action on these fronts. And it's comprehensive strategy that's needed. There's no simple, direct approach. The member from Weyburn, his constituents need these sorts of solutions as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And what we see in this Bill in fact is rather, is interesting. And I don't know what the purpose of this is. I mean they've . . . The change is in fact that if, I guess as I understand it, that landlords can only increase rent once a year. It doesn't dictate how much they can increase rents, so they can make that as big as they want, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But they can do it twice a year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if they join the new landlords' association, or the landlords' association. Now the landlords' association, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you can imagine, wasn't even calling for this. So this isn't a solution to something that was being called for by the landlords' association. It's not a solution to what Saskatchewan people are looking for. And I don't know what the purpose of this Bill is. It doesn't make sense.

And I think that's what Saskatchewan people are asking when they look at it, that they're disappointed when they look at this as the actions of government to address what's in fact a very significant challenge for Saskatchewan people. So I don't know why the government finds it, why their goal is not to address the problem but in fact pool together the voices of landlords, or something, in the association, something that wasn't even called for by the association. It just doesn't make sense, Mr. Speaker. And I think that at the very base of it, this is where Saskatchewan people get frustrated, is that they expect in . . . In Saskatchewan we expect common sense solutions to challenges of the day to address any opportunities, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we can do a lot better on this front.

And to the members that heckle opposite, you know, I question them. Maybe they aren't even aware of the program. But how could they sit in a government, how could they sit in the government that shortly after the election cuts the home

purchase program? I mean this is the exact kind of thing that we should be enabling in our province, allowing individuals, who are working hard to get through life and struggling in some cases, but that have the discipline and the work ethic and the commitment to pay that rent for an extended many, many, many, many years to build a bit of equity, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I think it's out of touch, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with this government to make such a move, something that's important. And I know some of those individuals over there, sitting there, I think they have significantly strong social conscience as well. And I urge them to do better on this front, and they can do better on this front.

We see this as a major challenge. We don't see the consultation that's required. And we've got good people that are doing good work in our community on this front that could have been engaged, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have the Queen City Tenants Association, Angelica Barth-Burkholder. That would be a fantastic individual to engage and to include in creating policy, in creating mechanisms that address the real challenges. Or I'd urge them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to meet with guys like Shawn Fraser over at the Carmichael Outreach centre, that see the desperation for so many families and the perpetual state that exists of a feeling of hopelessness and helplessness that exists for far too many, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And unfortunately, we're not going in the right direction on this front, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

You know, I think that we have people such as Peter Gilmer of the Anti-Poverty Ministry who are there to lend a hand, to co-operate, and to build legislation and meaningful tools to address the challenges that are facing far too many families. I look across the floor and I see a member that I don't know well, but I suspect he recognizes some of these challenges well, who comes with a great history working in the Saskatoon Food Bank, who sees those great pressures and the real pressures that families are facing. And what they expect from a government is meaningful action to reduce some of those pressures in a market that's been strained.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's about putting priorities of Saskatchewan people first. It's about refocusing government, not simply the focus and the priority being that of putting out cheery press releases to count new people moving to the province. That's a good thing. We're excited about that. But what we need that government to do is to then focus on placing those investments back into Saskatchewan people and communities that improve their lives. And if that's not the endgame of government, then it's disappointing.

What I can let you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that's the end goal and endgame of this opposition — improving the lives of Saskatchewan people. So while we build out, what we build out, we're proud of building out a strong economy, what we need to do is to place those effective investments in a comprehensive strategy back to, back to the people that depend, depend on us to have meaningful actions.

We worry a little bit as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as we move into the budget period as next week or the budget next week and we have a government that, instead of doing anything meaningful in housing, think that they need more MLAs, Mr. Deputy Speaker, think they need more MLAs. Meanwhile

Saskatchewan people should deserve less, whether it's reductions in health programs, whether it's reductions in the classroom, or whether it's the ineffective action as it relates to something that's so important to Saskatchewan people.

We need to make sure we're providing solutions for young people, for seniors, for hard-working families. We need to make sure that we're providing some protection that's deserved, some certainty, and some peace of mind, Mr. Deputy Speaker, something that's absent in the current housing environment, the current context. And we need to make sure we're looking at solutions that meet the needs of the end-user, the end-user being young families or the young Pages that are sitting here today and planning out their lives. Those are the kinds of people we need to have in mind when we're looking about at individuals who are going to be entering into home ownership or going to be, that are renting, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I know that one of biggest challenges on this front when we talk about the housing crisis or challenge is that it disables and acts as a significant barrier for so many in pursuing advanced education in this province. And if you're in Cypress Hills, in the constituency of Cypress Hills, and moving to the city to take some studies at SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] or some job-skill program or university, the cost of housing is a significant factor and unfortunately a barrier for so many and preventing so many of our young people from in fact bettering their lives and being able to seek gains from a social and economic perspective for themselves and their families by pursuing training because they can't afford the housing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, certainly tuition and cost of programs, that's also important, but housing's a significant part of these costs.

So we're disappointed, to say the least, to see a newly elected government that continues to cheerlead about a strong economy, but to be meaningful — but to not be meaningful and to be ineffective as it relates to needed housing in this province.

And like I say, the programs to date of this government have been insufficient, have been off target. The \$200 million that this government chose to bring to lend to developers just misses the mark, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And certainly this legislation that, in essence, brings the landlords all together in one pool, I guess to be one voice, certainly that isn't a tool to bettering the circumstance for people across the province, our constituents, for families that are struggling with housing affordability.

It's an interesting question. I'm not sure why they're trying to urge the consolidation of that voice, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There's interesting questions that maybe we can ask at committee about maybe the intended purpose of that. Because certainly that change doesn't bring about addressing the housing pressures in this province. And we'll continue to make sure that this is of top priority in this Assembly. Housing affordability, quality of life, well-being: that must be the goal of government, and we're disappointed to see that it's not with this government.

And so at this point in time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's been my pleasure to weigh in on debate as it relates to Bill 33. But I'm disappointed that we're not talking about meaningful change for Saskatchewan people, something that addresses the realities



that Saskatchewan people, young people, and seniors are facing. And certainly we look forward to urging further solutions on this front, something that we need to bring forward a comprehensive strategy to address. And this is just entirely inadequate, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

But at this point in time, I move adjournment of Bill No. 33, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2011*. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 33, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2011*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 34

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud that **Bill No. 34** — *The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation Act, 2011* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to join in in this debate to do with crop insurance, though the remarks I make at this time may be somewhat brief, Mr. Speaker, as the hour of adjournment is soon approaching.

But when looking at the issue of crop insurance, Mr. Speaker, we know that this is something that is very important to Saskatchewan people. I did not have the good fortune, Mr. Speaker, of growing up on a farm, but I did have the good fortune of marrying into a family that still is on the farm. And I have to say over the past years since I've been in their world and going to the farm, I've appreciated the opportunity to gain a better understanding about issues that matter to individuals actively involved in agriculture — seeing what matters, what is important. And we know, Mr. Speaker, that the challenges for farm families and individuals involved in agriculture are significant.

And the issues that people in agriculture face come in many different fronts and one of them, Mr. Speaker, an obvious one of course, is that of weather and how it affects operations on the farm from a production perspective. So when I'm looking at this piece of legislation that is before the Assembly at this time, it's important to keep in mind how important this is for individuals involved in agriculture, living on a farm.

There are times, Mr. Speaker, when individuals look at possible changes to a program and there may be different . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Members, we have reached the time of adjournment. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

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