



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

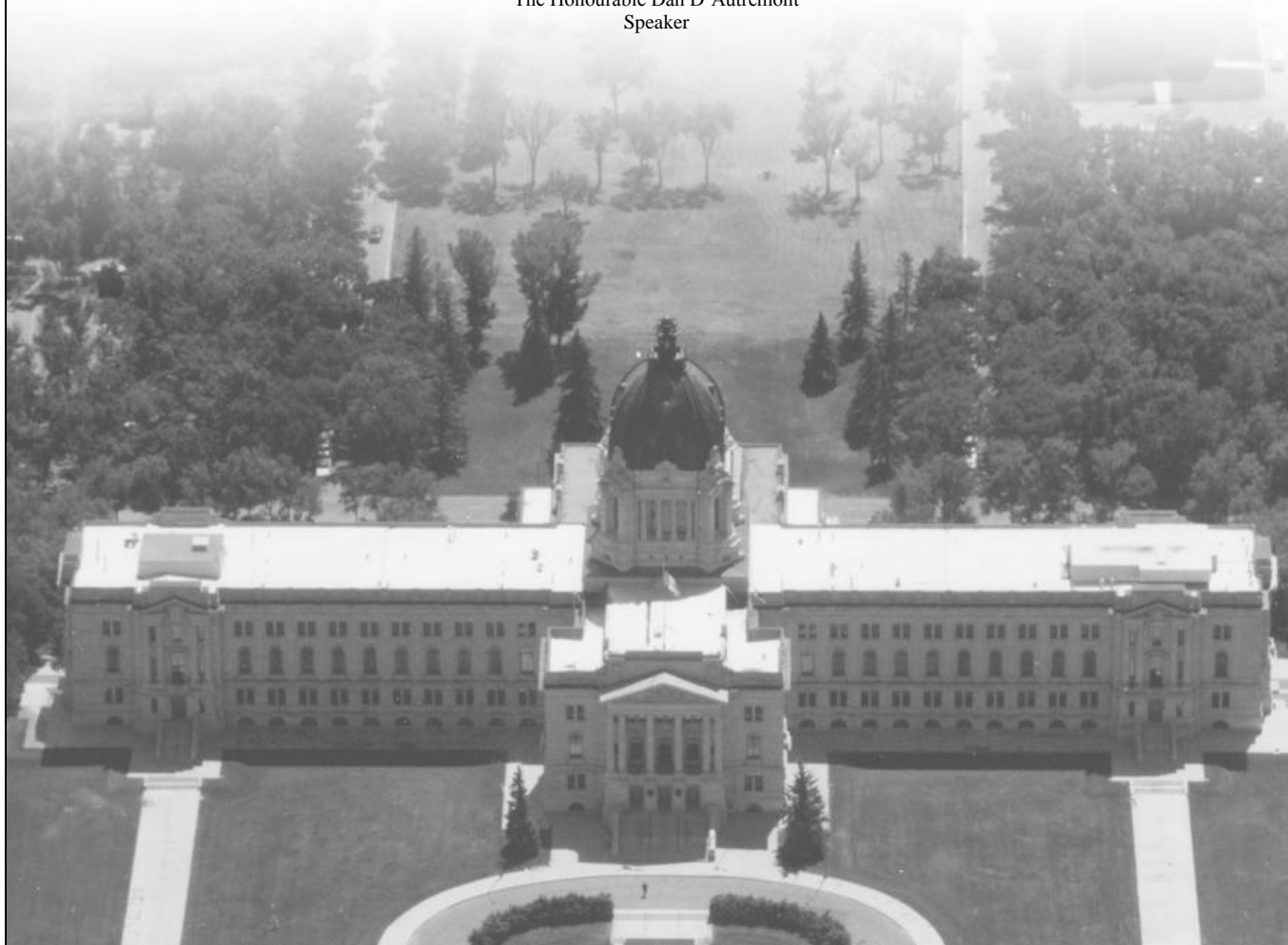
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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 Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure to introduce, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly seated in your gallery, I would like to welcome President Robert Doucette. Give us a wave there, President, president of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. President Doucette, Mr. Speaker, has been a tireless advocate for Métis. And since his election in 2007, we're pleased to work with him on such initiatives as the very successful Year of the Métis in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, in our Chamber we have a daily reminder of the great relationship the government has and the contribution that the Métis make in Saskatchewan with the sash that sits on the table. Mr. Speaker, this government is proud of an excellent relationship with President Doucette. I look forward to meeting with him after question period. Vice-president Allan Morin and treasurer Louis Gardiner will be joining us in what will be a very interesting conversation, I'm sure, Mr. Speaker. With that I'd ask all members to welcome President Doucette to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the honourable minister in welcoming President Robert Doucette of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan to his Legislative Assembly. I hope that the meetings are productive and again, I'd like to welcome President Robert Doucette to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this honourable Assembly, Mr. Kurt Seesequasis from Beardy's Okemasis. Kurt previously worked as a youth counsellor and presently serves as a governing council member. He's also a member of the sports and rec board for the First Nations Winter Games, and he's chef de mission for Beardy's for the winter games as well.

Kurt is also part of a committee in Beardy's that's working extremely hard for the Beardy's Memorial Arena in the Kraft Hockeyville competition. This past Saturday, Kurt and his community had some good news as they were recognized as one of the top finalists in the Kraft Hockeyville competition. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to please join me in welcoming Mr. Kurt Seesequasis to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I want to take the opportunity to welcome Mr. Seesequasis to the Assembly as well and to tell him that we are very, very proud of the work that he and all his team have done. And certainly we wish him the very best in their endeavours and go, go, go and win that for the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, it gives me great pleasure to introduce in your gallery this afternoon, Dave Marit, the president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, SARM.

Last week they hosted, Dave hosted along with his executive directorship, a great convention in Regina here. We had some great discussions about how to move Saskatchewan forward with the RMs [rural municipality] in this province, had some good fun as well with Dave and his executive. And the fact that he forgot to introduce me at the banquet, I'm over it; over it kind of, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure if it wasn't for Ray Orb, we'd have a discussion of revenue sharing later on, but we're not going to do that. So it's good to see you, Dave. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the opposition, we'd like to welcome the president, Dave Marit, as well to this Chamber and wish him well in the future with SARM, the great organization. Thank you very much.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask for leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly, a number of visitors that are seated in your gallery. There are nine articling students seated in the gallery. Three are articling with the Ministry of Justice, and the remaining six are clerking at various levels of the three courts in Regina and Saskatoon.

They are: Lana Morelli, Macrina Badger, and Alex Shalashniy, who are currently articling with the ministry. Lana Morelli studied law at the University of Saskatchewan after majoring in criminal justice and sociology at Minot State University. She's

been an active volunteer with the Pro Bono Students Canada. Macrina Badger studied law at the University of Saskatchewan. Before that she studied in Fredericton at the University of New Brunswick with a double major in history and political science. Alex Shalashniy studied law at the University of British Columbia. He also has an interest in government relations, community involvement, and travelling.

Joanne Colledge, Theodore Litowski, and Jade Buchanan are currently clerking with the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. Joanne Colledge graduated law school with great distinction from the University of Saskatchewan. As a student, she was the recipient of numerous awards and was involved in various activities. Theodore Litowski graduated with great distinction in law and commerce from the University of Saskatchewan. Based on academic merit and community service, he has been the recipient of several scholarships. Jade Buchanan comes to us from Dalhousie law school in Halifax and has also studied at the University of Saskatchewan. He brings several years of volunteer and leadership experience to his role with the Court of Appeal.

Nadine Barnes has been working as a clerk providing research to the Court of Queen's Bench in Regina. She studied law at Dalhousie University and before that received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Manitoba. Carolyn Manness has been working as a clerk with the Provincial Court in Regina. She studied at the University of Saskatchewan. Prior to law, she developed curriculum and taught English in Taiwan. Ammy Murray is also clerking with the Provincial Court in Saskatoon. She studied at the University of Saskatchewan law school where she was an active volunteer, particularly with the Saskatoon Community Mediation Services and the Legal Advice Clinic.

Mr. Speaker, after the 2003 election, I was the only lawyer at our caucus. And the member from Swift Current, as he then was referred to, said that we had roughly the right number of lawyers in our caucus, perhaps one too many. Mr. Speaker, I am always glad to welcome more lawyers to the province and more lawyers to this Assembly. I am proud that we have such a diverse group of articling students and clerks in our province, and I wish them all the best. Please join me in welcoming them to their Assembly today.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a great pleasure to welcome the students to the legislature. And it's been a few years since I had the job of the formal welcome, but it's always pleasant to talk to the people and see what kind of very accomplished roles that they have taken up 10 years or 15 years later. I, on behalf of the opposition, welcome all of you to your roles within government and within the courts.

And I was very pleased to see that we have a graduate from Dalhousie and a graduate from UBC [University of British Columbia] but all with connections to Saskatchewan. And I have a special point of welcoming the fellow graduate from UBC law school as that's my alma mater.

Everybody who goes to UBC law school knows that the law school building is named the dean George Curtis law school.

And he's an important person in Saskatchewan history because he was the ministerial assistant to the Attorney General of Saskatchewan, M.A. MacPherson. And he told me this a number of years ago that he didn't like to come back to this building because the office that he had was turned into the washroom for the cabinet room. But that's where he worked because that was the Attorney General's office. So I think you're going to get much better accommodation where you're working in the courts and in the Attorney General's office.

But really like to welcome you and look forward to good advice for the government. Thank you.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's my pleasure to introduce in your gallery some guests, some dedicated child care professionals who are looking forward to the proceedings. I would just like to introduce them by name, and if they could all give a little wave.

Today we've got Anita Burkell, Mardi Bley, Naren Jurgens, Belinda Helstrom, Joy Bergstrom, Traci Thomson, April Berg, Debbie Mercier, Jennifer Pirot, Lisa Leibel, Bernie Thomas, Kim Randall, and Maxine Hanofski.

With that I ask all members to join me in welcoming these lovely women to their Legislative Assembly.

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. And we know 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 positive statistics show that convenience store and gas station robberies are down by one-third since 1999, largely due to increased safety practices, including two people working together on late-night shifts.

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 Wadena, Christopher Lake, and Saskatoon. I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the management and reporting of our provincial finances. The

prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the Sask Party government to provide Saskatchewan people with the fair, true state of our finances by providing appropriate summary financial accounting and reporting that is in line with the rest of Canada in compliance with public sector accounting standards and following the independent Provincial Auditor's recommendations; and also to begin to provide responsible, sustainable, and trustworthy financial management as deserved by Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses.

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

The petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Saskatoon and Regina. I so submit.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition calling on the Sask Party government to support the seniors' bill of rights:

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following:

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 would 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 the trappers of Saskatchewan. The current regulations being enforced are creating challenges that are a concern for 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 people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

[13:45]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Community-Building Event

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week on Thursday, March 15, I had the pleasure of attending an exciting event. This event has gathered people for many years. People from the four constituencies of Saskatchewan Rivers, Prince Albert Northcote, P.A. [Prince Albert] Carlton, and Batoche all gathered to create an event that displays a value held dearly by Saskatchewan people, that of working together to achieve a common dream. This community mindedness is what builds and continues to build the foundation started by our pioneers.

The energy and excitement in the jam-packed room in one of Prince Albert's beautiful buildings was enhanced by our MC [master of ceremonies] David Halstead, a passionate educator and environmentalist. Reverend Sandy Scott, publicly recognized for his work overseas ministering to our troops, said grace and helped all of us to be thankful. Our guest speaker, the Premier, shared our government's vision of a province moving forward. Bryan Hadland, president of Agribition, highlighted the excitement and thanked our guest speaker.

The meal was produced by one of Saskatchewan's entrepreneurs and served by future leaders of our province. The teams from the four hosting constituencies contributed months of planning, phoning, talking, and gathering to bring this event to fruition. Please join me in thanking all participants, workers, and volunteers for creating a fun, exciting, and community-building event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Support for Hockeyville Finalists

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the most prominent hockey player in our caucus, I want to stand today to congratulate the community of Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation as they erupted in celebration last night because of one big announcement. It was announced Saturday night on *Hockey Night in Canada* that the community will be representing the West as one of the top five finalists in the Kraft Hockeyville 2012 challenge.

The community of Beardy's and Okemasis has a rich culture in hockey. The game helps encourage and promote hockey values of winning; losing with dignity, honour, and humility.

Mr. Speaker, we are honoured to have Kurt Seesequasis here, a member of the Kraft Hockeyville committee for Beardy's. And he's here with us today in the Assembly, and I welcome him. Kurt hosted the evening as members of the community packed

in at the local gymnasium to watch the live broadcast online. And after the announcement was made, everyone rushed to the computer lab to begin the voting process. People even took time to sleep on mats in the gym, waiting for a chance to vote.

Mr. Speaker, we encourage all members and the people of Saskatchewan to log on to krafthockeyville.cbc.ca or call toll free by phone 1-866-533-8066 to cast their vote for the community, as voting will close tomorrow, March 20th. The winner of the Kraft Hockeyville 2012 will host a 2012-13 NHL [National Hockey League] pre-season game and receive 100,000 in arena upgrades courtesy of Kraft Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to stand up to congratulate Beardy's and Okemasis as well as their hard-working volunteers. And get out, please get out and vote as often as you can. Thank you very much.

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

Social Work Week

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to inform the House that the government has officially designated March 18th to 24th Social Work Week in Saskatchewan. This year's theme is Social Workers: Building Relationships, Strengthening Communities, Partnering for Change.

Mr. Speaker, social workers play a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable citizens. Their hard work and commitment makes our province a better place for all Saskatchewan people. Social work is not an easy job, in fact it is one of the most complex and challenging occupations imaginable. Workers are faced with difficult situations on a daily basis and have to make tough decisions that impact the lives of others.

Despite all of this, social workers continue to serve those in our society with the greatest need, and they serve them well. They perform their duties professionally and proficiently even in the face of constant scrutiny and criticism. Social workers work in child and family service agencies, youth facilities, hospitals, schools, correctional institutions, administration, and federal and provincial government departments, providing compassion and support to those who face the devastating circumstances of poverty, violence, and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank social workers across this province for their dedication to children, families, and other people in need. Thank you for making a difference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

2012 Z99 Radiothon

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, in just 36 hours, the 25th annual Z99 radiothon raised just under three-quarters of a million dollars to support the Regina General Hospital's neonatal unit.

Z99's CC, Lori, and Buzz were on the air from 6 a.m. Thursday

until 6 p.m. Friday. Their personal dedication must be recognized. I was pleased to join them on Friday and make a donation on behalf of our NDP [New Democratic Party] MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] team.

Mr. Speaker, as always, the proceeds support the NICU [neonatal intensive care unit] staff as they provide a high calibre of care to Saskatchewan's youngest patients and peace of mind to parents. This year's proceeds will go towards purchasing an MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] compatible monitor, a neonatal ventilator package, as well as increasing bed capacity and upgrading other equipment.

The radiothon raised \$714,634 during its broadcast, thanks to donations from the public and a \$100,000 matching donation from PCS [Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan]. The radiothon is a prime example of how the people of our province rally behind a great community cause.

Mr. Speaker, to the listeners, to those who donated so generously, to the volunteers who ran the phones, to the other support staff, and of course to CC, Lori, and Buzz, we simply say thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Support for Hockeyville Finalists

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I enjoy to play hockey, I'm not going to make any assertions as being the most noted hockey player on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Kraft Hockeyville 2012 is on its way to finding this year's most committed hockey community, and the winning community will receive \$100,000 in local arena upgrades as well as the opportunity to host a pre-season NHL game.

Kraft Hockeyville is in its seventh year, and our province has yet to finish first. Two Saskatchewan communities, Rosthern and Duck Lake, were able to crack the top 15 this past year, and there have been nearly 6 million votes to that point.

As of this past Saturday evening, Duck Lake and the Beardy's Memorial Arena were selected as one of the top five communities in Canada. This was possible by the effort of many voting online at krafthockeyville.cbc.ca, and voting is open until tomorrow night at midnight. And the winner will be announced on March 31st, so be sure to watch *Hockey Night in Canada* as CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] will broadcast live from all top five communities, including the Beardy's Memorial Arena at Duck Lake.

The communities of Duck Lake and Beardy's have worked hard to get the Beardy's Memorial Arena to the top five. I would now humbly ask all people in the province, when you log on to your computer today and tomorrow, take a moment and visit krafthockeyville.cbc.ca and vote for our Saskatchewan community to be successful at this year's event.

Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

Celebrate Success Business Awards

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 14th I had the opportunity to bring greetings and represent the Government of Saskatchewan, as well as represent the ministers of SaskTel and SaskPower, by presenting awards on their behalf at the 2012 Yorkton and District Chamber of Commerce Celebrate Success Business Awards.

The evening has been held by the chamber since 1998 and was a huge success in that capacity. As a business person, long-time chamber member, and former board member, I am proud of the job they do, not only in supporting local business and representing local business, but also celebrating their successes and contributions to this event.

The award winners were as follows: customer service, Farrell Agencies; work and balance, Yorkton Co-op; community merit recipients were Access Communications, Yorkton Exhibition Association, and the Yorkton Terriers; community involvement, TD Canada Trust; diversity leadership, McDonald's Restaurant; property restoration, the Yorkton Hotel; new business venture, Richardson International; business expansion — friends of mine — Crusader Drilling. Young entrepreneur was Justin Yawney of Yorkton Plumbing & Heating who was also recognized by the provincial chamber this year.

Awards of excellence recipients were Harley Davidson of Yorkton, Rusnak Balacko Kachur Rusnak Law, and Yorkton Aircraft Services. And the big winner of the night, the business of the year went to Ram Industries.

Although fewer awards were allocated, truly all nominees are winners and should be proud of their contribution for our community and the province in helping create a strong and growing Saskatchewan, improving the quality of life for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Business Builders Awards

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The North Saskatoon Business Association held its 15th annual Business Builders Award gala last Thursday evening at Prairieland Park. About 500 business and community leaders gathered for the evening, and greetings were brought by the member from Saskatoon Greystone as well as mayor of Saskatoon.

Thirteen awards were handed out. "These businesses, small and large, are honoured in their various categories for their creativity, commitment, and hard work," said the NSBA [North Saskatoon Business Association] president Alun Richards. "They stand out as examples of the impressive business people we have in Saskatoon, showing values that we can all learn from and respect."

The big winner of the night was Jim Nowakowski and JNE Welding who took home two awards for employment retention and development as well as the Shirley Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding long-term contributions to business and community.

This year's NSBA team highlighted the evolution of the Saskatoon business community. The awards were designed to provide a venue for Saskatoon entrepreneurs to honour their own, to celebrate success, leadership, ingenuity, and persistence.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all winners and encourage them to keep up the good work in their businesses as well as their communities. I would like to ask all my colleagues to join in, in applauding all the hard-working Saskatchewan entrepreneurs and in particular those winners of the NSBA awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for Child Care

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the government wants to talk about Saskatchewan being the best place to live, work, and raise a family, then it has the responsibility to ensure families receive the services and supports they need. Child care is about supporting families and providing educational opportunities for children, but it's also about economic development. How are those who have children supposed to engage in our workforce or train to be in the workforce if they don't have high-quality care that they can rely on, afford, and feel good about?

To the minister: when is she finally going to get serious about the child care crisis looming in this province and provide a long-term plan with a vision?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government's vision and our government's plan, quite frankly, is to try to meet the void that was left by the NDP government. It was absolutely shameful what we inherited when we formed government. Saskatchewan at that time, Mr. Speaker, had 8,850 child care spaces. Do you know what Manitoba had at the same time? 26,000 spaces, child care spaces. So our government made a commitment that we're going to increase child care spaces, and we have done so in our first term of government by 35 per cent. We are going to increase by an additional 2,000 spaces or more in our next term of government, is our promise. Mr. Speaker, we are working towards this.

But you know who agreed that there was a shameful disaster left behind by the NDP? Why it was a senior of the NDP, Ms. Pat Atkinson, who said:

Saskatchewan has the poorest record when it comes to child care. And, Mr. Speaker, I take some responsibility for that because I was part of a government that did not put a lot of . . . resources into child care.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well there's no

point in adding spaces if the centres can't find the staff to be able to support those spaces, Mr. Speaker.

If a family with one child has an income that exceeds \$1,640 a month by even \$1, they are not eligible for the full child care subsidy. This has not changed in a very long time. Bureaucracy for everyone involved with the child care subsidy system is onerous, wasteful, and not a good use of time and resources. It's hard on those who run the child care centres, it's time-sucking for ministry staff, and creates unnecessary hoops for families to jump through on a monthly basis in order to secure quality, affordable child care.

But, Mr. Speaker, it could be better. It is in other provinces. Alberta bases child care subsidies on annual income, not monthly income. Manitoba, PEI [Prince Edward Island], and Quebec cap child care fees for families. These provinces invest money in services, not bureaucracy. Will the minister commit today to a complete review of the child care subsidy system so her government can start investing in families instead of in shuffling paper?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, since 2008 when we became government, there is now 5,600 more women working in this province than there was before. And in lots of cases that means that there is more daycare spaces needed. Right now in Saskatchewan, we have 3,500 families that receive a child care subsidy. And we know that the minimum wage increases in the last four years, since we became government, has been over 15 per cent.

Minimum wage earners are clawed back at the rate of \$1.50 per month, Mr. Speaker. So that means they can earn \$268 a month more because of our minimum wage increase, and that's over \$3,200 a year more to cover 18 months worth of clawback, Mr. Speaker. We understand there's always more work to do when it comes to simplifying government processes. That's something that we're working on all the time. But what the important thing is right now is that people have money in their pockets, and what we're doing is making sure that the subsidy goes to the families that need it.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Perhaps both those ministers should take even a half an hour to sit down with the people who are on the front lines of child care to find out exactly what's going on, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The gallery is filled with those who've worked in early learning and care in Saskatchewan for many, many years. These dedicated women are here today because they fear for a child care system they believe is not sustainable. These individuals do not see a workforce coming behind them. Instead they see young people choosing other careers. As one of them put it, "No one can afford to work in child care."

With the cost of living today, who would go to school to educate themselves and take on debt to earn a little more than \$20,000 a year? Child care workers often have families

themselves that they must support. Even those who get the education and start out in the field end up moving up to better paying and less stressful employment after a short period of time.

So to the minister, I do have a question in fact. These child care directors . . . This is very serious. These child care directors want to know how they are supposed to recruit and retain qualified staff when the average wage they can afford to pay their employees is comparable to working at a fast food outlet that requires no education and no student debt.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the member opposite's sarcasm is lost on me because the answer to, who would do that: my daughter, who is presently taking the course right now because she's interested in working with children and being a part of child care.

It's an extremely important job, and I totally agree. And we have committed, not just to child care workers, but we have committed to additional funding for community-based organization workers. And in doing so, in the last term we have increased funding to the community-based organizations that manage daycares and that decide the wages, an increase of 17.8 per cent over the last four years. In addition, in February of 2011, we have increased the tuition reimbursement grants from 150 per individual course to \$500, and from 450 to 1,500 for the early childhood orientation course, equivalent to an early childhood educator 1.

Mr. Speaker, we agree that these are very valuable workers in our province.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I think that I would take the word over the people who are working in the field and know exactly what's going on. There is much, much, much more work to do on this front. And we might add that you could check back with the minister's daughter in five years to see if she's still working in the field.

There are staff setting . . . Mr. Speaker, there are staff setting ratios of level 1, 2, and 3 early learning and child care professionals that must be maintained in child care centres. The government rightfully has high expectations for child care facilities, requiring them to provide more for children, like the new play and exploration program. But government is not providing the supports these professionals need to carry out their work. You can talk to them afterwards and find out for yourself.

Early learning and child care professionals are encouraged by the government to take professional development days to keep up their skills and stay current. But because child care centres need to remain open every weekday and finding substitute staff is next to impossible, these have to be scheduled on weekends — not always possible when you've got a family yourself and are making such low wages. So not only is affordable child care out of reach for many families; it is becoming harder and harder

for centres to sustain quality early learning and child care.

To the minister: what is her long-term plan, the long-term plan to make quality early learning and child care not only affordable for families but sustainable for the people providing the care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the one thing that the member opposite and us can agree with is that there is much more that needs to be done. But I'll tell you what's not going to happen. We're not going to go back to what the NDP did, which was absolutely ignore this file entirely while other provinces had three, four, five, six times more child care spaces per population than we did. We're also not going to go back to where the increases to CBOs [community-based organizations] was disgustingly low so that there was no wage increases that they could offer to their workers.

Do we need to do more? Yes, Mr. Speaker, we need to do more. We need to have more spaces available, and we need to support the community-based organizations that run our daycares. And we need to do it in a sustainable manner in the fiscal capacity of our province so that we will have these child care spaces going forward. But we're not going to go back where Saskatchewan only has 8,000 spaces for the entire province.

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

Arrangements for Long-Term Care Facility

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dr. John Loxley is a professor at the University of Manitoba. For 13 years he served as the department head at the University of Manitoba. He recently completed an assessment of the Sask Party's Amicus deal.

Amicus is a new long-term care facility in Saskatoon that has been financed through an approach that has never been used by the provincial government before. The opposition raised concerns that this approach was not in the best interest of patients or in the best interest of taxpayers. The Provincial Auditor has also raised concerns, and now Dr. Loxley is raising concerns. In fact he concluded that this approach with Amicus will cost the taxpayer between 11 and \$20 million more than they need to pay. My question to the minister: does he agree with Dr. Loxley's assessment of the Amicus deal?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that I've had the opportunity to stand in the House and defend this government's decision to enter into an agreement with the Catholic Health Ministry to ensure that we have 100 more beds in the Saskatoon area so that citizens in Saskatoon, seniors that are living in acute care centres such as City Hospital, can move out of that and call a place like this their home, Mr. Speaker. I will stand many more times, I'm sure, to defend this decision, Mr. Speaker, because it's the right one for seniors in this province; it's the right one for citizens in this province.

Mr. Speaker, this is an agreement that was set up through the Catholic Health Ministry as a pilot project. It looks at a different funding model. I have just received this morning the report done by Dr. Loxley, Mr. Speaker, and as I have said, I'm looking at that and reviewing it, Mr. Speaker. I don't necessarily agree with all the assumptions made, Mr. Speaker, because what I do know is that when a senior is in an acute care centre, for example in Saskatoon, it's \$1,200 a day. We are paying far less than that per bed per day, Mr. Speaker, in Amicus.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased the minister is talking about some of the details because in the details there are a number of concerning aspects. Dr. Loxley identifies six things that are unusual about this approach: (1) the construction wasn't tendered, (2) there are higher borrowing costs, (3) government is financing the full cost of borrowing, (4) government is paying a higher rate per bed, (5) government is guaranteeing per diem payments, (6) government assumes the financial risk.

Dr. Loxley says when all these factors are combined, Saskatchewan taxpayers will be paying between 11 to \$20 million more than if the funding had been done through the traditional route, Mr. Speaker. That doesn't sound very lean to me, spending 11 to \$20 million unnecessarily. My question to the minister: how does he justify spending up to \$20 million unnecessarily when there are great needs for long-term care in the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the agreement that we entered into through the Catholic Health Ministry to construct Samaritan Place was a fixed contract, Mr. Speaker, that would not see the government exposed to any cost overruns. There were no cost overruns on the project, Mr. Speaker. It was on time; it was on budget, Mr. Speaker. And as I speak today, just under 50 people have moved into this facility and are now calling that facility home, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I won't take advice from the opposition who for many, many years completely underfunded long-term care. We've replaced, are in the process of replacing 13 new long-term care facilities under our government, Mr. Speaker. This was one that's outside. You could call it the 14th, Mr. Speaker, adding beds to the system, much needed beds in Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, I can assure you, those people that have moved into this place are very happy to call it home.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The concerns being raised are from outside of the official opposition. The Provincial Auditor has said there's no cost-benefit analysis that was done. We have independent analysis saying now, Mr. Speaker, that this approach is going to cost between 11 to \$20 million beyond the normal expenditure for the people of Saskatchewan, for the patients of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker,

another example here where the Sask Party is simply ignoring common sense.

Dr. Loxley says in his report:

... there are many reasons the government should not pursue this new funding model for long-term care. The bottom line is it is too expensive. And the government is shouldering all the risk.

When it comes to health care, Mr. Speaker, \$20 million could help many patients in the province. My question to the minister: how many more deals will the minister be signing, Mr. Speaker? How many more deals will the minister be pursuing that will unnecessarily spend up to \$20 million of taxpayers' dollars here in the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we move forward, Mr. Speaker, we've entered into agreements with communities, health regions to make sure that we have 13 replacement of long-term care facilities. We listened to communities. At that time under the NDP, it was a 65/35 split for funding. We listened to communities, moved that to an 80/20 split, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing those facilities move forward.

And as we see the need, as we see the need for more long-term care facilities or more long-term care beds, Mr. Speaker, within the province, and especially in our two major centres, Regina and Saskatoon, where at times we see backlogs in the hospital and overcrowding in the hospital . . . And some of it is because of the very fact that we don't have beds for long-term care patients that shouldn't be spending time in acute care, but should be spending time in a proper facility like Amicus.

We'll continue to look at opportunities as we move forward, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to look at funding models that make sense so that we have people living in appropriate living conditions.

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

Water Supply and Plans for the Potash Industry

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that, once given approval by this government, Vale is planning on the construction of a 70-kilometre pipeline to pump water from Katepwa to their solution mine at Kronau. However, some of the details surrounding the pipeline plan have been difficult to ascertain, specifically regarding the pumping station at Katepwa.

Katepwa and the surrounding area is a resort community. Large-scale projects like the one Vale is proposing can change the landscape of the area dramatically. Local citizens are very concerned about the impact of the pipeline on the lake and their properties. For those citizens, my question to the minister is this: where will the proposed pumping station be built for the Vale project and how loud will it be and how big will it be?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the member for her question. Mr. Speaker, I think this is along the same lines as the questions that the member had on Thursday. Mr. Speaker, at that time the member had indicated that officials of the Government of Saskatchewan, be that SaskWater and the Watershed Authority, met with the community leaders at Katepwa. I believe the meeting date was about February 12th or 13th.

Subsequent to that, which wasn't in the member's question, was a list of 40 questions were sent to both agencies on or about February 23rd or 24th. Both agencies are at the closing end of finishing answering all those questions, and those answers will be delivered, if those specific questions were a part of the 40 that were asked specifically, those will be answered in the coming days.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Solution mining potash operations at Findlater, Kronau, and Sedley will need to extract fresh water from the Qu'Appelle River system. This water will be turned into brine and restored to the environment over a long period of time through evaporation. All of these mines will require water extraction from Lake Diefenbaker through the Qu'Appelle River system. Diefenbaker is fed by spring runoff from parts of southern Alberta and the Rocky Mountains, but significant amounts also come from a non-renewable fossil glacial water, which is a depleting source.

To the minister: regarding the Vale project, how many litres of water per day are expected to be pumped out of Katepwa Lake for the project?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these are certainly some very timely and important questions for our province to be able to answer. That's why we are taking our time to address all 40 concerns that were raised by the people of Katepwa and area, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, this frankly is a process that we haven't gone through in a great many years. Mr. Speaker, as members will know, they didn't have to go through an allocation for a new potash mine in the entire 16 years that they were in government, Mr. Speaker. So it's a new challenge that we have, and it's one that we won't take lightly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what we have identified is, through the requests for the water for this particular, not just this particular development but other developments on that chain, Mr. Speaker, we do have infrastructure in place. The upper Qu'Appelle conveyance was designed for a specific amount of water that it could deliver into Buffalo and throughout the rest of the Qu'Appelle chain, Mr. Speaker. And we are looking at what work would need to be to increase the capacity back to, closer to its original design capability. And that work is being done now, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that answer.

Saskatchewan's reserves of potash have been attracting ever-increasing attention and investment from both Canadian and foreign enterprises, and the NDP supports this great investment in Saskatchewan. However, the government is responsible to manage the environment properly when resources are being developed, especially to this magnitude. We all know these large-scale projects impact our environment, and we must not allow a red-hot industry to drive the proper management of the resource and the plan for surrounding environment. The cumulative impact must be considered. Ten mines or 40 mines — these are very different scenarios.

To the minister: does the province have a plan for the overall sustainable development of Saskatchewan's potash resources?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can tell . . . And I want to assure the public and the members of this House that the Watershed Authority and other government agencies that are involved in approval process for new developments do not look at these developments in a silo, Mr. Speaker. We look at them over the entire piece of government, Mr. Speaker, in terms of not only this development that is before us right now but other ones that are in earlier stages, Mr. Speaker — what the impact would be not only if this project were to go ahead but others that would come after, Mr. Speaker.

I also do want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Saskatchewan, we are at work right now on renewal of our water management strategy in this province that will look at all aspects of this issue, Mr. Speaker, look at the important aspects from source water protection all the way to drinking water, Mr. Speaker. And that work is happening concurrently, as we look at specific developments like the one that the member opposite talks about.

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

Provincial Finances and Policing Costs

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the budget is being released on Wednesday, and the Sask Party has been sending all kinds of mixed messages to Saskatchewan people. In one sentence they talk about prosperity in the province, and in another sentence they are telling families to brace for cuts. On one hand the Sask Party is off-loading RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] costs onto families, making people pay more for safe communities, and on the other hand they're spending millions of dollars adding three more politicians. When can Saskatchewan people expect to get some straight answers from this government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Corrections,

Public Safety and Policing.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member wants to talk about policing costs, I can assure the member that what we believe in in this side of the House is safety for our communities. And with that we have added 120 police officers that we said that we were going to. We added an additional 42 as backup police officers. It's a little bit different than what the opposition did when they promised 200 new police officers. And how did they make out? They never delivered. In 2003, they didn't deliver on that again. So that's not our plan at all. Our plan is to deliver, which we have done.

As far as the costing goes, our costs have gone up 57 per cent for policing in this province over the last six years. None of that has been transferred to any of the municipal governments. We felt this year was the time to look at sharing the cost, and that's what we're doing now, Mr. Speaker.

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

Reporting Provincial Finances

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier said the government is looking at separating operating and capital spending in the upcoming budget, to which business columnist Bruce Johnstone stated, I quote:

Saskatchewan's budget is one of the most complicated financial documents in Canada, with a welter of funds (General Revenue Fund, Growth and Financial Security Fund, debt retirement funds, sinking funds, rainy day funds, etc.) and different methods of accounting (GRF versus summary financial statements) . . .

Johnstone also goes on to say, I quote, "In all likelihood, it's going to make budgets more opaque, complex and hard to understand . . ."

How does adding more complexity to books that are already improperly accounted for and already too complicated make it more transparent and more open for Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for many years now we've been talking about clarifying for the people of the province the need to ensure that we move forward with operating and that capital for all infrastructure means that you will spend that kind of dollars if those dollars are available, Mr. Speaker.

So we've looked at other provinces. We've looked at some eastern provinces that have a capital plan where, long before the budget, they release a capital plan which is not necessarily their total amount of infrastructure capital that they're going to do that year, but they provide a clear indication to their third parties — in many cases health authorities, school boards — that indeed you're going to be looking at a capital plan and projects. The Highways ministry in this province has long had a five-year plan, Mr. Speaker, so that people can see ahead as to when those projects are going to move forward.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's not going to cause any complex situation. We're just going to make sure that people understand how we're going to move this province forward.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Adding more complexity at a time where they need to be adding more transparency to Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

In December the Provincial Auditor clearly stated, I quote:

Simply put, the way Saskatchewan publicly reports its annual surpluses and deficits to the citizens of Saskatchewan is out of sync with the rest of Canada. It's time for public reporting to focus on the summary financial statements.

The Sask Party has ignored the independent auditor and now wants to confuse reporting further. Saskatchewan people deserve nothing less than the full and true state of their finances to be reported. Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker. It's past time that this government be straight with Saskatchewan people in reporting our finances honestly. How can this minister disagree?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — The answer is, Mr. Speaker, we provide both, Mr. Speaker. We provide a summary, and we provide a GRF [General Revenue Fund]. The people in this province know more than anywhere else in all of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

One thing I also want to straighten out for the member, especially the member from Athabasca, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that member has suggested that there has been no reduction of debt because the NDP left such a massive amount of dollars. I want to clarify, Mr. Speaker, for that member: the debt was \$6.8 billion. The GFS [Growth and Financial Security] balance when we took over was \$1.2 billion in the bank which meant that there was a net position of 5.6 billion. Mr. Speaker, on March 31st this government is going to end with \$3.8 billion worth of debt, \$709 million in the fund, Mr. Speaker, for a total of \$3.1 billion. You know, Mr. Speaker, that's a \$2.5 billion improvement. That's the honest answer.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 1

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 1 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*** 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 to rise and make some comments with respect to Bill No. 1, *An Act to amend The Queen's Bench Act, 1998 respecting an Associate Chief Justice*. Now, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is relatively straightforward, but it still has that official designation as Bill No. 1. And I guess in some sense it's symbolic of this session and of the government's agenda that *An Act to amend The Queen's Bench Act respecting an Associate Chief Justice* is Bill No. 1 for their legislature.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's often that what you want to do is, in your first Bill, set out the sort of signature piece that you're going to use to tell the public what it is that's most important for you as you proceed with legislation. So, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that this Bill has done that in this particular session and in fact, as we've seen in other Bills, there are quite a few that end up showing that the government doesn't really have a plan for this session or for this four-year period as government.

Now this particular Bill, Mr. Speaker, effectively adds the definition for Associate Chief Justice at the Court of Queen's Bench. And the purpose of this is to effectively provide for an administrative structure within the Court of Queen's Bench that provides assistance to the Chief Justice and makes sure that there are no difficulties in managing certain parts of the duties that are assigned to them by the Chief Justice. So effectively, what this Bill does is say when the Chief Justice is not around or not able to handle a particular task, he can assign those duties to the Associate Chief Justice.

So, Mr. Speaker, we think this is a very practical suggestion. And albeit, it's got the title Bill No. 1, it really doesn't have a great dramatic affect on ordinary people in Saskatchewan. And so, Mr. Speaker, I move that we send this to committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 1, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this be referred?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I designate that this Bill be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that this be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Bill No. 2

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 2 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act, 2011/Loi corrective (droit collaboratif) de 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 to rise and make a few comments about Bill No. 2, *An Act to amend certain Statutes with respect to matters concerning Collaborative Law*.

Mr. Speaker, these clauses in this particular Bill are here at the request of the legal profession and make a fair amount of sense. Effectively what they say is that if there's a matter that's going to be dealt with under *The Children's Law Act* or *The Family Maintenance Act* or *The Family Property Act*, there's a duty of every lawyer, and I think it's important that we actually look at what the clause says, and effectively it says it's the duty of every lawyer who undertakes to act on behalf of a spouse or a parent or somebody who's involved in, depending which Act you're in, in an application pursuant to this Act to (a) discuss with that person the advisability of using alternative methods to resolve the matters that are the subject of the application; and (b) inform the person that collaborative law services and mediation services are available that might be able to assist them in resolving these matters.

And now it is interesting that the one clause that is put in here, which is an obligation on the lawyer, is that it says, services, collaborative law services and mediation services known to him or her. So that's known to the lawyer. So it is possible that somebody could say, well I don't know of any, and therefore not have to work with this particular clause. But I think it'll be the role of the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society to make sure that every lawyer who practises in Saskatchewan knows about this particular obligation.

[14:30]

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting way to draft this particular clause. And I'm fairly certain that this clause comes from the history of the 1968 *Divorce Act*. As many people in Canada know, the whole issue of, well, divorce and marriage are constitutionally the responsibility of the federal government. So therefore provinces could not proclaim laws relating to divorce. Now they could deal with matters surrounding marriage or divorce, but they couldn't deal with those specific issues.

And so up until 1968, when Mr. Trudeau, Pierre Trudeau, was the Attorney General in the Pearson government, there wasn't a situation where it was very simple to get a divorce. And there was much debate as that particular piece of legislation was introduced into the federal parliament around divorce.

One of the clauses that was placed in that particular legislation was a clause that was very similar to this that put an obligation on the lawyers who were handling the divorce case to make sure that their client knew about all the possibilities for counselling before they actually went through the final process of getting the divorce. And that clause, I think probably is still in the legislation, but it was always one that was a bit of a mystery to many lawyers involved in court. Now it's my hope that these clauses that are in these pieces of legislation around collaborative law don't have the same history as that clause in the 1968 *Divorce Act* had. And the reason for that is that lawyers have become much better at understanding how to resolve issues relating to children, families, divorce, and

marriage and have provided a whole different set of services which are now designated as collaborative law services.

So, Mr. Speaker, this particular Bill effectively acknowledges those skills and obligates the lawyers who are involved in this type of a case in the courts, it obligates them to make sure that individuals know when the whole issue that's at the subject of the litigation is such that it should probably be dealt with or resolved in another manner. Now ultimately you will need the court order to end the marriage if it's that, but practically all of the related issues under *The Children's Law Act*, *The Family Maintenance Act*, or *The Family Property Act* will have been sorted out through a process of collaborative law.

People often wonder what that means. And I guess what I would say is that many, many years ago — I guess it'd be 27 years ago — I was qualified as a mediator and a lawyer, first lawyer in Regina and southern Saskatchewan to do that. And it was quite a dramatic shift in how you dealt with cases. And slowly but surely there were other lawyers who practised in Saskatchewan who also understood that this was a part of the process that you could end up with a better result. And often what would happen is people would be referred to lawyers who also would work with other lawyers in a more conciliatory fashion, if I could put it that way, but preserving the rights of the parties.

Collaborative law has over the years ended up making sure that this particular area of the law is becoming less of a problem for people. There's no question that the expense of traditional battles in the family law area are prohibitive and that this allows for a more reasonable budget as it goes.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think that this legislation does make sense. We'll have some questions when we get into committee, but at this point I would move that we send this particular Bill to committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I designate that this Bill be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — This Bill then refers to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Why is the Leader of the Opposition on his feet?

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask for leave to introduce a guest.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce Mr. Rick Swenson, who is sitting behind the bar this afternoon. Mr. Swenson is the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan and he served in this Chamber for many years. I think with . . . I guess there aren't too many left that were here when he was serving but, Mr. Speaker, he served the province well. He continues to work in political circles, and I know there are a number of unresolved issues around Saskatchewan politics in which he's intimately involved, but I ask all members to welcome here this afternoon.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 3

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 3 — *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment 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 honour to rise and speak to Bill No. 3, *An Act to amend The Summary Offences Procedure Act, 1990*. And this once again is legislation that provides amendments to *The Summary Offences Procedure Act*. *The Summary Offences Procedure Act* in many ways is the workhorse legislation for the small crimes or small criminal law area, as many offences that are provincial offences are dealt with by this particular legislation. The importance of this particular piece of legislation is that it allows for methods to serve people with the summonses and then set out a procedure for default convictions if people do not respond.

I think a traditional problem with summary offence charges was that people would ignore them and they would sit somewhere or they would cause some difficulty. And this legislation is brought to bear here to attempt to make the whole summary offences procedure Act more workable for the police, for the courts while at the same time protecting the rights of those people who have been charged.

So for example, some of the things that are going to happen with this legislation that we don't have now include getting warrants, summary offence warrants, by telephone. Now it's the same process that's used federally under the Criminal Code to get warrants, so the police are quite conversant with how to do this. But it does allow for the full protection of the people who may be accused. But it deals with the fact that in Saskatchewan

we often have long distances, and presently to get a warrant, one would have to travel to a place where there was appropriate official or judge who could issue that warrant. What would happen with this new legislation is that these types of warrants could be obtained over the telephone.

And the whole process of the electronic summary offence tickets, that's another part that's in this, will allow for the use of hand-held ticket machines, if I could put it that way. And as one who has seen these in use in other countries, especially in Europe, I think we may eventually get to the point that some of those countries do, where they issue the ticket and if you accept the fact that you made a mistake and the charge is accurate, you can end up paying the fine with your Visa or MasterCard right on the spot, and it saves all kinds of administrative difficulties. So, Mr. Speaker, this particular legislation appears to be the first step or the enabling step that will allow us to have a fairly rapid resolution of a number of infractions, if I can put it that way.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think there may be some interesting questions about what actually happens as the legislation moves forward in some of these areas, especially I think the electronic ticket and subsequent systems set-up, but that practically there isn't anything here that has a major problem. But we will be asking questions as it moves to committee. But at this point I would ask that this Bill be moved to committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 3, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I designate that this Bill be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 4

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 4 — *The Pension Benefits Amendment 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 to rise to make some comments about Bill No. 4, *An Act to amend The Pension Benefits Act, 1992*. Now, Mr. Speaker, this particular legislation has as its main purpose to enable the

further use of multijurisdictional plans, multijurisdictional pension plans, and make sure that they can be properly supervised within our federal country.

And so effectively what happens right now is that the pensions regulators from across the country, all the provinces and territories and the federal government, meet and look at legislative changes that address the mobility of workers in our country and also addresses the whole area of making sure that people do not lose pension rights if they happen to move between jurisdictions. And so what this particular legislation does is make sure that our pension benefits Act, which applies to only a certain segment of the pensions in the province — quite a few pieces of pension legislation in our system are in other Acts and so it doesn't apply to all of those — but it does apply to those kinds of pensions that are available across the country.

So the legislation is itself primarily enabling of some of the changes and concerns that are there. And it allows for reciprocal treatment between Canadian jurisdictions, and it allows for the minister to sign agreements that bind Saskatchewan and make sure that the promises are upheld on these particular types of pension plans.

Now, I think, otherwise the basic rules and regulations are in place. They allow for the flexibility that we in Saskatchewan have been used to. The only thing that we would get concerned about, Mr. Speaker, is that individuals are protected as we move forward with the legislation. We do note that this particular Act does not apply to provincial government employees' pension plans, so there's a different place where some of these things are dealt with. But practically the issues are dealt with in an appropriate fashion.

[14:45]

Now, Mr. Speaker, the whole Act itself is based on the premise that individuals will have a pension that enables them to provide for their retirement. Often it's forgotten that pensions are really just deferred income but deferred income that's rewarded through a tax structure. And that deferred income is an asset that each person has or maybe each family has, if I can put it that way. And it's important that there are rules there that protect that asset for the long-term future of the individual or of the family, but it's also important that there be sufficient flexibility.

Now over the last 10 years, we've seen some fairly dramatic discussions about pension plans in about three different areas. One is that people who have defined benefit plans, in other words, their plans are based on a certain amount based on the number of years of service and then comes up with, say, 70 per cent of your last three years of your salary in whatever job you have, those kinds of plans were . . . I guess people rued the fact they had those, maybe six or seven years ago, because they seemed to be worth substantially less than those plans where people made defined contributions, and they had this asset that was based on the very healthy stock market and investment market. And so often they would compare notes with their friends or even within their own family and say, oh, I wish I had this big fund under a defined contribution plan. And you know, or if you're on the defined benefit plan, woe is me. I'm getting a

low payment based on all the years I've paid into the system.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the year 2008 changed all that. And now the people who have the funds, after taking some fairly substantial losses in that whole adjustment of the valuation of all of the assets in plans and in people's individual investment portfolios, are saying, well maybe some of these defined benefit plans are way better than what we thought. And, Mr. Speaker, this particular legislation builds on top of that, and so we have to remember that.

The third area, as I mentioned before, related to pension plans, is what happens to the assets of a plan when a company gets into financial difficulty or into bankruptcy. And we're still in the process in Canada of clearly defining the rules and the place that the pension plan has in the whole debt hierarchy of a company that has gotten into trouble. And often that becomes a major bargaining issue in collective bargaining, but it also becomes an issue when you look at, well who is going to pick up the pieces if somebody's plan is no longer there. Once again this particular legislation builds on top of some of these rules and allows for the multijurisdictional pension plan agreement to clearly define some of these issues.

But what it does mean is that everybody who becomes part of one of these agreements through whatever process is required, but often it's the signature of the minister, they need to be told exactly what type of risk they are incurring if they get into a multijurisdictional plan versus the plan that they might have had that was solely a Saskatchewan-based plan.

So, Mr. Speaker, some of these kinds of questions will have to be asked in the committee. But I think at this stage the legislation is legislation that should move forward to committee so that that discussion can take place. And I therefore move that this legislation go to committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 4, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I designate that this Bill be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 5

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 5** — *The Credit*

Union Amendment Act, 2011 be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Yes, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and make a few comments about Bill No. 5, *An Act to amend The Credit Union Act, 1998 and to repeal The Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan Act, 1999*. And so, Mr. Speaker, the legislation that we have here today is legislation that comes forward at the request of the Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, and also I think the people involved with credit unions in the province.

And I think it's important to understand what this legislation does. And effectively what it says is that we don't need *The Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan Act* any more as our credit union — or SaskCentral, as it's called for shorthand — will now become a federally regulated or a national co-operative of credit unions if I can put it that way, and that their legislation will be based under the federal legislation which is dealt with similar to all of the national banks.

And this is an interesting move, but it's part of a long-term evolution of the credit union movement in Canada which recognizes that the roles of a credit union are local — there's no question about that — but they also have ways that they operate nationally and in some cases even internationally.

What this particular legislation will do will allow SaskCentral, as a federally regulated body, move towards some more connections nationally. And it will be of benefit to all credit unions because it will increase the size of the pool involved and increase the financial leverage that they have. As we know, as the business gets bigger and bigger, it's important that all the institutions are backstopped, if I can use that term, but have behind them some substantial amount of assets.

Now the good news is that in Saskatchewan our credit unions are very strong. Their administration is very strong, and we continue to provide leadership across the country. I think this particular legislation is further evidence of that good relationship between the credit unions and the people within the Ministry of Justice who are working on this area.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we may have some more questions when we get to committee about this legislation. But it appears to be of benefit to all members of credits unions, to the credit unions themselves, and to the general public. And so therefore I move that we move it to committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 5, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I designate that this Bill be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 35

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **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* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with pleasure that I rise today to speak to the Bill No. 35, *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2011*.

This Bill deals with election dates, Mr. Speaker. It's a fairly short piece of legislation. And there's only actually one section that's being proposed to be changed, and that is section 8.1(2) of the original Act in 2007 — *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2007* — which is repealed, and the proposal in this Bill is to substitute a following clause which reads:

“(2) Subject to subsection (3), general elections following the general election held in accordance with subsection (1) must be held on the first Monday of November in the fourth calendar year after the last general election.

And the subsection (3) now reads, if the writ period is held in accordance with subsection (2) and if it overlaps for a general election held by the Dominion of Canada under the *Canada Elections Act*, then that fixed date would be moved to the first Monday in April in the calendar year following. And there's a further definition of the writ period.

So in and of itself, this is a fairly basic change to the Act that existed and was introduced by the government in 2007, at which point they were following in the trend across Canada to set fixed election dates. This is not a new trend. It's been around since the beginning of the 2000s, and I think it was appropriate for this government to follow suit.

I know my colleague has, some of my colleagues have spoken to this Bill already and have commented on the minister's first paragraph and his comments when introducing the Bill. And particularly he's removing uncertainty that had traditionally existed regarding when provincial elections would be held, and in particular to avoid gamesmanship in the choice of an election date.

And I think that's entirely appropriate, and obviously it has been the pattern that has been followed by all jurisdictions in Canada in order to remove some of that uncertainty. It certainly helps the public because they have a fair idea of when the election will be held. And I think generally for the press and for educators and certainly politicians but also academics and

instructors and political science enthusiasts, perhaps it is unfortunate to lose some of that suspense, but I think overall it just helps people plan their lives accordingly. We know that municipal by-elections are held every two years. I know First Nations, their elections are normally set on a specific cycle, either through the provisions of the *Indian Act* or through their own custom election codes. So it just really assists the people and, I think, bureaucrats and civil servants and academics and even people who are just fond of following politics, to just know generally when the next election is going to be.

Unfortunately, with gamesmanship I think we are concerned about some other Bills that are on this legislative agenda, including the one that's coming up next, Bill C-36 . . . or not C-36, Bill 36 — I keep speaking in the federal vernacular — because that, I think, is something that is of concern to the public and certainly to the opposition, Mr. Speaker, because it does raise questions about what the real underlying motive is for that particular Bill. I know the government is holding forth that it's population growth, but it really . . . Mr. Speaker, our averages are way lower than many, many other provinces. So the population growth doesn't seem to be the true reason why that Bill was being introduced. And I think the gamesmanship that the minister is speaking about in his comments on this Bill really need to be shifted over to that piece of legislation.

[15:00]

At any rate, the minister went on to indicate that he was convinced that fixed-date general elections are the right thing to do. I don't think there's any disagreement with that in the public or with other provinces. And it's apparent there's a little problem now, though, because of the way the last election went and the changes that the federal government made. Because the first time the federal government introduced it, in 2006, it was a minority government. And when it was introduced in 2006, there were a number of goings-on, including some action on the behalf of the Senate. So we had the unelected senators making an effort to improve the Bill on a number of counts. There were problems with it in terms of religious holidays and potential conflicts and clashes with other dates. So they tried to amend it in order to avoid those clashes. But given the heavy-handed style of the federal government right now, they just overruled the Senate and introduced the Bill as it was.

It's indicated in that Bill there is still room for the Governor General to dissolve parliament. And indeed we saw that in 2008 when things weren't going very well for the Government of Canada and the Prime Minister of the day spoke to the Governor General and asked for a dissolution, the prorogue. And we all know that that was highly disapproved of by many, many people in the public as an abuse of the democratic authority of the Government of Canada and certainly still has reverberations throughout Canada. And it's been going on further with other actions of this Prime Minister and the Government of Canada in many different ways. So it's of concern to many people.

So at that point, the federal government was able to move the Bill to change the date but they weren't able to ever really get to it, because what happened with the minority government is, first of all there was the prorogue, and then there was two subsequent elections after that. And so they weren't able to

actually get to the fixed date.

Now with the majority government that was elected in May of 2011, it looks like this will actually go the full term for the first time in a long time. So what's happened then is that the likely date — the legislated date — of the next federal election will be October 19th, 2015. Obviously our minister is paying attention and realized that that would be just a few short weeks before our legislated election. So I'm sure he and his officials quickly realized that, and that's one of the reasons why this Bill came into being, that we needed to have some flexibility so that we wouldn't be having a provincial election a few short weeks after a federal election in 2015.

So what he's proposing is that, rather than leaving it as it was, the provincial election will now follow the . . . will go to the calendar year next following that Monday in November and would be in the April, the month of April. So I think this is something that will make a lot of sense in the electoral cycle.

It's somewhat interesting to me that the governments, all the provincial attorney generals haven't gotten together to sort this out a little bit because all other jurisdictions have introduced similar legislation. Alberta introduced theirs in 2011, so just last year, and they chose the month between March and May. So they have some flexibility in terms of when they can call it. It's between March 1st and May 31st so there's a three-month period rather than a fixed date. I'm not certain why the province of Alberta felt that was a better choice, but we all know that there's an election coming up in Alberta shortly. So that is . . . One choice was spring. And they're a year ahead of us now in their cycle so that's a nice sort of balance.

Then BC [British Columbia], the province of British Columbia, was the first to adopt the fixed dates in 2001, so a mere 11 years ago. So their cycle ends up being 2012 and then 2016, according to the information I have located. So they're in 2012. We were in 2011. Manitoba introduced their Bill in 2008 and they're also the first Tuesday in October. And so as we all know, they had a provincial election last year in October and their cycle will be the same as ours. I don't have any information about whether the province of Manitoba intends to follow the minister, the Attorney General's decision here to push it back to spring of the following year, 2015, if indeed the federal election is called. And I guess that's something the province of Manitoba will likely want to follow suit. We're not sure where they will choose, if it'll be a spring election or a fall election, but they seem to have the same problem as we have here because of the electoral cycle federally.

And Ontario introduced their Bill for the first time in 2005, and it would be the first Thursday in October. So October appears to be a popular month for some provinces, and they had their election in 2011 as well. So we had a whole plethora of elections last year. And they have some flexibility in their Bill to move it forward or backward depending if there are religious holidays. And I think that, if I recall correctly, did actually happen. The other provinces all have, as far as I can tell, introduced various Bills to deal with this. I'm sure this is something that attorneys general would probably talk about when they get together for their federal-provincial-territorial meetings. And I expect that this is something that we'll keep watching with interest.

It's very difficult to be specific because you can't really predict the future, Mr. Speaker. And so with the federal cycle turning out as it did, it did put this government in a bit of a bind, and so they were forced to look at it, and I suspect this isn't the end of it. There will be, all throughout the ages, varying kinds of problems with planning for the future. And we all know about that even when we think about raising kids or our own particular career trajectories.

So it's always good to keep an eye on the ball and an eye on what's going to happen in the future, and I think this particular legislation is a small, short piece that was necessary, given the results of the federal election last year in May. And I think at this point . . . I'm looking for my comments. At this point I would like to move it to committee, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 35, *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I designate that this Bill be referred to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 36 is, I'll say from the outset of my remarks, is not one we'll be moving on to committee today, Mr. Speaker.

And again if you'd reflect on the content of the 75-minute debate from last Thursday, you'll be somewhat familiar with my opinion of this piece of legislation. But for those that weren't paying close attention, Mr. Speaker, I will reprise my critique of this Bill.

I think this Bill is wrong-headed on so many different fronts, Mr. Speaker. The two main sort of items in it of course are in terms of the content of the legislation, is (a) the addition of three additional politicians, moving the numbers of members of

the Legislative Assembly from 58 to 61, and the second item of course is the changing of the calculation by which the constituency boundary quotient is arrived at. And of course the remarkable piece in this, Mr. Speaker, is the removal of everyone under the age of 18 for the purposes of the calculation by which constituency boundaries are made. So two things: (1) they want to add additional politicians, and (2) the changing of the calculation whereby everyone under the age of 18 is counted out by this government for the purposes of the construction of these constituency boundaries.

And we in the official opposition, Mr. Speaker, think this is a really wrong-headed piece of legislation. We think that this takes the province, when it comes to counting out everyone under the age of 18, it puts us offside with our neighbours to the west in Alberta, it puts us offside with our neighbours to the east in Manitoba, and it puts us offside with the federal government in the way that they calculate the population for the constituency boundaries as well.

And I guess the thing that's interesting about it is, on the one hand, this government is arguing that there's more population so you need more MLAs, and this in a broader context of when this government is stepping forward and saying that, oh it's going to be a tough budget and folks better tighten their belts and, you know, there's no need for this public service, or municipalities are going to have to pay more for RCMP, or we don't have the funds to address the housing crisis, or pick your front on which this is going to go. And we'll see these things get rolled forward in the days ahead with the budgets in particular.

But it's funny that they would be pleading poverty or austerity on the one hand, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and then on the other hand talking about what a great time we're having in the province, in the growth and the this and the that. And how is it that they can talk about cutting public services on the one hand and adding three more politicians on the other?

And of course we just came through a provincial election not very long ago, Mr. Speaker. And I get on a fair number of doorsteps in an election, and I'm out talking to the constituents on a pretty consistent basis. And as people raise their problems with me that each of the respective sides were seeking to address through their platform, nobody came to me and said, you know that problem I've got with housing or that problem I've got with the cost of living or the problem I want to see addressed in terms of, you know, where's the high school? Where's that at for the revitalized Scott Collegiate? Or this government was very quick to tear down Herchmer School, but what's happening with the Herchmer/Wascana school conundrum? Or, you know, pick your issue. In all of our wait-lists in terms of health care or the attraction and retention of health care professionals or being able to afford post-secondary education or job training, on all of these issues nobody ever came forward on the doorstep, Mr. Speaker, and said, you know, I've got a problem, and I think the answer is three more politicians down at the legislature. I think that's really going to get the problem on the run.

And you know, nobody came forward saying that. I guess, for one reason, the party office didn't talk about it in the campaign. And you'd think that for a government that likes to talk about

being ready for growth and on and on and on, you know, if they were going to be serious about a growth agenda for politicians, you'd think they'd want to talk about that at the doorstep.

Or, you know, we've heard over the years about hope trumping fear from the members opposite. We've heard about the election platform being a sacred covenant with the people. And we've heard a lot of really rich language about the platforms that have been taken to the people or a promise made or a promise kept. And again that's fine, Mr. Speaker, and that's actually even laudable.

But the problem that we have on this side of the House is that if that is a virtue on that side that they like to pat themselves on the back for, then where the heck was this promise about three additional MLAs, three additional politicians? And where was it, Mr. Speaker? Well it was nowhere. And they couldn't be straight with the people at election time when it came to bringing that particular measure forward. And I guess it would be interesting to know, Mr. Speaker, if they had been straight, and they got a mandate to do that and if they talked about it at election time if it was in their platform — or perhaps even in their Throne Speech, which came, you know, mere days after the election — maybe that would be a different thing. But that of course was not the case. This was something that was brought in as Bill No. 36, of 36 pieces of legislation. It didn't receive its second reading speech until the House reconvened this March.

And for all intents and purposes, Mr. Speaker, it looks like they tried to, you know, sneak this one in as fast as, as sneakily as they could, as subversively as they could. And I guess, we in this Assembly, of course we go to the people, we ask for support and we get sent to the legislature to address the issues that people raise with us. And again, Mr. Speaker, I go back to the hundreds, if not thousands of doorsteps that I was on in this past campaign. I think about the seniors that were worried about living on a fixed income and health care.

[15:15]

I think about young people that were interested in making a life for themselves and getting the post-secondary education opportunities to take a job in the workforce or, you know, making sure that they could pay the bills in terms of keeping a car licensed and a roof over their heads. Or the people that were having a very hard time keeping up in terms of the housing situation in this province and the way that rent has skyrocketed, and people finding it harder and harder to make a go of it. In all those different kind of circumstances, Mr. Speaker, never once did somebody say, you know, I've got a solution for you. I've got an answer to this question. I've got a . . . You've got a problem with housing, or post-secondary education or with taxes or any of these sort of measures. I've got an answer: the answer is more politicians.

And for the government to then bring that forward after the election when it's a mere matter of days when they've been out there talking to people and saying, you know, we really value what you have to say and we really value your opinion. And particularly for those members, Mr. Speaker, the fact that we've heard a lot of guff over the years from certain members opposite about the virtues of smaller government. And certainly

we've seen that when it comes to the public service being up for the four-by-four plan, the reduction by 16 per cent over four years that we're in the middle of right now, and what that says to a province about being ready for growth and what that says to young people that are interested in serving as public servants.

And I think it would have been great if they had said, you know, we think that 16 per cent reduction on public service, that's a measure of this government. And they'd announced that before the last campaign so it was part of the campaign they ran on — fair enough. But I think it was glaring by its absence, this notion of they're going to cut public service on the one hand by 16 per cent but they're going to increase the number of politicians by three on the other. And I think if they had come forward in different surroundings, Mr. Speaker, that that would have caught the interest of the public. I can almost guarantee you that.

I had the opportunity to do a housing forum with the Minister Responsible for the Sask Housing Corporation, the member from Kelvington-Wadena, and when she was talking to people that were very concerned about the housing crisis in Regina and the fact that rental housing is at point six per cent vacancy and a lot of really hard circumstances, Mr. Speaker, you know, not once in that debate did she say, help is on the way. Don't worry. We going to introduce three more politicians.

And I think it would have been great if she had said that because I think that would have really connected with the audience in terms of just how out of touch that would have seemed. How, when these people are trying to advance solutions to the housing situation and are being told in many cases to wait or that there isn't the money or there isn't the will, I think it would have been really great for that minister to come forward and say, you know, on all those things we can't really act or that the program's not as advanced as we should have it, but one thing we're going to do right off the hop is introduce legislation to bring in three extra politicians. I think that would have really seized the imagination of the people assembled.

I know that in the local constituency debate against my Sask Party candidate, there were a lot of different things got brought up in that debate, Mr. Speaker, but that was not one of them. I know that that individual wanted to win and to serve the people in Regina Elphinstone-Centre — fair enough. But not once did the whole sort of, you know, let me tell you about the Sask Party platform and its virtues and the fact that we'd like to bring in three more politicians or that we've got a growth agenda for the number of politicians, that never came up, Mr. Speaker.

So I guess we have a hard time just on the face of it, the way that this piece of legislation has been brought forward and the kind of being less than forthright with the people of Saskatchewan that is engaged in this piece of legislation. And not, you know, mere months after the election which was supposed to be the time when you go talk to people about the issues that they're facing, about your plans to work with them and for them, that they couldn't be bothered to bring this forward. Well that, we think that's wrong, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess the other thing that we think that is wrong about, alongside the three politicians, the fact that they're bringing forward this notion of eliminating everyone under the age of 18,

counting out young people when it comes to the construction of the basic boundaries of our constituencies. We think that's, that's hugely wrong-headed as well, Mr. Speaker. And you'd think that a province — for all the rhetoric we like to hear about the members opposite about growth and the future and how we value young people and on and on and on — you'd think that something as simple as this, where young people have counted for nearly two decades in this province when it comes to the construction of that basic building block of our parliamentary democracy here in Saskatchewan: the constituency.

And you think about in my case, Mr. Speaker, my home neighbourhood is the youngest neighbourhood in the city of Regina. And it's rich in potential and it's rich in diversity. And we have a lot of different casework that comes through our office. And we have a lot of different people that their concerns are based on their kids and whether or not they're getting a good school, whether or not the housing that they have is adequate, whether or not they're going to have good job opportunities, whether or not they're going to have the kind of, that step up the socio-economic ladder that we all wish for our children.

And you know, we certainly like to hear a lot about, or we certainly hear a lot about that concern for that approach to public policy from the members opposite come election time. But what we didn't hear was about their plan to count everybody under the age of 18 out, which is roughly 2,000, pardon me, 200,000, pardon me, a quarter of a million people. There we go, a quarter of a million people in terms of the population of this province.

So it's not even internally consistent with their argument, Mr. Speaker, in terms of on the one hand they're arguing more people so we've got to have more MLAs, you know, that at a time when they're cutting public service. But they can't even be consistent about it in terms of the legislation they're bringing forward.

They want to change something that has been in place for two decades. They want to change a practice that is in place to the west of us, to the east of us, and with the federal government and with many other jurisdictions throughout Canada. The majority of provincial jurisdictions practice this means of counting their population for building constituency boundaries.

They didn't come clear with the people about that. They didn't say, you know, we're going to do away with everybody under the age of 18 — that quarter of a million people — for the purposes of building constituency boundaries. They weren't straight-ahead about that. And of course it's no surprise because it wouldn't have squared with so much of their own rhetoric, Mr. Speaker.

And the fact that, you know, at a time when a province is concerned about young people's interest in the political process and young people's interest in a democracy — and I know you yourself, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the great work that you do with not just the Youth Parliament but with the Fransaskois Youth Parliament as well — I mean, when we go into those rooms, we talk about the importance of democracy, and the importance of counting young people's aspirations because of course we don't inherit things so much as borrow them from the

next generation in this province. So we hear a lot from the members opposite when it comes to decisions made about how this is looking to that next generation, but when it comes to counting them in in something as simple as the construction of our constituency boundaries, we see the members opposite counting them out, telling them that they do not count. And we think that that's a step, that's a solid step backwards, Mr. Speaker.

And of course they didn't come forward in the campaign saying, you know, we've got this great plan to go backwards. No, it was all about moving Saskatchewan forward together. I think that was the slogan that was one of their keynote slogans in the campaign. And I guess we should have read the fine print in that, Mr. Speaker, because when it turns out in their actions, moving Saskatchewan forward together was more about moving Saskatchewan forward except for all you young people under the age of 18 because we're going to count you out. So it's not really together and it's not really forward because this is going back a couple of decades in terms of electoral law in this province.

So again, Mr. Speaker, we find this more than a little passing strange. We find it to have been less than forthright with the people of Saskatchewan. We find the members opposite . . . You know we wonder why it is that they couldn't tell the people about this before the election instead, you know, slip it in just before Christmas in their legislative agenda.

So on the question of three more politicians, I've yet to meet a person who's come forward and said, I've got a real problem with housing. How about you bring in three extra politicians? That ought to get that problem on the run. I've yet to meet someone under the age of 18 that says, you know, make sure you do whatever you want with the province because the future doesn't matter to me. And make sure you count out my concerns when you're describing the basic building blocks of our democracy, when you're putting those in place. Make sure to count my needs out. Make sure to count my hopes and dreams and aspirations, make sure to count them out. Or to make sure to count out the places in this province or to under-count the places in the province where you have a young population like my home neighbourhood, Mr. Speaker.

Or I think about a great number of places throughout the province. You know, pick a First Nation in this province, Mr. Speaker, where there's that young population that needs to be counted in as far as the process. But instead, the members opposite — in a very surreptitious, very sneaky way — are going to count them out. And that's not right, Mr. Speaker.

So on a couple of different levels, we find this legislation to be wrong-headed and worthy of being pulled. And I guess we're not alone in that sentiment, Mr. Speaker. I turned to the editorial board of *The StarPhoenix* who, of course they're not exactly, you know, an adjunct of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker. But what they say is "Poor rationale for more seats" in the March 12th edition of *The StarPhoenix*. And I'd like to quote at length from that argument that they presented, Mr. Speaker. To start:

The Saskatchewan Party's plan to increase the number of MLAs suggests its motive isn't to improve representation

as much as it's to gain some partisan political advantage.

Saskatchewan already easily boasts the fewest average constituents per riding among the western provinces and Ontario, so the Saskatchewan Party's plan to add three more seats in time for the next election makes little sense. Padding the legislature by adding three MLAs at a cost of about \$225,000 each per year flies in the face of the government's preaching about fiscal restraint, and even its decision to trim the civil service by four per cent a year.

If I might add here, Mr. Speaker, when governments do things that are so blatantly in their own self-interest and not in the public interest, people remember that. And it's not too late, Mr. Speaker. My hope is that the members on that side that have worked with young people, the members on that side that have a sense of fairness, the members on that side who are committed democrats and who have demonstrated that through different actions over the years, or the members who have a basic sense of, if we're going to ask people to tighten their belts, maybe there's something that could be done on our side to tighten our belts. If they're going to be consistent with what they've done in past, Mr. Speaker, which I know some of those members . . . I've seen them in action. I've had some time to observe who does what over there. And I know that there are some members that I'm sure this gives them pause for thought. I'm sure this makes them think, you know, where was that in our platform? Where was that in talking to the people as we went out on the doorstep? And why wasn't I, you know, fully told about this business of taking out everyone under the age of 18 for the purposes of counting and building the basic constituencies in our province?

My hope, and maybe this is a naive hope, Mr. Speaker, but my hope is that there's some decent members over there that see this for what it is — that it's so blatantly against what is held up as the rules of fair play in our democracy where, if you're going to do something for the province, you talk about it in an election and you bring it forward in your platform. That's, you know . . . A promise made is a debt unpaid. These are all things that should be . . . to quote Robert Service, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for the help with the appropriate quotation.

But in this instance, Mr. Speaker, we didn't see this in the campaign. The members opposite had nothing to say about it in the campaign, which again is sort of a solid preview for the content of the legislation, which again we think is wrong-headed on both counts — more politicians, and counting out everyone under the age of 18 when it comes to the building of the basic building blocks of our parliamentary democracy here in Saskatchewan.

[15:30]

And again, that is picked up on by the editorial board of *The StarPhoenix* and I'll carry on to quote a bit more from that editorial:

Saskatchewan's number of ridings was reduced to 58 in the 1990s from its heyday of 66 in the Grant Devine era, and there's been no public outcry about poor representation."

So again, Mr. Speaker, we've gotten a bit of grief over the years

from members opposite about everything is Grant Devine this or Grant Devine that, and would we stop scaring the poor people about their affinity for the policies of Grant Devine. And, you know, fair enough. That's all in the back-and-forth of a public discourse. But this one is like straight out of the playbook from Grant Devine, Mr. Speaker. This is that, full stop, period.

So the members opposite, when they don't want to get compared to Grant Devine, well then don't act like Grant Devine. Don't act like the lessons you learned from Grant Devine are to get your fingers into the democratic process and mess around with it. Don't try to manipulate the system for your own purposes. If those are the lessons that they've learned, Mr. Speaker, you know, God help us.

To carry on from there in the article:

Given its low number of constituents per MLA, Saskatchewan should be the envy of comparable provinces that have large geographic areas, growing cities and declining rural populations.

Saskatchewan has an average 17,817 voters per riding compared to 21,198 in neighbouring Manitoba. The difference is even greater when compared to Alberta with 43,919 voters per riding, British Columbia with 51,765, and Ontario, which has 120,110 voters per riding on average.

And again, Mr. Speaker, we look around the West and these are, you know, in the main, other jurisdictions that don't count out the people under age 18 for the purposes of building constituencies, but rather count them in. And we're off page with them. This is a government that likes to talk about the new Saskatchewan and the New West Partnership. And again, Mr. Speaker, you know, it's a bold step backwards would seem to be the real action that this government is planning on taking with Bill No. 36. And I guess, you know, if you're going to talk about moving forward together in the campaign and it comes to your legislative agenda and one of the first things you want to do is take a giant leap backwards, we think that's a problem, Mr. Speaker.

Carrying on from the article, and this is a direct quote so please bear with me in that regard, Mr. Speaker:

In this light, Justice Minister Don Morgan citing Saskatchewan's population growth as justification for increasing the number of MLAs to 61 lacks merit. He points to the legitimate travel difficulties faced by MLAs whose rural constituencies cover a large area. However, with the new seats expected to be divided among Regina, Saskatoon, and an unspecified rural area, adding one rural seat is unlikely to make a substantial dent in the problem. Technology such as Skype 2 has made distance less of a barrier.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I was at the SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] convention and I don't know where this was at in terms of the members opposite agenda when they were standing in the bear-pit or presenting to the different panels. They didn't have anything to say about this because, you know, there are big chunks of urban Saskatchewan

where there's a young, growing population, Mr. Speaker. And you can see that as late as the *Sask Trends Monitor's* last edition, Mr. Speaker, where it very physically represents where the growth is in this population. And again, Mr. Speaker, a lot of that growth is in urban Saskatchewan. A lot of that growth is on First Nations. And for them to be taking square aim at those segments of our population, we think, is bad for the province. We think it's bad public policy and we think that measure takes this province backwards, not forwards.

And again, Mr. Speaker, that certainly, that certainly wasn't their tagline in the campaign. You know, let's go back. You know it wasn't, you know, backwards, alone and apart, or backwards, dividing people as fast as we can. It was about moving forward together. And you know, the proof is in the pudding. So when it comes time for them to actually put flesh to bone and bring forward the legislative agenda that actually demonstrates what are the priorities to the members opposite in this session, in this new government, in this so-called new Saskatchewan that the members like to talk about, Bill No. 36 doesn't do that. It takes us backwards, not forwards. It divides people; it doesn't bring them together.

And you'd think that in a province with as many challenges as we've got here in this province and as many blessings as we've got in this province, Mr. Speaker, you'd think that this kind of message, this kind of plan would be nowhere on that agenda. But here it is, Mr. Speaker. It goes to the heart of our parliamentary democracy. And it goes to, you know, not just in the mechanics of it and how it's built and constructed, but in how the members forward and gain a mandate to do something in this Chamber.

And there is no mandate for this measure. There is no authority for this measure that you get when you go forward to the people and say, here's our platform. Here's what we think are the important issues of the day, and you can vote for it or not. And this measure, Bill No. 36 and the adding of more politicians and the eliminating of young people when it comes to building our basic constituencies in this parliamentary democracy, it was nowhere in their agenda, Mr. Speaker.

And again, you know, maybe they're counting on the fact that this is early on and people will forget and that they can let it sink. Maybe that's informing part of their approach to this measure, Mr. Speaker. But I hope that the people are paying attention. I hope that young people are paying attention and saying, you know, here's a government that is willing to be so cavalier and hostile to my interests. Here's a government that doesn't think I count when it comes to the building of our basic constituencies. Here's a government that's willing to write off 250,000 young people when it comes to the basic building blocks of our parliamentary democracy. Here's a government that thinks the answer to the pressing problems of the day is to bring forward three more politicians.

I think they're going to look at that kind of action, Mr. Speaker, and they're going to find it wanting. I think they're going to find it disagreeable. I think they're going to find it kind of ridiculous that this would be brought forward as a priority measure for this government so soon after an election where they said absolutely nothing about it.

Back to the editorial, Mr. Speaker, continuing on with the quotes:

The government cites concerns that when the province's Constituency Boundaries Commission redraws ridings after the final 2011 census report is released, the number of rural seats will decline, due to growth in the cities. Yet this concern for protecting rural seats looks like the party is protecting its base at the expense of representative democracy. There's already a huge disparity between rural and urban ridings. For instance, Saskatoon Silver Springs has 16,180 voters in the last election while Cutknife-Turtleford had 8,363 voters.

Again, *The StarPhoenix* pointing out the internal discrepancies when it comes to the logic — or the lack thereof — of this piece of legislation. Carrying on with the quote:

Premier Brad Wall's plan to base future ridings on number of voters rather than total population also warrants some serious thought. With four years to go to the next election, it makes little sense to count only those who are already 18 when those who are close to age 14 will be eligible to vote when the writ is dropped. Seats also could be shifted away from areas with a high First Nations population that consists mostly of young people.

Mr. Speaker, again if we're going to be concerned about the future, if we're going to give proof to the rhetoric that so often is touched upon in this Chamber in terms of the young people in the province being the future of the province, and they should matter not just in the future but now, if that is going to be true, Mr. Speaker, then it demands some action. And it demands action that doesn't count young people out when it comes to the construction of the basic building blocks of our democracy.

It means you count them in. It means that if the practice for the past two decades has been to count young people in, that it's then a huge step backwards for the province to go to a standard that's needed to be changed two decades ago. It means that the province has taken a step backwards compared to the federal government's election law and the practice in several other provincial jurisdictions, including our two neighbours, Mr. Speaker.

So again, that this is brought forward by a government that likes to preach moving Saskatchewan forward together, we think the practice demonstrates something entirely opposed to that proclaimed intent, Mr. Speaker.

The last sentence in the editorial says this, and I quote:

These substantial changes being proposed just months into a new mandate carry a whiff of gerrymandering by a political party that didn't make a campaign issue of the need for better representation.

So again, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we've taken pride in, in Canada and in Saskatchewan generally, is the practice of free and fair elections. And in a lot of ways we go around the country preaching the way that we practise democracy here in Canada. And when you see things come forward like this that take that pride that should be taken in our electoral practice,

when they take that and move it backwards, we think that's totally wrong-headed, Mr. Speaker, and not needed, not needed at all. We think that for all, for all the ways that you could seek to move the province forward, the addition of three more politicians — again and how that contrasts with the whole problem this government has in terms of the mixed messages around prosperity or austerity and which is it and for who the austerity and for who the prosperity — we think that it draws that argument into pretty bold relief.

And then on top of that, you take the fact that it takes everyone under the age of 18 and counts them out in terms of our basic building blocks of our constituencies, the basic building blocks of our parliamentary democracy, we think that's wrong, Mr. Speaker. And we think that it's particularly wrong when you're going after the rules of our parliamentary democracy in such a fundamental way as this and you didn't even have the decency to bring it forward in the campaign to say, here is something we are proposing; people of Saskatchewan, give it a fair hearing. And again, nowhere is that more important than when you're dealing with the basic rules of democracy and the way that it is practised in this province.

When you're changing these . . . There are a lot of different ways this has been approached throughout Canada, Mr. Speaker, in terms of another sort of variant of electoral reform and the different sort of questions around the merits of electoral financing reform or be it changes in the voting practice to something like a single transferable vote or to a measure of proportional representation or all those different sort of variants on the basic mechanics of our electoral system. And in other jurisdictions, they've tasked citizens' assemblies or independent third parties, and they've done that to examine these aspects of our system. And they've done that because there's a view that it's not the best idea to have individual actors in the system making changes to the system and sort of throwing their weight around when it comes to a majority.

And I guess I'm reminded of that in very strong terms when it comes to this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, because this is a fundamental change to the way that our democracy is practised in this province. This takes us backwards, you know, two decades plus. This is reminiscent of something straight out of the Grant Devine playbook. This is telling young people that they don't count, when we want to make sure that young people can count on the province and we can count on them for the secure prosperity and future of this province.

It tells the people of Saskatchewan that, you know, while there's going to be austerity on a number of fronts and we're reducing public service by 16 per cent, but for politicians we're going to increase the number by three. And then the fact that this was not brought forward in the campaign, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We think that on so many different fronts this is a terribly wrong-headed piece of legislation.

And so in the opposition ranks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we oppose this piece of legislation and will continue to speak out on this with every opportunity that we can muster. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm not wrapping up my remarks right now because I haven't got more to say on this — because I certainly do — or that other of my colleagues, they certainly want to participate in this debate.

[15:45]

But again, on three fundamental grounds we think this legislation is worthy of being pulled, let alone being opposed: three more MLAs in a time when you're preaching austerity for others; counting out everyone under the age of 18 when it comes to the building of our constituencies and the way that that is calculated and the way that that takes us backwards, not forwards; and finally, Mr. Speaker, the fact that this was brought forward literally days after an election when we went to the people and said, you know, here's our platform. Here's what we have to say about your hopes and dreams and aspirations. What do you think, and will you give us a mandate to govern? They did not campaign on this legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They did not campaign on these ideas. And I dare say that if they had, that they would have received a different reception from the public in terms of what the content of Bill No. 36 is.

So on so many grounds we think it's not just worthy of being opposed, but it should be pulled by those members opposite. As such, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 36.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Regina Elphinstone 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. 6

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMillan that **Bill No. 6** — *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's with great pleasure I rise to speak to Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*. This is another scintillating Bill in this legislative agenda, and it deals with some changes to *The Business Corporations Act* of Saskatchewan to allow for better rationalization of information and technology with the various Prairie provinces and British Columbia, particularly Alberta and British Columbia in this case.

In the minister's comments to introduce the Bill, he spoke to the need for this as a result of the New West Partnership. And I think I would beg to differ that this is something that was inevitable at any rate. And we certainly didn't need the New West Partnership to make these kinds of changes to the regulatory scheme for businesses and business corporations. This is just really something, I'm sure, that the civil servants in the minister's ministries and in Information Services Corporation saw the obvious need for this some time ago. And it's just about rationalizing technology and making sure that it's easier for businesses to deal with information technology and certainly to deal with it across the provinces.

So it's interesting that Information Services Corporation, which is a fine corporation . . . And I've done a lot of work with them in the past. In fact I was able to be seconded to Information Services Corporation in 2003 as a result of some of the work that needed to be done with Crown land and the Crown land registry, and found the group that's there to be innovative and hard-working and certainly with their eye on the ball when it comes to information technology. And the system that was introduced was lauded across Canada and in fact in the world as a very innovative registry that used electronic records and tying them to the GIS [geographic information system] in a way that very few, if any, had done anywhere else in the world. So it was really a vanguard of its own in the days when the Bill was introduced and when Information Services Corporation was established by the previous government.

So this kind of thing is something that was a logical extension of the original purposes of Information Services Corporation. Of course they started with the land registry and Crown land . . . well the Crown land abstract registry which is a different beast than the land registry itself. And they were able to develop computing programs that allowed, and with extensive consultation, I might add, with appraisers and landowners — unfortunately not as much with Crown land agencies — but in the first instance, with banking institutions and landowners and the oil and gas industry and the various users of the land titles system.

So this innovative approach has led to other changes in information technology and information sharing. Certainly the land registry was way ahead of what BC and Alberta had at the time. I'm not as familiar now with what any innovations that they may have done since the implementation of the electronic land registry, but at the time it was something that was certainly regarded highly throughout the information technology world.

Since then, of course, they've taken on the personal property security registry and vital statistics and, more recently, the corporations branch registry. And this is the Bill that is, this is the area that will be affected is mostly about registration of corporations branch.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this isn't something that I think really can be tied to the New West Partnership although the minister indicated that there were, that it's part of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement. But I don't know how it would be other than it's just an administrative, cost-saving, efficient way for us to do business.

You know, and unfortunately I don't see that across the board in this government. And I think there's a lot more innovation that's required in other areas where information technology could make life a lot easier. When I worked with the federal public service in the last few years, a lot of the forms and procedures that were required, for example, for travel requirements or meal allowances, all the forms that are used were all online and electronic. And it certainly saved a lot of time for the users.

And unfortunately I think what we see through some of the systems that we even find in this building, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that their paper processes that seem to be somewhat outdated. And I certainly hope that the Board of Internal Economy will be

looking at those in the future because there's considerable streamlining that could be done, and certainly online forms. And that's the type of innovation that's being shown in this Bill No. 6, which is to provide for extraprovincial matters and common business identifiers.

But I don't see why these kinds of efficiencies in information technology couldn't be spread out further across the government. Indeed on the weekend, I had cause to, with an agency I'm working with, fill out a raffle licence and help them fill out a raffle licence. And that online form, although it was online, was probably the most unusable online form I've encountered in many, many years. So I'm hoping that that's something the Minister for Liquor and Gaming can take a look at because it's pretty much painful. And I think if the minister was to talk to community groups who do raffles and sell tickets on various things, and if they want to comply with the process, it's a very difficult form to use and it's very awkward.

So I think that this type of innovation that we find here in Bill No. 6, the Act to amend business statutes to provide for extraprovincial matters and common business identifiers, could certainly be used in other areas of the civil service, particularly in just some of the basic forms that we have to fill out here as members of the Legislative Assembly, and with raffle licences. Those are my two experiences recently and I know I recently was talking with someone else about their problems with forms too. So I think across the board this is something that the government could and should be looking at.

At any rate, what this Bill attempts to do, as I said, is to allow streamlining for registration of businesses. So the way the Bill is set up is there's a new division added, and it's division III.1, which is special rules respecting extraprovincial matters. So this is a new section entirely.

The first substantive clause that is identified in the Bill is an interpretation of the division. So there's a couple of definitions that are provided there, and one is an "extra-provincial matter," and the other is an "extra-provincial registrar." So in that case, it's kind of self-explanatory, but the extraprovincial matter is a matter pertaining to extraprovincial corporations. And similarly, for the registrars it just recognizes that someone else who performs a function similar to our registrar in a business corporations world is recognized in this Bill and defined as an extraprovincial registrar.

So the next provision that is substantive is section 298.2. And you know, just the indication that we're already up in the 298th clause, it shows what a fairly substantial Bill or statute that *The Business Corporations Act* is. So this is something that's being inserted into a very substantive and complicated piece of legislation. But this part here describes how a minister can enter into agreements with other registrars to collect and exchange the information relating to extraprovincial matters. Again not rocket science but I think it's one that the civil servants have recognized the need for for a long time, and I'm sure they have encouraged the minister to incorporate these kinds of changes — New West Partnership or not.

So in this case the clause 298.2(1) allows the minister to enter into an agreement with an extraprovincial registrar to address several matters, one being the collection by that extraprovincial

registrar of applications, information, forms, notices, and other things for the director, and any matter related to the collection of those things and how they are delivered to the director, and the director here being the director of corporations branch for our province.

And then the flip side of that section is how the director here will, under these agreements, collect the similar type of information and provide it to an extraprovincial registrar. So it's a reciprocal type of clause where the minister is directed or allowed to enter into agreements with other provinces to allow for the collection and transmission of information and applications and forms relating to the registration of businesses in various provinces.

There's also an extra clause in there that just gives the minister further authority to provide for powers and duties of the directors. So the agreement itself can give the minister . . . or can include clauses relating to the powers and duties of the director and the extraprovincial registrar with respect to the matters in the agreement.

The next new clause is 298.3. And this is one again you've heard me speak about this before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about the authority of a regulation-making authority. And it's a fairly long clause again, which is something of concern I think, in this day and age, although from a civil servant's perspective, I know it's way easier to manage regulatory change than statutory change. It's just the reality of the legislative system that we have because of course the Lieutenant Governor in Council can make regulations without scrutiny by this House and by the opposition. So in terms of administrative efficiency, it makes a whole lot of sense. And I think from a public service perspective, it certainly allows for efficient, more efficient procedures by the public service. But we must always keep in mind that the regulation-making authority is one that is not scrutinized closely or at all by the public, unless those that are most directly affected by it, and certainly without any opportunity for comment by the official opposition, which is I think something to be wary of.

At any rate, this particular clause allows the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations, to classify or designate those registrars to which a regulation is made, or otherwise designate a corporation to which a regulation is made. So we can actually, the Lieutenant Government in Council through the advice of cabinet can pass regulations that will affect those extraprovincial registrars and the extraprovincial corporations.

And there's another clause (c) which talks about the collection by the director of all those forms that we were talking about earlier. So there's an ability to make regulations on how those forms are collected.

And then there's a further clause (d), which is quite lengthy, affecting the registration of and other matters pertaining to extraprovincial corporations including their application for registration; their annual returns and other returns of extraprovincial corporations; reinstatement of registrations of extraprovincial corporations if that is so chosen by cabinet; changes in names, head office, etc. — again something that is now within the purview of cabinet — and amalgamations of

extraprovincial corporations.

Sometimes it's hard to follow the ball. I did a lot of work in the oil and gas sector as it relates to First Nations Indian reserves and with leasing on surface rights in particular but also peripherally with some subsurface leasing. And it was always difficult from our perspective, when we were working with First Nations, to keep track of which oil company was which. Because as you know, it's an active field and there's a lot of turnover and acquisitions, amalgamations, and subsidiaries. So it was something that, I think it's really difficult to follow unless you're working in that area exclusively.

So amalgamations is something that would be of interest to the oil and gas industry for sure, and tracking it from a public perspective is not easily done. So that's something that is now being directed by cabinet for the Lieutenant Governor to make regulations on. Furthermore, it allows for regulations regarding the liquidation of extraprovincial corporations and, finally, the cancellation of registrations of extraprovincial corporations. So those are things that the cabinet will now be making decisions on, based on advice from the public service. So we will see and try and keep track of those regulations as they come along just to make sure there's at least some scrutiny on those.

There's other abilities to make regulations respecting forms, that's in clause (e), that may be required for the purposes of regulations, also respecting documentation to be issued by the director, fees for the provision of services under the regulations made — and regulations for the payment and collection of those fees made under the regulations become very circular, Mr. Deputy Speaker — also respecting how applications and forms are provided to the director.

[16:00]

Another one that's of interest is regulations exempting an extraprovincial corporation from the operations of this Act. Now that's a fairly great power that I think should have some public scrutiny, but in this case it will be done under regulations. So I'm not sure why the minister feels it's important to exempt extraprovincial corporations from the operation of this part of the Act from the regulatory section and would be interested in getting further comment from the minister on that. But it seems a bit strange to allow that in this particular area.

There's three more regulation-making abilities under section 298.3(d). And that is providing that they can make regulations providing that a provision of the Act does not apply with respect to extraprovincial corporations. Again curious, and it's not clear from the minister's comments why this particular section is there. And then there's, finally, respecting retention of documents by applicants and defining, enlarging, or restricting the meaning of any word or expression in this part. And that's a fairly boilerplate type of regulatory ability that you see often in legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The next clause that's provided in this Bill is clause 298.4 — and this is one that gives me cause, and it shows up three or four times in this Bill — and that's if there's a conflict or inconsistency between the regulation and another provision of the Act, or a regulation made under another section of the Act,

the regulation under 298.3 prevails. So again you have regulation prevailing over the substance of the Act itself. And that's something that I think, you know, I haven't seen a lot in legislation. But it's something I think that should be of concern to the people because again, the scrutiny of the Act itself is much more public, and in this case we have a regulation prevailing over an Act introduced in this House and debated appropriately. There's no debate for regulations. There's no scrutiny by the opposition.

So it seems . . . I'm somewhat uncomfortable with the notion of having regulations prevail over actual statutes. And I think that's something I'm seeing more and more as we go along here. So the public, anybody's who's interested in examining regulations, may want to pay note to that. But it is of concern and I think should have democratic scrutiny at some point.

So then we're moving along now to the next clause, is an addition to clause 304(e.3). And this is talking about common business identifiers for corporation. So this is something that makes total sense. And I think in this day and age when information technology is as sophisticated and available as it is, it makes sense that we can have common business identifiers. Corporations are corporations are corporations, and they all have common features, I would imagine, across the country. And I would expect that the minister's staff have looked carefully at that to ensure that these common business identifiers are ones that are prevailing pretty much across the board.

So there's different ways that these common business identifiers are going to be respected. First of all, the establish or adoption of a system of common business identifiers for corporations. And I'm assuming again, if the minister's people are doing their work, they're working with other provinces to ensure that. And indeed in his comments when he introduced the Bill, he indicated that the ISC [Information Services Corporation] is focused on ways to streamline processes and that they're working closely with Alberta and British Columbia to ensure compatible policies and regulations with common data exchange processes. And he indicated a target date of July 1st.

And I'm also hoping that the minister is looking at this across the board in Canada because it's not just Alberta and Manitoba who have corporations, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There are several other provinces that also have corporations that would like to do business in Saskatchewan and vice versa. I know that we have some of our folks who are doing business in other provinces other than Alberta and Saskatchewan. This is a technological sort of straightforward type of common sense. So I'm expecting we will see more of this as these good people at Information Services Corporation continue to expand their mandate and provide the efficiencies that we need.

So the section 304(e.3) is now followed by (e.4), and the first thing I indicated was the system of common business identifiers. The second part of the clause establishes the manner in which they are assigned, so how are these identifiers assigned. And then the third is requiring that corporations use them, and fourthly allowing:

. . . the minister to enter agreements with the Government

of Canada [so here we see the expanded opportunity], the government of any other province or territory of Canada or the government of any municipality to integrate or synchronize the system of common business identifiers . . .

Not clear to me exactly what common business identifiers are. But I would think having shareholders, having directors, boards of directors, and certainly the manner in which they file annual returns, how their annual reports are prepared and the accounting principles that are used in those types of businesses.

It also has the authority for the minister to give to the Government of Canada or any other province any information that is related to those agreements that he enters into and that he considers appropriate. So that's an ancillary clause that supports the solidity of those agreements and providing that the regulations under this clause — so this is again a regulatory power — prevail in case of any inconsistency or conflict with any other Act.

So here again for the second time, we see an ability for regulations to prevail over the Act. I'm highlighting that. It concerns me. And I think we all have to be watchful that here in the House we're responsible for legislation, and to devolve it to cabinet and the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations is something that we are losing . . . it causes us to lose scrutiny.

So the next part that we look at is a new part again after part 3, part 3.1, and these are "Special Rules respecting Extraprovincial Matters." So there's a new name, and then there's a new section. Section 21.5 in part 3.1 gives the definitions that I spoke to earlier. Extraprovincial matters is matters relating to extraprovincial limited partnerships. So in this section we are dealing specifically with limited partnerships and not business corporations.

So that's a whole new can of worms when you get to limited partnerships. But again, they're a common feature of business organization in Canada and probably throughout the world. I know it's one that I dealt with very extensively. It's something that First Nations use to their advantage when setting up businesses on First Nation reserves. So that's a useful tool for, I think, tax purposes and other arrangements. And in this case, this part of the Bill, the new part 3.1 deals with the ability to deal extraprovincially with limited partnerships.

So in the second part there's a definition of what an extraprovincial limited partnership is. And that's defined previously in *The Business Corporations Act*, so it incorporates that. And finally an extraprovincial registrar, again there's another definition there. I'm not sure why this definition isn't incorporated into the main definitions clause, but obviously the drafters preferred to have it in the division itself and rather than in the long list of definitions you would find at the beginning of this long Bill or long statute.

Section 21.6 again allows the minister to enter into agreements and, in this case, in relation to collection of fees, forms, and notices and the exchange and collection on our part with those extraprovincial registrars in relation to limited partnerships. So it's much the same as the previous section that I was discussing, but in this case it's simply respecting limited partnerships.

The next section is the regulations section. Again a long, long regulatory clause that gives the Lieutenant Governor authority to make regulations, and again that's cabinet that would instruct the Lieutenant Governor. It's not the House here, not the legislature, but the cabinet. And so again the ability of the Lieutenant Governor to make regulations in several ways, first of all classifying or designating those registrars to which this section applies, I think the minister's comments is initially. And I assume by July 1st he's looking to have Alberta and British Columbia added, but I suspect that it will extend across the country as it makes sense to have these kinds of common identifiers and commonalities with all business corporations.

Secondly, the Lieutenant Governor in Council could make regulations classifying those partnerships, limited partnerships that the regulations will apply to. He can — he or she, and it will be she soon — will make regulations regarding the collection of applications and forms in relation to those extraprovincial matters: the registration of those limited partnerships here, types of applications, the periods and reports, how they're supposed to report, changes to documents relating to the registration of extraprovincial limited partnerships and the cancellation of registrations of extraprovincial limited partnerships. So again it just gives the bureaucrats and the public service people and the registrars abilities to streamline those extraprovincial relationships as they apply to limited partnerships.

The next Lieutenant Governor, she will be able to make regulations regarding the forms required. And that, Mr. Speaker, is probably a useful use of regulations because forms are standard forms and that's a common place to find them is in the regulations. So that's one that I can easily understand.

Providing for fees. Again that's a regulatory type of provision. And then, respecting furnishing or the provision of applications and forms etc. to the registrar. Again we have the exemption clause. In this case, they can make, she can make regulations to exempt an extraprovincial limited partnership from the application of part III or this part, and providing a provision of the Act does not apply with respect to extraprovincial limited partnerships. So in (i) and (j) of clause 21.7, there's that exemption again in relation to extraprovincial limited partnerships. Again the minister has given no indication in his comments why that was seen as necessary. Often there's a very logical reason for that, but we just don't have any indication of why it's there.

Clause (k), sub (k) in this case, is regulations regarding service of these limited partnership notices.

And finally, the boilerplate clause in (l) which allows regulations regarding the meaning of words and defining of words that are used in the part but not defined. So that's often . . . A useful use of regulations is when there's an insufficiency in definition in a statute. If the cabinet, Lieutenant Governor can provide clarity to that definition through the regulatory sphere, it's a simpler way than actually having to amend the Act. So that one makes total sense.

The next provision is the one I've raised earlier in the context of the corporations, business corporations. And this is in relation to limited partnerships and it indicates that if there's a conflict

or inconsistency between the regulations I just referred to for limited partnerships, then if there's an inconsistency between those regulations and the Act, then the regulations prevail. You've heard my . . . Well actually the Deputy Speaker heard my concerns about this but now you get a chance to hear it as well, Mr. Speaker. And the concern is that this Act has received scrutiny over the years. *The Business Corporations Act* has been in the House many, many times. It's been amended many, many times. So those amendments and the substance of the Act has been scrutinized closely by the official opposition, whoever it may be, and properly reviewed. And in this case, it's regulations that are referred to the Lieutenant Governor by cabinet, unscrutinized by and large until after they're passed. And I'm not sure what kind of consultation that will be made with the business community and with those affected by the business community when there is a conflict in the provisions. And so it's something that concerns me and I think should be of concern to many.

The next clause that's added is a new clause, is in clause 24 of *The Business Corporations Act*, and that's clause 24(g), a new clause. And it's again a regulatory power to apply these common business identifiers with respect to limited partnerships and also, in this case, sole proprietorships. So it's a similar clause that we saw in the previous division, and it just allows regulations providing for common business identifiers for sole proprietorships, limited partnerships, or classes of sole proprietorships and limited partnerships, including establishing a system of common business identifiers, prescribing the manner and how they will be used and applied, and then requiring the use of these common business identifiers by those sole proprietorships, limited partnerships, or classes of sole proprietorships and limited partnerships. And then further, it authorizes the minister to enter into agreements again with the Government of Canada, the government of any other province or territory or municipality to synchronize.

So as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, this is not just about the New West Partnership. It's just about opening up common IT or information technology identifiers to help streamline business activity throughout Canada. We're in 2012 and the information age is upon us. So these are just really practical considerations that I think the people at Information Services Corporation have clearly identified and recognized and certainly the people at corporations branch who have been dealing with this for many, many years. It just makes sense, and it's moving us into the electronic age.

So the minister will be able to make these agreements under the . . . Or there will be regulations authorizing the minister to make these agreements, and also the final boilerplate clause that allows the regulations to prevail over any other Act or regulations made pursuant to another Act. Again the third time we see that in this — or fourth, I think — in this new Bill, so just pointing it out.

[16:15]

The next part I'm going to deal with is part XXI, so I guess that's twenty-one point one, and this is special rules now. This new part XXI.1 is special rules respecting extraprovincial matters. So this section just gives a new part for special rules. And again there's the definitions that we referred to before and

in this case it's applying to extraprovincial co-operatives. So this is a different kind of beast. It's not a corporation; it's co-operatives, and it provides the two definitions, "extra-provincial matters" as was referenced earlier, and "extra-provincial registrar." So that establishes the definitions.

And then in this case the next clause, section 315.2(1) authorizes the minister to enter into agreements with an extraprovincial registrar to address the collection of all the forms and documents and fees as well as other extraprovincial registrars to do the same with Saskatchewan. So it's a reciprocal clause again and in this case it's in relation to co-operatives.

Once again, in this new part we see a regulations section with the same types of authority and powers that we saw in the previous two sections. That's section 315.3. And I think at this point, I will spare you the explanation of that entire section as it's very similar to the other two previous divisions that we saw for business corporations and for limited partnerships and sole proprietorships.

But the concern remains that these types of regulatory authorities are going to divert scrutiny by the official opposition. Certainly regardless of who is in government, the official opposition won't get an opportunity to comment on these changes. And it's under the supervision of cabinet so it's not clear exactly what scrutiny or consultation will be made when these regulations are passed. Again a lot of them are administrative in this particular section so it's not something that's earth-shattering by any stretch of the imagination. But it is of concern and it is a diversion from the work of the legislature as a whole.

There's once again, for the fifth time, I think, Mr. Speaker, we have a clause 315.4 that allows the regulations to prevail over the Act, so in this third division, the similar provision. And then we have finally, not finally but near the end here, there's a clause 350(g). There's a new one added about the common business identifiers for co-operatives, so that 350(g.1) purports to provide for the common business identifiers for co-operatives. That is something, I think, might be a little more interesting because I'm not sure that co-operatives have evolved in the same way, not systematically, but similarly across provinces than they would have with business corporations or limited partnerships. And it's not something I have a lot of information on, Mr. Speaker, but I suspect that co-operatives are pretty varied across the country. So it could be a more difficult section for the director and extraprovincial registrars to incorporate but we certainly have the ability to make regulations regarding them.

So again the regulations identify the ability to establish or adopt a system of common business identifiers for co-operatives or a class of co-operatives, the manner in which those identifiers are assigned to the co-operatives, and then requiring of course, requiring the co-operatives or the classes of co-operatives to use them, and closing off with the ability of the minister to enter into agreements and authorizing the minister to disclose to other people we may sign agreements with — either the Government of Canada or any other province or territory or municipalities — regarding the information that they're looking for in relation to the collection of information that our province has. And I think the sixth time now we see that the regulations here prevail

over any inconsistency with the Act or other regulations made pursuant to another Act.

Finally we're getting into *The Partnership Act*, and this is a different Act now. We're out of the corporations Act into *The Partnership Act*. There's a new section being added there to provide this streamlining process that the minister has told us is the goal of this Bill, and it's under *The Partnership Act*. It's the new section 110(e.1), and it now allows the establishment of common business identifiers for limited liability partnerships or classes of limited liability partnerships. So similar to the limited corporations but in this case limited liability partnerships.

So that's clause 110(e.1). There's several sections to that. Again we see that the goal is to establish a system of common business identifiers for these limited liability partnerships, how they're going to be assigned, requiring limited liability partnerships to use those common business identifiers, authorizing the minister to enter into agreements with the Government of Canada or any other government in Canada, and to disclose to those parties in those agreements any information that is received by our registrar in relation to those agreements. And I think the seventh time now we have a clause that says these regulations will prevail over the Act or any regulations made pursuant to another Act.

And then the final section that's being added is part IV.1, and this is special rules respecting extraprovincial matters. And this is in relation to the limited liability partnerships. So we have the definitions again in this part IV.1. We have a definition for extraprovincial limited liability partnerships as well as extraprovincial matters, following the same pattern that we see in the four previous sections.

Again this is *The Partnership Act* now and not *The Business Corporations Act*, so we're also having a couple of extra definitions in this section. And one is "extra-provincial limited liability partnership" itself, and it refers to the definition found previously in *The Partnership Act*. The two ones that we've seen before — "extraprovincial matters," "extraprovincial registrar. And then there's a new addition here. It's the "registrar," in this case which means the director of corporations. So that had to be added to *The Partnership Act* in order to properly bring it up to speed and be in sync with the changes to *The Business Corporations Act*.

In this case, in *The Partnership Act* there's a new subsection 110.2(1) which allows the minister to enter agreements regarding fees, documents, notices, and the collection of those types of information in relation to a limited liability partnership which is a common business tool that's used in many instances, and so it's appropriate that the changes be applied here as well.

There's a new section 110.3 which is the regulatory section, again identifying almost exactly the same types of regulations that we're finding in the three changes to *The Business Corporations Act* for business corporations, limited . . . I want to find the word so I make sure I have it right. Limited partnerships, that's right. Corporations, limited partnerships, and co-operatives. And now we're talking about limited liability partnerships which are found in the partnerships Act, a different beast than the other Acts. So the regulatory ability that we're giving to our new Lieutenant Governor in Council, once she's

sworn in, are similar to the ones I've described previously.

And of course there's the catch-all at the end which . . . The catch-all at the end is just to allow them to amend definitions when needed. As I talked about earlier, that's something that makes sense from an administrative perspective.

And then the clause 110.4 is the last clause that is proposed in this Bill, and that would be again if there is an inconsistency between a regulation — so I think we're up to eight now in terms of how many times this clause has shown up — conflict or inconsistency between a regulation made pursuant to the previous section and another section of the Act, the regulation prevails. So once again regulation prevails and I think you're becoming very familiar with my views on that, Mr. Speaker, but it's something I think we need to keep an eye on.

So as far as the import of Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*, again I think it's something that makes sense. It's certainly obvious that our public servants at Information Services Corporation and the people in the minister's office understand that this is just an ongoing, common sense approach to deal with information technology. It's not limited to the New West Partnership Trade Agreement. And certainly it would apply across Canada, and the drafting indicates that. It's just something that makes sense in this day and age.

And I'm hoping that our friends in the Board of Internal Economy will make similar recommendations for this type of information technology for all the forms that we're required to fill out every month, Mr. Speaker. Because certainly I know when I worked with the federal Crown, they were all online and the travel forms were all online and the ability to do them in a quick, efficient manner without filling out your name every time and where you live. And all those informations could be done in a template online. And it would certainly save all of the members time when it comes to keeping track and being accountable to the legislature and to the people of Saskatchewan.

And again, the same thing goes for the other various forms and IT services that are available for anyone interacting with government. I know that's been a goal of Information Services Corporation since it was formed by the previous government, is to bring us into this age. And I think the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority needs to look at some of their forms as well and bringing them up to speed. Because if anybody's ever tried to fill out a raffle application for a medium raffle, it's not very user-friendly.

So with those comments, Mr. Speaker, at this point, I think that's the extent of the comments that are going to be made on this Bill, and I would like to move it to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation that Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I designate that this Bill be referred to the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 7

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMillan that **Bill No. 7 — *The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1996 sur les coopératives*** 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 enter into the debate on Bill No. 7, *An Act to amend The Co-operatives Act, 1996*. It looks like a relatively straightforward piece, but it does have some major implications as the minister . . . And I'll take a minute to review his remarks.

This follows much in line with what my colleague from Saskatoon was talking about in terms of the miscellaneous business statutes Act. But this supports the idea of how we move co-operatives and make them part of the New West Partnership trade agreement. And again, it was one of those things, if I remember correctly, that this government hadn't campaigned on way back when in that election of 2007 and then promptly proceeded to move into this. And it is unfortunate when we have that kind of thing.

But I do want to talk a minute, if I may, about the good work that co-ops do. You know, this is the International Year of Co-operatives. It's a big year for them, and it's one that we know right around the world play a major role in our economy but also in our social fabric of so many of our communities. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, I did talk about this earlier this spring on March 6th in terms of a member's statement. And I just want to read, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon quoted, when he was talking about the international year, he goes, "Co-operatives are a reminder that it's possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility."

And I think that's what's really, truly wonderful about the co-ops. And so many of us have members in co-ops. Many of us have two or three or four members. And in fact in Saskatchewan, over a million people, there are over a million memberships in co-ops. That means many of us have more than two. And I think, I know I do. And of course the basic one is Saskatoon Co-op that provides so much good service to the people of Saskatoon but also a small farming co-op and different things.

[16:30]

It's so important that co-ops have come to mean so much to the people of Saskatchewan, the people of Canada, in fact the people of the world. I mean it's their basic philosophy of owner control — one member, one vote. And that's so, so key that we do that.

But co-ops do evolve, and we've asked for feedback on this Bill. It seems relatively straightforward, our feedback has. It's pretty straightforward. It does talk about the New West Partnership. And as the minister, when he introduced this second reading, did talk about how this is part of supporting streamlined business registrations and reporting across Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia as part of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement. So they're allowing them to do that. And it will be interesting to see how the co-ops can work like that because obviously they must have a business plan for it, and hopefully they called for it.

Now I know when the New West Partnership actually started, many of the people were not consulted as much as they might have been, so maybe the co-ops or some of the co-ops are wondering what this will be because you usually have a local component in the ownership. And that's part of what makes co-ops so strong, is the strong local connection. If there's not a local connection, then this is not like a usual business.

But we know co-ops are evolving, and some of them are getting larger. We think of the Federated Co-ops, for example, what they do. They work right across Western Canada, so this may help them. This is one example where I know my colleague talked about the business registration and what they do. And I'll quote the minister. What he had said was that when they go to register in their province, I'll quote:

By choosing extraprovincial as an option when they register in their home province, co-operatives will automatically be registered in the other two westernmost provinces, and registration fees for the other provinces will also be waived. It also allows co-operatives to file one annual return in their home province instead of three separate returns.

So that's straightforward, and that sounds like a good thing. And I guess it's up to the co-op themselves whether they have memberships in the other two provinces or it's the nature of their business to be expanding into Alberta and British Columbia, and as well from British Columbia, co-ops that are providing services coming into Alberta and Saskatchewan. And so we'll be interested to see who takes advantage of this because, as I say, most co-ops have a local ownership component because that's what makes them so unique.

Now I want to just talk about another thing that the minister had raised, and I'll quote him again so I get it completely right:

Mr. Speaker, there is another aspect of this legislation that is not related to the New West Partnership that will also support streamlined services to the Saskatchewan business community through ISC's business portal initiative. The first phase . . . is up and running now. [And at their website, the] Business Registrations Saskatchewan website provides one easy-to-use online process to complete the steps required to register a business in the

corporate registry.

And it also allows employers to register for workers' compensation and also provincial sales tax with the ministry. So that's not part of the New West, but it seems to be streamlining the business aspect.

And then also it continues on to say, and this was something my colleague from Nutana was alluding to, the fact that it will allow ISC, that's Information Services Corp., with the ability to add Canada Revenue Agency business number as an identifier to facilitate the sharing of information between the three levels of government — municipal, provincial, and federal. So that seems to be relatively straightforward in that there seems to be five provinces online with this or in agreement with this. This is very good. So it makes the business number a common identifier and so this is very, very important. Now apparently this is connected back to the New West Partnership and the Canadian Revenue Agency business number. So it's another way of as government providing more convenient cost-effective means to deliver government services.

So it's in order to be more competitive that they are doing this. And that sounds good and how can you . . . I think, that sounds like a reasonable thing to do. We don't want to be non-competitive. I think, in the spirit of this Act, it should be that they want to be co-operative, they want to be collaborative because this is *The Co-operatives Act*. Why not be co-operative in this moment of time, especially this year? So yes, I think the better word would've been it's time to be more co-operative.

But you know, I do want to raise a couple of concerns here, and this sort of the flow of how these pieces of legislation come forward. I believe, and me and my colleagues will remember this, that the New West Partnership wasn't part of the election platform in 2007, that in fact it happened after the fact. And now I may be wrong, and if I'm wrong I'd sure like to be corrected, but I remember that discussion about how that was. And so here we have yet another piece four years later of the fallout of that. And it's a reality; it's a business reality. But we have concerns about what this really means and what the implications are.

And as well I think of my own riding. I think about the challenges that arise for my own constituents. And I know we're talking about economic development and it's very important. So I salute this. I think anything we can do to make it easier when it comes to identifiers, but gee, every time I read that and I think of that, up comes the issue of identification for many of my folks. Because while we really focus on how we can streamline and makes things easier and cost-effective for businesses, we don't seem to have the same commitment for ordinary people.

You know, why aren't we trying to take the same initiative, the same sort of imagination, innovation and say, what can we do for ordinary people? Why can't we do that? Why can't we develop a piece of identification that's really easy for low-income people to have? And why do they always have to use SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance]? Why can't they use Information Services Corporation? And why is it always tied to issues around fines and those kind of things?

And so I think that I'd like to encourage this government to look outside the box and say, well ISC is doing this kind of work, that's great, but they also do work for ordinary people in terms of health registration and identification. And it would be just really easy for them to turn their energy, like they've turned their energy to this, to help ordinary people.

And you know, and some people say, well that's not economic development. Well I would argue that it is, actually, because these are the kind of things that throw up barriers to people in terms of bank accounts, any kind of financial transactions. It forces them into places that may not have the best reputation or will be a little bit more flexible because they're pushing the law and the person just doesn't have identification. Why don't we do more of that? Even trying to get a job is a big deal if you don't have identification, and those first few steps of trying to get your social insurance number, your birth certificate, all of that becomes a bit of an issue.

And so I think this is really something if we could turn our mind to and say, listen, we're doing this kind of good work for businesses, why can't we do good work like that for ordinary men and women, young people, and engage them in their communities and say, listen, this is a priority that everybody participates in our economy? I think this would go a long way.

And while some may say that I'm off topic here, actually I think every opportunity we can raise to say, listen, I see ISC is a part of the discussion; I see identifiers are part of the discussion; why can't we do more? It's never far from the minds of many of my constituents about what are they going to do about their ID [identification]. It's either lost, they never had it, or it's not the right one. Why don't we do something like that?

And I actually see, and there are other provinces have been very innovative with this, Alberta, for example. And if we're taking lessons from our new West partners, take a look what they're doing in Alberta around identification for their working men and women and those who would like to be engaged in society. They've come a long way in recognizing that identification is a really important part of being part of the new West. And if they have, we can do that.

I think this would be a great thing for this government to take on as a goal. Not just businesses, but everybody needs to be able to have those regulations, those rules that stop us from participating in the economy . . . If that can be a priority, that would be good. Not just for businesses, not just for co-ops, not just to the big three, the three Western provinces, but say, listen, we want everybody to engage, everybody to engage in the economy, in economic activity. It's a basic human need. And I think that's hugely important.

And you know, this gets me right back to what we're really talking about here, the co-operatives, *The Co-operatives Act*. And why did co-ops come about? It was because people just getting together and saying, we're being excluded. We don't have the resources, the economic . . . the money to go buy groceries or to go buy a house or build a house. And so what are we going to do? Or to buy the gas. Well we're going to create our own co-ops and we're going to pool our resources and make this work. And that's why, as I said, you know, earlier in my member's statement a couple of weeks ago, that over a third of

Saskatchewan's top 100 businesses are co-ops. And it's not just by an accident, but people have come together and say, these are our basic needs. We need to get together, and if we stick together we can make this work. And you know, it really has worked, and it's worked well for many people here in Saskatchewan, Alberta.

And I think about the Calgary co-op. It's actually a huge co-op. In fact I think they're the leader in terms of retail sales, groceries. In fact I understand their beer is even pretty good. I don't know; that's what I hear. I don't know if I'll go exploring that, but I know St. Patrick's Day just happened and we are usually thinking about Irish beer, but not co-op beer. But I stray here, Mr. Speaker. But I think that it's important to know that, you know, in Western Canada, co-ops are a huge issue. And so this will be an interesting thing as we move forward and see how the co-ops survive.

I mean whereas we speak today, and I don't know what the latest is this afternoon for Viterra, but here was probably the best example of a co-op working well in Saskatchewan, the Wheat Pool and the phenomenal work they did in stabilizing our agricultural economy, and was a major, major player in the world in terms of marketing wheat for farmers. And now we see what's happening, and it's a prize for any business to take over to buy out because it is such a well-run corporation and means so much to the people of Saskatchewan.

So we'll see how the co-ops make out with this. It seems to be relatively straightforward; it's only two or three parts to it. One is allowing them to register as an extraprovincial co-op and that means that they register here. And yes, in Alberta, if they register in Alberta they're registered here in Saskatchewan and BC. And they only have to file one return, and it works for everyone. It seems like something that would make some sense, but as I said, how do they then . . . It'll be interesting what the nature of their business is because, as I said, what really makes co-ops work so well is that there's a local component, a local connection, a local hook, and that's why people support them. And it's because when that happens, it's a great thing. So we'll see how it goes. The other two pieces about the ISC, the business identifier using the Canada Revenue Agency as their business number, as their main identifier, that seems to make a lot of sense. I'm sure there'll be a lot of hoopla around that, though. I mean they're not going to be marketing as a numbered company. Of course they'll have, you know, I assume that the Federated Co-op's supposed to be known as Federated Co-ops and not as a numbered corporation. But it all makes a lot of sense.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm just winding up my comments here and I think that we see that we'll have more questions in the days ahead but, you know, there's no reason to continue to talk much longer about this. I think that it's really straightforward and we have questions about that. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we move this to committee at this point. Thank you very much.

[16:45]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments Corporation that Bill No. 7, *The Co-operatives Amendment Act*,

2011 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly to move a motion regarding the designation of Bill No. 6.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for a leave to move a motion regarding the designation of Bill No. 6. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

MOTIONS

Referral of Bill No. 6 to Committee

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly I move:

That the order of referral of Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011* to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice made under rule 81 be rescinded and that the said Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That by leave of this Assembly that the order of referral of Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011* be referred to the Standing Committee . . . [I'm trying to get the sense here of this] . . . that the order of referral of Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice, made under rule 81, be rescinded and that the said Bill be remitted to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 8

[The Assembly resumed debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. McMillan that **Bill No. 8 — *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I rise to speak to the amendment to *The Land Titles Act, 2000*. It's a great historical part of our province for sure and certainly for Western Canada, The land titles regime that we have established here is one that is regarded throughout the world again, much as the innovations in 2000 for a new Act and a new electronic system.

But the actual land titles system itself has a venerable history here in Saskatchewan, indeed even in the architecture itself. I was noticing on Victoria street, the other day, the Land Titles Building just off Scarth, I think, a beautiful . . . The land titles buildings throughout the province are beautiful, historical heritage properties that showed the importance of the land titles settlement in the settlement of this province. Again the Torrens system itself established a quarter section system and the township system, and it allowed for a very orderly development of our settlement once, of course, the numbered treaties were signed in the 1870s.

So not only do we have a situation here in Saskatchewan where we had a treaty relationship that was established early in the settlement process, and First Nations had signed treaties by and large with the dominion government which allowed for the establishment of the reserve system. We also had the pieces of legislation dealing with the Hudson's Bay lands and the railway lands. And then you put the *Dominion Lands Act* in the mix and we had a very efficient, orderly way to deal with the influx of settlers coming at the turn of the 20th century, Mr. Speaker.

And that system has been regarded throughout . . . I worked, as I mentioned earlier, with the federal public service with land titles systems from across Canada and indeed was often consulted with by my colleagues across the country about some of the vagaries of the different systems. And certainly in the eastern provinces and in Ontario, there were many envious comments made about the quality of our land titles system. Of course, things change and when the information age came upon us, we had the foresight as a government to introduce a new electronic registry, and I spoke to that on another Bill just previously. And the arrival of Information Services Corporation and the new electronic registry has really revolutionized the

way land titles are used. And certainly with the geographic information systems that we can now tie to the actual electronic register of the ownership of the title, it presented a whole new layer of possibilities for efficient land registry use.

And I think some of the agencies that have had the most opportunity is in the development of oil and gas. And I think some of the efficiencies and perhaps the uncovering of certain issues in the mineral layer in Saskatchewan once the layers were separated — which is a unique feature to Saskatchewan as well where we have surface titles and mineral titles now as separate entities — it's made it much easier for oil and gas companies to be efficient when they're searching titles, finding out who the owners are. And as another issue that has arisen, maybe we dug under the carpet a little bit and we found out that not all mineral titles had been dealt with very well.

And indeed the first 50 years of the land titles system, there was a lot of inconsistencies from land title office to land title office, and different registrars applied rules differently. And I've had the opportunity to do a lot of historical research on those types of titles, and I have to say I think the new system has allowed us to find those inconsistencies. There's often 200 per cent ownership or orphan titles. And there's probably still work to be done, but at a minimum *The Land Titles Act, 2000* allowed for searching in the registry in ways that weren't possible before.

On many occasions, in terms of data collection, you can pull down all kinds of things from the registry in a database form which could never, ever, ever have been accomplished in the paper registry. And tying those parcels to the GIS information allows you to locate them on a map just with a click of a button, which is quite remarkable. I mean there were things that were lost with the system, but I think the improvements have certainly been well worth it, and this Bill is another Bill that moves the system along a little further.

I was part of a client focus group a few years ago which were looking for efficiencies in the way things are registered, Mr. Speaker, and one of the things that was identified, particularly by the financial institutions, was the difficulty of registering a standard mortgage over and over and over. Every time that they were registering a mortgage, they were required to register a very large electronic document, often in PDF [portable document format] form, sometimes several hundred pages long, that was the same document with just some tombstone information at the front that related to their particular client. So the financial institutions in particular, when we did the focus group on improving the system, were very concerned about having an opportunity to have some form of document registry that would allow them to just refer to that document in a library and not have to submit it each time. And these were back in the days when we had to submit everything through PDFs. That was before the online registration system which highly "efficeized," which made things much more efficient, Mr. Speaker.

So this Bill, really all it purports to do is to create this document storage library. And the minister's comments when he introduced this Bill is basically to create the document storage library that will reduce the number of duplicate documents that are required to be filed with the registry.

I don't know if there will be an ability, with the changes that will be made to the information system that exists, to get rid of all the ones that are there already. That's not indicated by the minister. It may be a go forward type of enhancement because I'm not sure the system would be able to sift through and find these documents again. They're already there; they're already taking up electronic space. So it's not clear to me that that's something that the new Bill will allow Information Services Corporation to implement. But as the minister indicated, it is the direct result of consultation with representatives from the legal and financial sectors who will use this document library the most, and it's being designed specifically to meet their needs.

Again Information Services Corporation has been very responsive to client needs, although I recall when it first came in, Mr. Speaker, that it was somewhat difficult for me to consider myself a client because there was nowhere else to shop. And so this was the only place to go in town and there were some arbitrary decisions made initially to get the system up and running that severely impacted the way Crown land business was being done. However to their credit, the folks at Information Services Corporation spent a lot of time engaging "clients" — I'll put that in quotation marks — and took it seriously that the needs of the users were paramount and that they would endeavour as best they could to ensure that the service was as streamlined and efficient and user-friendly as they could be.

So as I said, this idea of having a document storage library is one that I think has been in the backs of the minds of the folks at Information Services Corporation for some time. Obviously there are computing issues related to this and it's not something easily done whenever you make changes to a system. But they've done several fixes over the years and this is one that I'm sure they will handle with their usual sophistication and competence.

There's always one other fix, while I have the opportunity to mention it, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to see of the system, and that is the ability to use drop-down search boxes for the grant search as well. So I'm just throwing that in there as something that I'd be interested in seeing. When you search historical documents like grants, you have to go through several clicks before you can actually get to it. That was fixed when you're doing title searches but it wasn't done with the grant searches. So it's just a particular bugaboo that I've had about the system and it's one similar to the document storage library. It's something that can be fixed. There's not a lot of people that spend time researching grants but we are out there and it would be helpful for time saving. It's just a time-saving device to help do that.

So, Mr. Speaker, the main part of the changes are found in a new addition to the Act and it's 74.1. So it's a new part to the Act, part IX or IX.1 and that's entitled the document storage library and then the section itself is section 74.1 which talks about filing and then 74.2 is the establishment of the library itself. It talks about why it's established, and the rules governing it are under this particular part of the Act, the part IX.1. It's not clear under subsection (7) of the new section, it says the registrar can manage and organize the document storage library in any manner that the registrar considers

appropriate. So again the registrar is able to manage this and it's not clear whether these documents will be searchable in and of themselves or how you will be able to locate them when you go searching. But again I guess it's for the financial institutions to determine and be consulted with, and I have every confidence that they have been appropriately consulted with. It's clear that this Bill does serve the needs of the financial community, so the changes go on.

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

We have section 74.2, which is the establishment, and then following that is section 74.3, and that's the process that's used for filing standard interest terms and authorizations. So everything in the system is appropriately described. The application has to be in the right form and with the right content and then the registrar, once they receive an application to file the standard interest, they shall . . . The registrar must file it in the storage library and assign a document number. So that will be the document number, Mr. Speaker, that the users of financial institutions and anyone else using standardized lengthy documents will then have a nine-digit number — typically it's a nine-digit number — that they can refer to from there on in. So it will greatly facilitate the work of banking institutions and be of real administrative assistance to those organizations.

Of course filing that document in the library doesn't relieve anyone from their obligations under the law, and that's 74.3(3). And then the standard interest terms, they can't be amended or modified under (5).

So basically as I said earlier — I spoke to this Bill another time as well — and I think this is something that's just doing business for the ISC, and I think this is something that at this point I think we've had enough comment on it. And I would like to move that this Bill go to committee, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments Corporation that Bill No. 8, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 8, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011*, be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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

Now being after the hour of 5 o'clock, this House stands recessed to 7 p.m.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Cheveldayoff	595
McCall	595
Moe	595
Belanger	595
Hickie	595
Forbes	595
Morgan	595
Nilson	596, 606
Chartier	596

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Forbes	596
Wotherspoon	596
Brotten	597
Vermette	597

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Community-Building Event	
Jurgens	597
Support for Hockeyville Finalists	
Belanger	597
Moe	598
Social Work Week	
Docherty	598
2012 Z99 Radiothon	
Wotherspoon	598
Celebrate Success Business Awards	
Ottenbreit	599
Business Builders Awards	
Tochor	599

QUESTION PERIOD

Support for Child Care	
Chartier	599
Harpauer	599
Draude	600
Arrangements for Long-Term Care Facility	
Brotten	601
McMorris	601
Water Supply and Plans for the Potash Industry	
Sproule	602
Duncan	602
Provincial Finances and Policing Costs	
Wotherspoon	603
Huyghebaert	603
Reporting Provincial Finances	
Wotherspoon	603
Krawetz	603

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 1 — <i>The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2011</i>	
<i>Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine</i>	
Nilson	604
Morgan (referral to committee)	604
Bill No. 2 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act, 2011</i>	
<i>Loi corrective (droit collaboratif) de 2011</i>	
Nilson	605
Morgan (referral to committee)	605
Bill No. 3 — <i>The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2011</i>	
Nilson	606
Morgan (referral to committee)	606

Bill No. 4 — <i>The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2011</i>	
Nilson	606
Morgan (referral to committee)	607
Bill No. 5 — <i>The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2011</i>	
Nilson	608
Morgan (referral to committee)	608
Bill No. 35 — <i>The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2011</i>	
<i>Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 2007 sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif</i>	
Sproule	608
Morgan (referral to committee)	610
Bill No. 36 — <i>The Constituency Boundaries Amendment Act, 2011</i>	
McCall	610
Bill No. 6 — <i>The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011</i>	
Sproule	615
Morgan (referral to committee)	621
Bill No. 7 — <i>The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1996 sur les coopératives</i>	
Forbes	621
Harrison (referral to committee)	624
Bill No. 8 — <i>The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011</i>	
Sproule	624
Harrison (referral to committee)	626
MOTIONS	
Referral of Bill No. 6 to Committee	
Harrison	624

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for SaskTel
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority

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

Hon. June Draude
Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Education

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Darryl Hickie
Minister of Municipal Affairs

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

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Tim McMillan
Minister Responsible for Crown
Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for Information
Technology Office
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Rob Norris
Minister of Advanced Education,
Employment and Immigration
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for Uranium
Development Partnership

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

Hon. Laura Ross
Minister of Government Services