



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

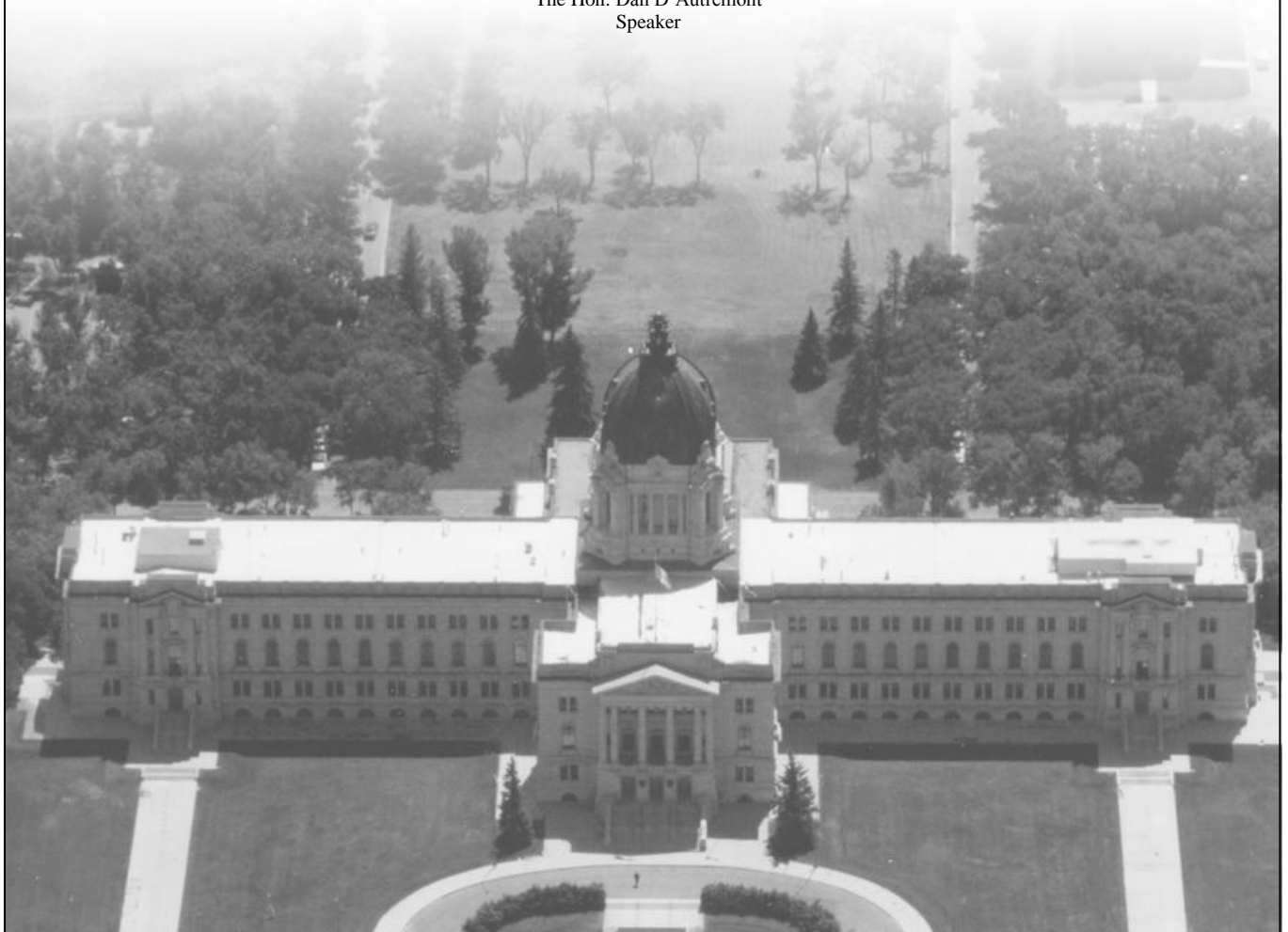
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. 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, 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, Hon. 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, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, 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, Hon. 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, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. 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, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce a group that have joined us and seated in your gallery. And I want to note, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member for Wood River and the government's military liaison will be introducing each of the individuals that have joined us, I think, and give a bit of a broad introduction. But they are the family and the friends and the recipients of the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour. We had a chance to salute them a little bit earlier on today, over lunch hour, and to officially present them with a few tokens.

Mr. Speaker, you'll be familiar with this program. It was the idea of the member for Cannington, now Speaker, who presented it to us, and implemented later by the military liaison and the then minister of Advanced Education that we would offer this scholarship to returning veterans and — heaven forbid, if they were not returning — to their family members. And I just wanted to stand and on behalf of the government, and just ahead of the more specific introduction by the member, acknowledge them here today, welcome them to their legislature.

I had a chance very briefly to chat with a couple of them, Mr. Speaker. Sergeant Shawn Blair was one and Corporal Tyler Davey was another, and they made a couple of points. One, these scholarships reinforce for Saskatchewan people that the Canadian forces are among us. The reserves and the regulars are here; they're part of our community. And Tyler reminded me of the fact that they have these veteran's plates on some of their vehicles and drive around. And some of them feel a little bit strange about it perhaps, because people are expecting to see someone maybe a little bit older driving the car. But we live in a day where we have young veterans, who have given much and sacrificed much, and we want to honour them with licence plates and scholarships in any way we can.

And so, Mr. Speaker, ahead of the member for Wood River, I want to introduce them to you, to the Assembly, and I want to thank them very much and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd request leave for a bit of an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The member for Wood River has asked for a leave for an extended introduction. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to move the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I'm honoured to introduce some very special guests today. As the Premier has mentioned, we're joined in your gallery by recipients of the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour. The Scholarship of Honour was created in 2009 to honour returning military members who actively served in the Canadian Forces and assist them in the pursuit of post-secondary education. Mr. Speaker, we recognize the commitment and sacrifice that has been made by these military members and the price that has been paid and continues to be paid for our freedom.

An event was held earlier today to recognize 83 recipients of the scholarship. Not all of the recipients were able to make it, but there are 16 recipients who are with us today. I would like to read their names so they can be recognized formally: Bombardier Nathan Betz, Sergeant Shawn Blair, Second Lieutenant Devin Chadwick, Captain Luke Coupal, Corporal Tyler Davey, Corporal Jayson Derow, Master Corporal Adam Donauer, Colonel Ross Ermel, Master Corporal Stephen Fennelly, Corporal Marcel Heichert, Private Craig Hicks, Navy Lieutenant Aaron Kaytor, Corporal James Kletchko, Captain Walter Martin, Corporal Chad Martinson, and Major Timothy Rupsich.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to welcome the family and friends of these heroes who are joining us as well today and thank them for their support. I would ask all members to welcome this fine group of citizens to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to rise today and on behalf of the official opposition, I want to also welcome the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour folks that are here to their Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, defending this country as a member of the Canadian Forces is a noble calling. The individuals who joined the Forces, along with their families, make many great sacrifices including sometimes the greatest sacrifice of all.

So to all the scholarship folks that are here today, I want to congratulate you. I want to thank you. And I especially want to note that it's not every day that we get to say thank you, but this weekend we're having a great ceremony back in my home community. I'm looking forward to thanking the many veterans that laid down their lives for their country, those that continue serving today. And I can tell you it's always a special moment because my father was a veteran, and many members of my family also served in the different parts of the forces.

And we all know that the navy and the army and the air force all get along. But I want to point out that this weekend is going to be a great opportunity for us to thank them individually. But publicly today we recognize you, we respect you, we honour you, and above all else we thank you for your kind service. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce a very great delegation visiting Canada and Saskatchewan from the Republic of Namibia. Now they're way up on your left, Mr. Speaker, behind the clock. If I was a little taller, I might be able to see them. They're way up there.

Mr. Fritz David, education officer and early childhood development and pre-primary education from the National Institute for Educational Development in the Republic of Namibia. And Ms. Mariane Kapepu, education officer, pre-primary education, with the regional council, Republic of Namibia. Also joining them from the Ministry of Education Saskatchewan, Kathy Abernethy, director of the early childhood education branch, and Ms. Sharon Markesteyn, senior policy analyst with intergovernmental relations.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. David and Ms. Kapepu are in Saskatchewan as part of a partnership project between the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, the Government of Namibia, and the Institute for Public Administration of Canada. The partnership project focuses on early childhood development. Our guests have visited a number of school divisions in the province to observe and review the implementation of various early childhood assessment tools and processes. The visit has also included observations and discussions on teacher professional development. Please help me, members of the Assembly, and welcome our visitors from Namibia.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure on behalf of the official opposition to join with the hon. minister and welcome the delegation that's here from Namibia here today as part of an education delegation and exchange between the country and our province as it relates to early learning in our province. I'd like to welcome these visitors here today. I wish them a great learning experience, and I hope that that learning experience is reciprocal as well.

I also recognize the officials with the Ministry of Education and the resources that are put into this exchange. And I'd like to thank all that are involved in what should be an exceptional learning experience for all parties. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Central Services.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery, I would like to introduce to my colleagues in the House, Steve Berg. He is the national director of the Christian Embassy of Canada. The embassy is an inter-denominational, non-profit organization serving diplomats, senators, members of parliament, and business executives.

Steve has been in Saskatchewan a few times, and I understand that he's met with Richard Lepp and his wife for the House of Prayer to see about coordinating services that will benefit all of us who are involved in politics in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the

House of Prayer and the Christian Embassy of Canada for their dedication and prayers for all of us here today. And I ask all my colleagues to welcome Steve Berg to our Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of introducing some very important guests from a few of our Saskatchewan community-based organizations.

Joining us today from Menno Homes is Board Chair Peter Guenther. I'd also like to introduce Mr. Darwyn Worsley, president of the board of directors for the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres; and Amy McNeil, executive director of SARC [Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres] and Sarcan recycling.

From FoxValley Counseling Services, I'd like to welcome Mr. Mark Fox, the founder and executive director; Mr. Keith Pratt, chairman; and Ms. Tracey Dunnigan, board member. I would also like to introduce Ms. Brenda Rossow-Kimball, Vice-Chair of Creative Options Regina. With them is Amanda Plumber from my office.

Mr. Speaker, today is Community-Based Organizations Appreciation Day in Saskatchewan. In honour of this very important day and on behalf of our government, I want to recognize the valuable contributions that these organizations and all community-based organizations make to our community each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank these organizations for their dedication to helping our most vulnerable citizens. The work they do make a tremendous difference in the lives of Saskatchewan people, and CBOs [community-based organization] greatly enrich the fabric of our great province. I ask all members to join me in welcoming these outstanding citizens to their Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister on behalf of the official opposition in welcoming all of the leaders here today from our community-based organizations, or some of our community-based organizations, who do very much the heavy lifting here in Saskatchewan when it comes to providing services and supports to our citizens here. So on behalf of the official opposition, welcome to your legislature and thank you for all the work that you do in your communities.

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

Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to welcome four gentlemen of South Asian origins, but as we all know, in the 21st century you can have more than one home, and they are pleased to call Saskatchewan home. We have here joining us today Musaddaq Hayat, a dear friend and a person who is seen as a leader right across

Saskatoon and well beyond. Azhar Khan is also joining him as well as Sarveshwar — or Sarvesh for short — Jaswall and Bhupinder Thind who comes from a very distinguished military family.

Their individual and combined presence in their legislature reflects and reinforces that Saskatchewan is an increasingly diverse, dynamic, and cosmopolitan community, a community that welcomes and receives newcomers. And we're not simply talking about numbers, Mr. Speaker; we're talking about our neighbours that help all of us grow into much better global citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to help me welcome these fine gentlemen to their Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in reference to cell coverage support. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Undertake, as soon as possible, to ensure SaskTel delivers cellular service to the Canoe Lake First Nations, along with the adjoining communities of Cole Bay, Jans Bay; Buffalo River First Nation, also known as Dillon, and the neighbouring communities of St. George's Hill; English River First Nation, also known as Patuanak, and the hamlet of Patuanak; and Birch Narrows First Nation and the community of Turnor Lake, and all the communities around these major centres.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are primarily from Patuanak, and I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to education in our province. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the Sask Party government to make education a top priority by establishing a long-term vision and plan, with resources, that is responsive to the opportunities and challenges in providing the best quality education and that reflects Saskatchewan's demographic and population changes, that is based on proven educational best practices, that is developed through consultation with the education sector, and that recognizes the importance of educational excellence to the social and economic well-being of our province and students for today and for our future.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents from Saskatoon and Regina. I so submit.

[13:45]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the women and men of the Canadian Armed Forces make incredible sacrifices to protect the freedom and way of life we all enjoy. As a way of honouring these brave women and men, our government created the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour. This \$5,000 scholarship is given to current or past residents of Saskatchewan who actively served in military operations, either as a regular force member or as a reservist in Canadian Forces to assist in their pursuit of post-secondary education. It's also available for the spouse and/or children of severely injured or deceased soldiers and can be used at any recognized Canadian post-secondary institution.

Mr. Speaker, in November 2009, the first 11 recipients were honoured. Today we honoured another 83 women and men who have received the scholarship since 2009. Sixteen of these recipients were able to take part in the recognition ceremony here in the legislature today. This scholarship is one small way we are able to give back to those who have already given so much, by supporting them in their pursuit of post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, this scholarship serves as a reminder of the courage and sacrifice of our military members. And I believe this is the only province in Canada that has a scholarship of this nature. And I can say that it is indeed an honour to help our military members pursue their dreams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Co-op in National Co-op Challenge

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Co-operatives have been building local economies and supporting communities worldwide for hundreds of years. In 2012 we honour this business model and its values of working co-operatively to achieve our economic, social, and cultural goals.

Recently the Good Food Junction co-operative opened on 20th Street West as part of Station 20 West, a larger development which includes other important health, housing, community, and economic development services for individuals and families. This new co-op is an oasis in a food desert, offering a range of fresh food as well as packaged food and household items for reasonable prices, making healthy eating a viable option for families living in our core communities.

The Good Food Junction recently became a Western finalist in the National Co-op Challenge, an opportunity for new co-ops to win cash prizes to assist the growth of their businesses. Twelve regional prizes will be distributed in four areas across Canada. Three co-ops will win prizes in the western region after creating a video to showcase their commitments and their enthusiasm for growing their enterprise. The Good Food Junction is a strong contender for an award and may then be entered to win a final grand prize of even more cash.

Mr. Speaker, people can check out the Facebook page for the National Co-op Challenge. We can all vote to support the Good Food Junction in its bid to win the grand prize to help this co-op grow even stronger to serve the people in Saskatoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw North.

Better Together Food Drive

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday, October 31st, was more than just Halloween in my city of Moose Jaw. Besides the excitement of the trick-or-treaters, it's the annual Better Together Food Drive. The Better Together Food Drive is organized by the Hillcrest Church in aid of the local food bank.

Over 400 volunteers were involved, dozens of drivers with pickup trucks, cars, vans, accompanied by hundreds of door-to-door canvassers, all gathering food donations throughout the city. And while the city canvass was taking place, other volunteers were at the Hillcrest Church auditorium beginning to sort the food into boxes, on to pallets, to be delivered to the Moose Jaw Food Bank.

My wife, Debbie, and I have been part of this campaign for the last six years and I can speak proudly of the volunteers and the citizens of Moose Jaw who showed their support and their generosity. In most cases the pre-circulated paper bag is filled and placed by the door ready for the volunteers to be picked up. Some people simply didn't get around to it, but insisted on being part of the cause and went to their cupboards and found some product to donate.

Mr. Speaker, the food drive presents an overall, overwhelming feeling of goodwill, pride in our community. This year almost 28 tonnes of food was collected for the food bank. Thank you to the organizers and hundreds of volunteers and all of the residents of Moose Jaw for giving so generously. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and show that Moose Jaw is a caring community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Parking Day

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased to participate in Parking Day in Saskatoon last September 21st. People across the city demonstrated various creative ways to share city streets with cars, buses, bikes, and pedestrians.

This event originated in San Francisco in 2005. An art and design firm by the name of Rebar put quarters into a parking meter and then transformed the parking space into a park by putting down some sod, a bench, and a tree. The idea was to create a temporary haven for people living in cities that lacked green space. The event has now spread to more than 160 cities who find creative ways to use city parking spaces on Parking Day.

The organizing group for Parking Day in Saskatoon included urban planners, architects, business people, and together they

reimagined the way that we can use our city streets. They worked with the city of Saskatoon staff and council to convert metered parking spots into temporary miniature parks, eateries, yoga studios, pop-up retail stores, poetry stages, and even outdoor living rooms. An empty lot on 20th Street was converted into a stage for live local music, and several local food booths fed the crowds.

Mr. Speaker, streets are not just intended for moving cars. They are critical community hubs that serve as focal points of commerce and culture. It was an amazing day and I want to thank organizers Curtis Olson and Carrie Catherine for once again showing leadership in our community by heading up this event and the organization of this event. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Weyburn and District United Way Communion

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all those who participated in the 31st annual Weyburn and District United Way Communion on the weekend of October 26th.

The Weyburn United Way's mandate is to improve lives in the community by engaging citizens and mobilizing collective action. The organization put their mandate into action at the communion by raising an impressive \$126,640 to support many local agencies. In fact, Mr. Speaker, this money will go towards 11 different agencies in the Weyburn area that provide support to some very worthy causes, including the Canadian Mental Health Association, Canadian Red Cross, and the Weyburn Big Brothers Big Sisters. These are all great organizations who do a fantastic job each and every day in our community and for the individuals who they serve.

Mr. Speaker, the communion lasted for 33 hours and featured some amazing local performers and announcers who entertained all throughout the night.

Of course this event could not have been possible without the volunteers. We all know that Saskatchewan people are among the country's most engaged volunteers and their efforts were on full display this past weekend in Weyburn, from the individuals preparing the food to the office volunteers, production individuals, and countless others.

Mr. Speaker, a big thank you to everyone who made this effort possible. There's no better feeling when a community comes together to help each other. Thank you.

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

Recognition for Métis and Old-Time Fiddle Player

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this House to bring attention to a very talented young man in the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview. Dallas Boyer is a 22-year-old Métis and old-time fiddle player from Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, Dallas began learning fiddle at the age of nine and learned from many fiddle players including Lenny Dumont,

Everett Larson, and John Arcand. Dallas got the chance to attend the 2010 Olympic opening ceremonies where he represented his Métis culture, dancing in the athletes parade.

Recently Dallas attended Back to Batoche Days in July, where he performed a number of times with master fiddler Darren Lavallee and his band. Dallas has also opened for award-winning country music star Michelle Wright during the 2010 Back to Batoche anniversary celebrations. His album *Métis Fiddle Music* was nominated for the 2012 APCMA [Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards] award for the Album of the Year as well as Dallas himself was nominated for the 2012 APCMA Entertainer of the Year award.

Dallas was nominated and won the Youth Award at the inaugural Wiichihwayshinawn 2012 Métis Awards in Regina two weeks ago. He was also nominated for best fiddle CD [compact disc] and Entertainer of the Year at the recent Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards. I'd like all members to join me in recognizing Mr. Dallas Boyer and his outstanding achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

Community-Based Organization Appreciation Day

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House to recognize today, November 6th, as Community-Based Organization Appreciation Day here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize and celebrate the valuable contribution that community-based organizations make in our communities. The province invests nearly 300 million annually in over 500 CBOs across Saskatchewan. These organizations and the people who work with them are making positive impacts every year and every day in the lives of some of the most vulnerable citizens. Every day they help children, people living with disabilities, the homeless, those struggling with addictions, families in crisis, and women experiencing abuse, just to name a few.

Since November 2007 our government has provided an additional \$53 million to the CBO sector. These funding increases over the last five years constitute more than the previous 12 budgets combined. In addition we have given CBOs more certainty about their funding by moving to more multi-year contracts. Three years ago only 8 per cent of CBOs funded by the Ministry of Social Services had multi-year contracts. Now 75 per cent of them do.

I also thank everyone involved with these wonderful organizations. Your selfless dedication to those in need, the work that you do makes a real difference in the lives of Saskatchewan people. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Relationship with United States

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, today our neighbours and friends

to the south will take to the polls and elect the President of the United States and many other representatives across the county.

The United States is our largest trading partner. Our goods and services find a welcome market south of the border. That's why we need provincial leadership to work with leaders of the United States at all levels regardless of party affiliation on either side of the border. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people expect our Premier to provide leadership. We expect our leaders to work with our international partners.

My question to the Premier: why did he choose to hurt the relationship with the current US [United States] administration by injecting blame and accusations against President Obama.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I assume the hon. member might be referencing — though who knows really what — some comments we've made with respect to this administration's position on buy American provisions, provisions that are protectionist against Canadian and Saskatchewan companies, or comments that we've made where we've been concerned about the position on the Keystone pipeline, which has a direct impact on oil pipeline capacity in our province as it relates to the Bakken.

Mr. Speaker, this government will, on an issue-by-issue basis regardless of who's in power anywhere, will raise issues that are of interest to the people of this province. And when we travel to the United States, as we have done, we will meet with both sides of the aisle. Yes, we will meet with Senator Lindsey Graham, the Republican of South Carolina. We will also meet with John Kerry, as I did, the Democratic senator from Massachusetts and the former vice-presidential candidate for the Democratic party. We will develop a relationship with the Democratic Governor of Montana where we can advance Saskatchewan's interests on a case-by-case basis. That's what Saskatchewan people expect. That's exactly what we'll do.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, often as elected officials, we may work with individuals with whom we may not agree. But it's common sense to represent our province fairly as statespeople first and foremost. Mr. Speaker, that wasn't the way Premier approached working with the current present President this last summer. The Premier said, "People think in this country, perhaps they do, that the Obama administration is good for Canada. The facts say something else."

Mr. Speaker, it would be incredibly frowned upon for an American legislator to weigh in about our electoral politics. Why does the Premier think the situation is different for him?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I think the people of the province want a government and a Premier and ministers and MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] who will represent their interests, who will point out when other jurisdictions — perhaps they're within Canada, perhaps they're outside of Canada — when those other jurisdictions undertake

measures, regardless of party stripe, that aren't in the trade and investment interests of the province of Saskatchewan. I think the people expect us to say so. Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to do that. We would do that in the case of Republican administration stateside or Democratic administrations or Conservative governments here in Canada or New Democratic governments in Canada.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that this member and those members opposite have this real interest in what we are saying about leaders in another country when on the matter of Dutch disease and the federal NDP's [New Democratic Party] attack on this province, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing but silence from members over there. My question to him is, when will he stand up for this province against his own leader in Ottawa?

[14:00]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I as the leader of the Saskatchewan New Democrats and all of my colleagues stand for common sense perspectives on the issues of the day. We know, we know that this Premier shares the ideological values of the President of the United States' opponents. But that is not a reason for his attacks on the current sitting President when so much of the province's economic activity relies on a strong relationship with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the Keystone XL pipeline, we've been on record many times in support of that National Energy Board regulated project. But we also believe it is up to the United States, as a sovereign country, to determine what is in its economic, social, and environmental best interests.

Mr. Speaker, why did the Premier misuse the privilege of hosting the PNWER [Pacific North West Economic Region] Conference to attack the President of the United States?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting premise to the question. I wonder if we checked the record if we'd find any elected members over in the NDP or NDP members across the country who may have criticized George W. Bush. I think we might find a few members, a few examples of that, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, the member from Athabasca, the NDP Deputy Leader, says, oh but that's different. The NDP, where the D has always stood for double standard, Mr. Speaker: one set of rules for them, one set for everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Democratic Governor of Montana, Brian Schweitzer, I think he's expressed concerns about the US administration's position on the Keystone pipeline. We will defend the interests of the province of Saskatchewan. We will point out when those interests are perhaps at risk from any particular administration, or any particular party in the country. Again I ask that member, and I ask that party and those two running for leadership over there, if they're interested about the views and our position vis-à-vis other leaders in North America, why will they not defend this province's interest against their own federal NDP leader, Mr. Speaker?

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier claims his ideology doesn't influence his responsibility to the people of Saskatchewan. But his words tell a different story, Mr. Speaker. In the year 2010, over \$15 billion worth of exports went to the United States. Even in their economic downturn, that was 63 per cent of our trade here in Saskatchewan. Our province's petroleum, potash, natural gas, and agricultural products and manufactured goods need a leader to help build that Canada-US, Saskatchewan-US relationship, not someone who would jeopardize our trade by complaining about what movie stars or American newspaper columnists say.

My question is to the Premier: instead of taking a diplomatic, statesmanlike approach, why did he choose to play politics and risk jeopardizing Saskatchewan-US relations?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, never has this province been more engaged in developing the relationship with the United States. Mr. Speaker, just in the last number of years since we've taken office I've had the privilege, the honour, of speaking with the Chicago Board of Trade, along with former Premier Doer when he was the premier of Manitoba, along with Premier Stelmach. We went down to Houston. We spoke at the chamber of commerce there. We advanced the trade interests of the country with specific companies that are there.

We've had several missions to Washington where we met officials from the Obama administration concerned about some EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] policy, concerned about cap and trade, but a good dialogue, Mr. Speaker. We met with Democratic Senator Kay Hagan twice. We've had her back to Canada. The first congressional delegation visit to Saskatchewan in its history, senators and members of the House of Representatives, happened under our government because of our engagement program with the US. She and her husband were a part of that. Senator Lindsey Graham, Mr. Speaker, meetings with Senator Kerry.

Mr. Speaker, we have for the first time engaged representation in the United States with contacts on both sides of the aisle. That's what we've done to further the relationship with that country, Mr. Speaker. You can talk about it, and I guess try to score points on US election day on these weird line of questions, or you can act. And that's exactly what we've been doing.

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

Pipeline Safety

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, it seems that all the Sask Party wants to talk about is the National Energy Board regulated pipelines, which of course we are on the record time and again as being supportive of the NEB [National Energy Board] review process. But there are still serious issues here within the province about regulating provincial pipelines to protect people here and the environment here.

In June the Provincial Auditor raised serious concerns about the regulation and upkeep of pipelines and flow lines that run within Saskatchewan. The auditor says that the Sask Party government is not compliant with its own legislation and that leaves people exposed to potential harm. In the auditor's words, "Failure to regulate pipelines effectively could harm people or the environment."

To the minister: what steps has the Sask Party government taken to improve pipeline safety in Saskatchewan since the auditor's report?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to give the House an update on the state of our pipelines in Saskatchewan. The auditor did come out with some recommendations here earlier this year. We looked at them at the time. We take them very seriously, and we said at the time that we will be moving forward and finding best practices and accepting her recommendations. She put forward that there was appropriate actions being taken but those actions might not be appropriately documented. We have taken the steps to document those processes.

There is also some recommendations, Mr. Speaker, that flow lines will be included. We are currently in the middle of a review under the PRIME [process renewal and infrastructure management enhancement] process, multi-year review of pipelines and all oil and gas regulations. As we work through that, we will take that into consideration and be bringing those as well, Mr. Speaker, into the regulation.

We all know that pipelines are the safest way to transport products like oil, gas, Mr. Speaker, and it's the least expensive way. It's crucial to our industry. We know that the people of Saskatchewan expect an extremely high standard, and I'm happy to report that Saskatchewan has the highest standard and one of the safest safety records in the world, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, there are 10 new flow lines constructed in our province every day, and yet the auditor points out that the Sask Party government doesn't license them and doesn't even know where these flow lines are or whether they are designed and operated according to law. The auditor says flow lines pose the same environmental risks as pipelines, and if there is a spill from either a pipeline or a flow line, there's no requirement to report the spill to the government.

Mr. Speaker, people are concerned about the safety of their water supply, their farm lands, and their communities. With the significant growth constructed each year, when will the Sask Party take full responsibility for proper oversight, not a review, of the many hundreds of spills happening every year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, in my first answer I

addressed the flow line issue. It is the next stage of our PRIME processes looking at pipelines and flow lines, Mr. Speaker, and we will be addressing that issue at that time, Mr. Speaker. We recognize the concern put forward, and we will be addressing it.

But, Mr. Speaker, I also said that pipelines are the safest way to transport oil in the world. We know that. We know that the people of Saskatchewan have an extremely high level that they want oil companies and pipeline companies held to. And, Mr. Speaker, we strive to continually to push that bar higher, that it's an environment of improving upon excellent performance, more so and more so.

But, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have worked very hard as an opposition, as a party in Ottawa, as an official opposition in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, to try and kill pipelines, that they want to see pipeline capacity down, Mr. Speaker. They've lobbied, they've actively lobbied in Washington, Mr. Speaker, sent officials, sent elected members to Washington to lobby against pipelines, Mr. Speaker. On this side of the House, we expect the high standard of pipelines, and we will continue to provide that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear that the use of pipeline and flow lines is a safe method, the safest method available, and what we're talking about is ensuring that that safety is continued. Clearly we all need to be cautious about our province's pipelines and flow lines and implement a plan of smart growth that includes proper regulation and regular inspections of all our pipelines and flow lines.

The Auditor's report points out that pipeline inspection is a serious problem for the Sask Party government. And even the National Energy Board is conducting a major audit of TCPL [TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.] due to whistle-blower concerns about quality control problems.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of pipeline safety is on the minds of Canadians, especially here in Saskatchewan. Will the minister commit today to implementing the auditor's recommendations, not doing a review, implementing them in full — they've had several months to do that already; we see no regulations in place — and ensure that Saskatchewan's pipelines are properly regulated?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, in my first answer I was pleased to report to the member opposite and to the House that in fact we accepted the recommendations put forward by the auditor that she felt that the structure, that the documentation around when inspections take place, how that works, Mr. Speaker, the documentation needed to be beefed up. That has been done, Mr. Speaker. I'd be pleased to table that documentation if the member opposite would like to see that, Mr. Speaker. It is now a standard practice in our ministry, in the oil field, to continue this high level that's expected.

And, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite may worry about

pipelines, but I can tell her, in my area — truck traffic, hauling oil, Mr. Speaker, again very important — it's something that's crucial to our industry that we have effective pipelines. And I challenge members opposite to stand up for Saskatchewan on the pipeline issue, that our industry needs pipelines. They need them to the West Coast. They need them to the south. And I ask them to state where they stand on this issue, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Long-Term Care Facilities

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, northern seniors need health care service to address their specific culture and community needs. Unfortunately the Sask Party government has ignored northern seniors who need long-term care facilities close to home.

Mr. Speaker, in 2010, the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region released a study calling for an investment in a long-term care facility for La Ronge to help northern people. To the Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health: why does the Sask Party not help northern people get the long-term care facility they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for his question. Certainly we know full well where this province stands when it comes to long-term care facilities and beds, Mr. Speaker. That's why we've invested in 13 new long-term care facilities across this province, replacing ones that were far outdated, Mr. Speaker.

I can as well, Mr. Speaker, point to the good work that's been taking place over the last summer months by the Minister for Rural and Remote Health who has toured much of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, including northern Saskatchewan, and has brought many of those concerns back here to Regina for us to deliberate in the future, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly I think those members though would recognize that we would be in a far different place had we not had 16 long-term care facilities closed under their watch which lost us 1,200 long-term care beds in this province, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, the report sits on the website for two years, but the community of La Ronge does not have the beds the North desperately needs. The report says, Mr. Speaker, that the health region faces increased service demands and aging infrastructure.

As a result of inaction, northern seniors must travel south to long-term care facilities. This is not common sense. This move is hard on seniors who may face cultural and language barriers. To the minister: why has the Sask Party neglected northern seniors and our many respected elders?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Weekes: — Thank you very much, Speaker. Thank the member for the question. For part of my summer tour was also a trip into the North. And we went to La Ronge and Ile-a-la-Crosse and Buffalo Narrows, and we met with community leaders and health providers, physicians and nurse practitioners. And that was one of the issues that came up, and we certainly took notice of all the concerns, Mr. Speaker.

We also have a very good record in long-term care capital . . . budget items. We have constructed or undergone construction of 13 new long-term care homes in the province. Since November 2007, this government has made an unprecedented \$744 million investment in major health capital project building improvements and economic upgrades, Mr. Speaker. And so I think our record really stands out compared to the opposition when they were in government.

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, many families, northern Saskatchewan seniors cannot afford to travel, sometimes several hours away, to visit their loved ones in care facilities in the South. Clearly it is not common sense that northern residents are cut off from frequent visits with their families and friends. Mr. Speaker, the report shows that a crisis has reached a code red rating. The need is critical. Mr. Speaker, can the minister commit today to build these facilities in northern Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had said, on my tour of rural and remote Saskatchewan that we listened to community leaders and visited many facilities. And again, Mr. Speaker, we have a very good record as a government since we formed government in 2007, building or in process of building 13 new long-term care homes and many other facilities — the children's hospital, the Plains surgical centre to name some other projects under way, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, we will be looking at all the capital requirements into the future and be making those decisions in a timely manner, as we always do through the budgetary process. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, our record stands head and shoulders above what the NDP did in their 16 years of government.

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

Number of Women on Boards

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On International Women's Day eight months ago, I asked the Sask Party government why its record on naming women to boards was so abysmal. At the time, we brought to light the fact that only 34.2 per cent of government boards' members were women under the Sask Party. In 2007, it was 43 per cent. We have been moving backwards, Mr. Speaker.

Despite those who apparently still believe that flipping through binders full of women is the path to equality in leadership, my colleagues and I on this side of the aisle note that Saskatchewan is home to a wealth of capable women who offer intellect, education, common sense, and compassion. We know that women in leadership have an amazing ability to get the job done. What changes have been made over the last eight months to ensure that skills, qualifications, and qualities of women are recognized on boards?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased today to rise on behalf of government and talk about the work we're doing with women and for women in this province. You just have to look across government and see the number of deputy ministers we have, the number of chiefs of staff that are women that we have in the province. And only yesterday, I was very pleased to go to Moose Jaw and learn that that was the city that had not only a mayor as a woman, but most of the councillors are women.

The type of work that's being done across this province for women is being done because women no longer see a glass ceiling. And they know with support and the opportunities in the economy, they can go anywhere they want to.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Let's talk about that glass ceiling, Mr. Speaker. I've had a look at 21 boards including Sask Arts Board, the utility Crown boards, and others. On those 21 boards, there are 43 women filling 185 positions. That's only 23 per cent.

Utility Crown corporation boards are important. The people who receive appointments to these boards control millions of public dollars. Four big Crowns — SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, and SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] — important holdings for the people of Saskatchewan, have a board makeup altogether of nine women out of 50 seats. That is 18 per cent.

Can the member responsible for improving the representation of women on boards tell us what per cent of Crown and ministry board seats are held by women today? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, this fall we had the opportunity to attend the universities as a caucus and cabinet to talk to the universities there, and both presidents of the universities are women in Saskatchewan. That is a change. That's the type of thing can happen because we understand that women have every opportunity in this province.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the third highest rate of labour force participation in Canada for women, and wages for women have grown 15.5 per cent since 2009. The opportunities for women in boards are unlimited, and as they bring names forward and talk to them about what their goals are, some of them see that their work on boards is important, but some of

them see that their work in their own businesses and in following their dreams is important.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to work with some of my colleagues who have been talking to women say, yes, there's work out here for us, but there's also work in the private sector. And they're doing what they want to be doing in a province with lots of opportunities.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue's one that got a few people upset the last time I asked about it. When I pointed out in this Assembly that men had received the vast majority of the Sask Party appointments, the minister then for Crown Investments Corporations told us, "It isn't something we discriminate on [Mr. Speaker]. It's competence that we search for."

I disagreed with the minister's view that for every one competent woman in Saskatchewan that there are three competent men. I hope that the Sask Party government has made some progress since the time on equality issues, but we haven't heard what this government is doing yet. That day we were told that the member for Saskatoon Fairview had been tasked to "identify women who could be on boards."

Can the member tell us where she's been looking and if her process has identified enough women to make the province's Crown boards more representative of our population?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased with the women that are working with our government on various boards and organizations, whether that's the appointed boards or the boards that are looking after working on CBOs, the boards that are bringing ideas to government through universities, through classrooms, through social services. Mr. Speaker, we're not against women on boards. What we are is . . . What we would really like to do, ensure that women have every opportunity, things that weren't happening in the past.

Mr. Speaker, women on boards has increased 6 per cent over the last year, 6 per cent more. And I don't see any women on that side that are running for the leadership. I don't know what their feeling is on women in leadership opportunities in the NDP.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 61 — *The Railway Amendment Act, 2012*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 61, *The Railway Amendment Act, 2012* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure that Bill No. 61, *The Railway*

Amendment Act, 2012 be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 63 — *The Regional Parks Act, 2012*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. When shall the bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 51 — *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 sur les enquêtes publiques*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — I rise today to move second reading of Bill 51, *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*. *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012* is a new bilingual Act that will repeal and replace the current public inquiries Act. It will govern the employment and conduct of public inquiries in Saskatchewan.

Members of the Assembly will know that inquiry commissions are temporary bodies that are created by order in council to review and investigate a specific incident or matter. Commissions of inquiry have statutory powers to conduct their proceedings. They are limited by any terms and conditions placed on them by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The creation and use of public inquiries was recently reviewed by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, and new public

inquiries legislation was recommended for implementation across Canada.

The uniform Act provides for the modernization of the administrative powers and functions of a public inquiry and addresses the reality that different inquiries may be appropriate depending on circumstances. The bill, like the legislation already enacted in British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador, is based largely on the uniform Act.

The current public inquiries Act is composed of five sections that have been enforced for nearly a century. The current Act provides only bare framework powers for the implementation of a public inquiry. A detailed order in council is required to set out the terms and conditions and operational mandate for any public inquiry struck under provincial powers.

The new Act contains specific provisions that outline a commission's authority in a number of areas. These include standing and participation, procedure, evidence, compellability of witnesses, investigations, search and seizure, and reporting.

Mr. Speaker, the new Act will provide the creation of two types of inquiry commissions: study commissions to research, examine, and provide advice on public policy; and hearing commissions to investigate and make findings in fact in matters where there's a possibility of the finding of misconduct.

Under the existing legislation, the term "public inquiry" invokes a full judicial inquiry. While large-scale inquiries may be warranted in certain circumstances, there are also situations in which a study inquiry conducted on a smaller scale and with different terms of reference would be a more appropriate way to look into certain matters. The new Act will give express recognition to the two different types of public inquiries and provide a process for how they may operate and report. Instead of leaving it to the order in council to create all the terms and conditions that govern a particular inquiry, the new Act will provide a basic framework for the establishment, proceedings, and reporting of all inquiries.

The authority to enter into agreements with other jurisdictions to establish joint commissions is also contained in the new legislation.

The new Act also establishes reporting requirements and provides that reports generated by inquiries shall be made public after ensuring that privacy and confidentiality concerns are addressed. The Act also requires that a report of a commission must be released to the public by the minister within two weeks of its receipt.

The new Act maintains certain features of inquiries established pursuant to existing legislation that continue to be appropriate and in the public interest. For example, the Lieutenant Governor in Council will continue to maintain the flexibility to appoint commissioners who are qualified and impartial and also to set any terms and conditions specific to the inquiry. Commissions will continue to be able to determine their own procedures subject to the terms set out by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. This includes determining who is entitled to participate in an inquiry and what, if any, funding will be provided to participants.

Mr. Speaker, the new Act prohibits a commission from making findings alleging misconduct against a person before the person has been given reasonable notice of the allegations and an opportunity to respond to those allegations. If a commission decides to hold a hearing, the Act requires that the hearing be public except where considerations of privacy, the consequence of disclosure of personal information, public interest, or the right to a fair trial weigh in favour of closing a hearing.

The new Act also provides authority for publishing, broadcast, or electronic transmission of any proceedings before the commission. Commissions will continue to retain the ability to compel the attendance of witnesses and require the production of evidence. Commissions will also have search and seizure powers and the ability to apply to the court for contempt orders. Also under the new Act, decisions, acts, or omissions of the commission will be conclusive and will not be subject to judicial review by the courts. A consequential English-only bill accompanies this Act to amend 45 Acts and one regulation that reference *The Public Inquiries Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the new Act will clarify the powers and functions of an inquiry. It will also ensure that inquiry commissions are based on modern standards of the administrative law and that they are adequately empowered to govern their own processes effectively. However, Mr. Speaker, flexibility is maintained to allow for the creation of different types of inquiries and to set the terms and conditions that are appropriate to the matters being reviewed. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill 51, *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved that Bill No. 51, *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

[14:30]

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I am pleased to stand today to offer very brief comments about the Bill No. 51.

Mr. Speaker, I think what's important here is that if you look at some of the plans that the minister alluded to in terms of bringing the public inquiries process to a more modern standard of clarifying some of the rules, and I understand from some of the discussions that there's been other jurisdictions across the country . . . And I think we're the fourth, if I'm not wrong on that front, that we're the fourth province to look at how we could modernize our process to bring it on line with how other jurisdictions do their public inquiries. Mr. Speaker, I think that this has a lot of ramifications to a number of other departments, and really it is something that we have to pay very, very close attention to as an opposition in ensuring that there's fairness and that there's thoroughness and certainly that there's an impartial process when one speaks about the public inquiries.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some of the history I've had in public inquiries when I was a young lad was of course through some of the commissions held in northern Saskatchewan as it relates to mining. There may be other, different inquiries. One of the most recent ones of course would be with the North Battleford Water Inquiry. These processes are fairly rigorous. They're

fairly thorough. There's a lot of witnesses. There's a lot of legal matters that need to be addressed and one must not take into any context the . . . not to take the inquiry process serious, because if you don't take the inquiry serious then there's a lot of potential problems that could occur, not only to the people that are aggrieved but to those that want to find out what exactly happened as a result of the public wanting an inquiry.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we've had some of the notes forwarded on the actual bill itself that would certainly give us some information, sketchy at best, in terms of what the intent of some of the changes are as it relates to this particular bill. So we're going to take our time to go through it and make sure that there is nothing untoward about why some of the changes are coming forward. As an opposition, the common sense approach we have is to ensure that we modernize, and certainly that we streamline processes and especially when it comes to matters of urgent public nature such as an inquiry.

And the inquiry itself, Mr. Speaker, it's got to be top-notch; it's got to be professional; and as I mentioned, it's got to be neutral; and it's got to be understood. And if the intent of the Act is to make sure that our processes, the Saskatchewan process when it comes to *The Public Inquiries Act* is . . . It certainly is able to make sense to other jurisdictions and other provinces. And of course as an opposition we would support that process because there is a lot of times interjurisdictional issues that get involved with any kind of inquiry, and if we streamline and coordinate with other jurisdictions, it may make, at face value anyway, it may make the public inquiry changes as identified in Bill 51 something that the opposition could support in the name of efficiency and certainly in making sure that we provide as fair and thorough and efficient process when the inquiries are undertaken.

So, Mr. Speaker, at the outset we obviously, as we've said on every bill that we get, we'll be looking through this bill. We'll certainly do our . . . We'll connect with our network of people that watch what happens as the Sask Party moves their agenda forward. At the outset, as I mentioned earlier, it appears the bill is all about efficiency. It appears it's really trying to streamline some of the Acts and to also make sure that we are coordinating with other jurisdictions. And, Mr. Speaker, it's such a, there's such a potential for fault and there's such a potential for error on this particular bill that we want to take the time to go through it and to make sure that exactly what is intended, as the minister alluded to earlier, is that it's followed to the law.

So on that front, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to offer our initial comments. We obviously invite the public and those that are involved with this particular process, the public inquiry process, we would ask them for their input. And you can obviously do it online. You can do it through the telephone, through fax. There's all kinds of avenues to participate in this process. And we would ask, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan and those that might have some issue or some information that's of value to this process to certainly contact the official opposition, and we'll ensure that your voice is heard. So on that front, Mr. Speaker, I would like to adjourn debate on Bill 51.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of Bill No. 51, *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the

Assembly to adopt the motion? If not, I will call the question. If the members don't want to . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the House is Bill No. 51, *The Public Inquiries Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the adjournment? All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say no. The ayes have it.

Bill No. 52 — *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*. This Act consequentially amends 45 English Acts and one English regulation. It adopts the powers conferred on a commissioner pursuant to *The Public Inquiries Act*.

In each case the amendment makes a change to refer to the provisions of the new Act that correspond with the powers under the current Act. These changes are made to ensure consistency with *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*. In each case the amendments will refer to specific provisions in the new Act in order to maintain the status quo. For example, the majority of Acts will be amended to provide powers conferred on a commission by section 11, the power to compel evidence; section 15, contempt of commission; and section 25, the ability to hire staff.

Presently *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* and *The Labour Standards Act* provide for the powers of a commission pursuant to sections 3 and 4 only. As such, amendments to those Acts will only extend the powers conferred on the commission in section 11 and section 15. Similarly each of *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act* currently grant inspectors all the powers, privileges, and immunities of commissioners. Accordingly, in addition to referencing sections 11, 15, and 25 in those three Acts, it will also extend the immunities conferred on the commission pursuant to section 26.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of the public inquiries consequential Act, 2012.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved second reading of Bill No. 52, *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I think is really important as our official opposition's first look at

the bill, obviously it's a complementary bill to what the minister spoke about earlier, Bill 51, and obviously, Mr. Speaker, we look at the bill as well. And one must never, ever take into consideration the fact that, even though it's a consequential amendment Act, that it's not important to see the ramifications of the bill that's being proposed.

So one of the things I think is really important is that as a layperson, when it comes to the process of a public inquiry, people have to really, truly understand how the inquiries are handled, what the processes that are involved at the actual hearings and, Mr. Speaker, as well as who commissions, who authorizes, and who oversees the appointment process when there is an inquiry called for. These are some of the things that are really important.

And the minister briefly spoke about some of the issues on Bill 52 in relation to being immune from lawsuits and being immune from frivolous charges that the commissioner may be subjected to from time to time as he or she undertakes her duty as an officer of a commission. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, we see that as a very important piece in making sure that the inquiry system per se does have integrity by offering officers certainly or allowing them to become immune to some frivolous lawsuit or other potential threats to his or her person.

So, Mr. Speaker, to the extent of trying to sound like a lawyer here, I want to point out that many people out there do not understand how the public inquiry system works, and they need to completely understand how it works to understand what is being proposed not only in this consequential amendment Act, Bill 52, but really what's also being proposed in Bill 51. At the outset, as the opposition, we understand, we respect common sense in these approaches. We're not going to be frivolous in some of the comments and some of the points that we wish to make, but in order for us to really, truly be able to offer the people the insight that is necessary and what is being proposed in this bill or any other bill, we've got to take the time, we've got to seek advice, we've got to have our own input. All nine members of the opposition will take their perspective, and they'll certainly offer that perspective here when the debates on this particular bill moves further down the process.

So, Mr. Speaker, that process is certainly . . . will be forthcoming, as I mentioned at the outset at yesterday's session day. We actually have a couple of months to look through this bill to make sure that there's nothing untoward as to what the minister is proposing.

Now I know from watching a number of movies, legal movies, that people talk about intent, Mr. Speaker, and that's what's the important process that I want to undertake as our first blush at this bill, the first look at this bill, is to make sure that what the minister is intending as a result of his presentation here today and some of the points that he's raised in this bill is exactly what the end goal is, because . . . the end goal. Because some people out there certainly don't trust the Sask Party, and they look at some of these bills and they begin to wonder what the ramifications are, what the consequences are. So that's why it's important we take the time to look through the bill, we look at potential pitfalls that may occur, Mr. Speaker. And we also want to make sure that the public has that opportunity, that the public out there . . . It may be a legal student, it may be a person

that has some significant information, or it could be people that have a lot of knowledge on how commission or inquiries work. And that's something that's really important, that we tell them today that your input is valued and we certainly look forward to hearing from you if you have any particular advice that you want to share and offer.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we have nine members in the official opposition, and those nine . . . We have a number of staff members. We of course have a number of people throughout the province that are pretty familiar with the legal system that they could certainly . . . What I think is going to happen is that the process unfolds, every single one of my colleagues will have an opportunity to look through Bill 51 and this particular Bill 52 to see what exactly is being proposed and to offer their take or their view on this particular Act and, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, to make sure that what the minister has alluded to in terms of his intention as a result of this bill, that that's the end game — that there is no hidden plan over there; that there is no hidden agenda by the Sask Party to try and weaken the public inquiry process or the public commission process by simply weakening it in some way and trying to of course hide it through fancy wording.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that people understand that the opportunity to dissect the bill, look through the bill, seek advice, is certainly something that the opposition will take to ensure that Bill 52 is following through with the intent and to make sure that at the end of the day it's all about efficiency, it's all about coordination, and it's all about making sure that the public inquiry process in Saskatchewan is fair, it's balanced, and it's neutral. It's not being hampered with politics or hampered with orders from some political person.

[14:45]

So, Mr. Speaker, we're going to look very, very closely at some of the smaller details of this bill. And as I've mentioned to folks from time to time, in looking at the wording, there are significant differences between the word "will" and the word "shall." You know, these are some of the things that you have to be careful of as you look through some of these bills, and because certainly some of the experiences I've had, that there is significant legal differences between "will," the word "will," and the word "shall." So I think it's important that people look at that and see what could possibly harm the process that the minister spoke about when he said he wanted to do it this way and this is how we're going to do it.

And that's the prerogative of the opposition, to take its time to make sure that what he proposes, and the intent of what his proposals are, are being followed to the letter and that there is no hidden agenda or other scheme in place that the Sask Party has to try and weaken the process of having public inquiries or commissions on a wide variety of potential projects or issues, Mr. Speaker. So on that note, I think we will take our time. The nine of us will offer our perspective and our valued opinion.

We would encourage people out there to watch the process unfold, and as the time will permit us before the spring sitting, we will go out and consult with people on this bill and any other bill that the Sask Party proposes, to ensure that it's fair, it's thorough, it's common sense, and that there is no hidden agenda

in terms of some other proposals that they intend to make, Mr. Speaker. And that's one of our roles and jobs that we relish here in the opposition benches.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I am again pleased to offer our initial comments and I now move that we adjourn the debate on Bill No. 52.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 52, *The Public Inquiries Consequential Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 53 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. The purpose of this bill is to repeal 11 statutes that are no longer necessary or have become obsolete.

Mr. Speaker, the bill will repeal *The Crown Foundations Act*. That Act was introduced in 1994 to allow universities to take advantage of a difference in the income tax treatment of donations made to charitable organizations and to the Crown. At that time the income tax deduction for donations made to charitable organizations could not exceed 20 per cent of a taxpayer's income whereas donations to the Crown could be as high as 100 per cent of the taxpayer's income. The Act permitted Crown foundations to be established for Saskatchewan's two universities to act as a conduit for donations to those universities. This allowed donors to take advantage of a larger tax benefit.

In 1996 the tax credit distinction between donations to charitable organizations and donations to the Crown was eliminated. The new limit of 75 per cent of a taxpayer's income is the same for either type of donation. As there is no longer any tax advantage gained from establishing a foundation, there is no need for this Act to continue. The Crown foundations at both universities have had no activity in the past several years, and both universities support the elimination of the foundations.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also repeals *The Vegetable, Fruit and Honey Sales Act* . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, it's awesome, awesome. The Act has been in place since 1947. It permits inspectors appointed pursuant to the Act to certify that vegetables, fruits, and honey for sale in Saskatchewan meet the standards specified in the regulations. However since the Act was first introduced, changes have occurred in the industries to the federal regulations that have rendered the Act irrelevant and cumbersome. Federal legislation regulates producers selling to retailers or wholesalers both inside or outside the province. Retailers use the federal legislation even if the produce is being sold in province, as wholesalers and retailers purchasing produce or honey from growers request the federal standards

are met.

Mr. Speaker, we are also recommending that *The Sales on Consignment Act* be repealed by this bill. This Act creates a licensing scheme respecting sales on consignment of agricultural products. However no scheme is currently in place, and non-enforcement of the Act has not negatively affected the industry. There is also no record of the last time the Act was used, or the appointment of any inspectors. The industries have undergone significant change since 1978. There are now additional business laws in place that govern the sale of products, including agricultural products, which supports the repeal of this Act.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also repeals *The Saskatchewan Development Fund Act*. That Act was passed in 1974 to create the Saskatchewan Development Fund Corporation to perform the duties of trustee, custodian, and manager of the Saskatchewan Development Fund, an open-ended investment trust. In 2009 the board of directors of the corporation resolved to close the fund, and since then all accounts have been redeemed and operations have been closed. In 2010 the board of directors resolved to begin the process of winding up the affairs of the corporation. The corporation no longer has any assets or liabilities. The bill includes provisions to wind up and dissolve the corporation and repeal *The Saskatchewan Development Fund Act* as it no longer has any purpose.

Mr. Speaker, *The NewGrade Energy Inc. Act* will also be repealed. This Act was enacted to facilitate the financing, construction, and development of the heavy oil upgrader in Regina. In 2007 the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan sold its interest in NewGrade Energy Inc. and as such the Act is no longer required.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Government Relations has put forward six pieces of legislation for repeal. The bill will repeal *The Cut Knife Reference Act*. Passed in 1978, the Act replaces Cutknife, previously one word, as two words. No current legislation refers to Cut Knife as one word and as such the purpose of the Act has been fulfilled and it can be repealed.

The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act will also be repealed. Nearly 100 years ago, municipal Acts required municipalities to issue debentures with prescribed terms of 10 or 15 to 40 years, and to levy annual rates for repayment. *The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act* was passed in 1915 to provide municipalities with the ability to extend terms of debentures with the approval of Saskatchewan's ... [inaudible] ... government authority, which is now the Saskatchewan Municipal Board. At present the municipal Acts provide the ability for municipalities to finance and restructure financing instruments, including debentures, subject to Saskatchewan Municipal Board's approval. Where municipalities and the board need to extend repayment terms on debentures, they now do so based on the authority of the current Acts. Mr. Speaker, *The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act* has not been used in the last 15 years and can be repealed.

Mr. Speaker, the bill will also repeal *The Municipal Development and Loan (Saskatchewan) Act* which was passed in 1964 to implement a federal Act. The federal *Municipal Development and Loan Act (Canada)* was passed in 1963 and

provided for provincial governments to borrow monies from the federal government and loan those monies to municipalities for capital works to improve the unemployment situation throughout Canada. In 1983 the federal Act was repealed, rendering the provincial legislation obsolete.

Another Act passed to implement federal legislation has also become obsolete and can be repealed. *The Municipality Improvements Assistance (Saskatchewan) Act* was passed in 1939 to implement the federal *Municipal Improvements Assistance Act (Canada)*. The federal Act enabled loans to municipalities or power corporations across Canada for the construction and operation of public works. It required provincial governments to approve the projects and guarantee the loans. The federal Act was repealed in 1983, making the provincial legislation obsolete.

Mr. Speaker, the bill will also repeal *The Municipal Industrial Development Corporations Act*. This Act was passed in 1960 to assist cities and towns with the attraction and promotion of industrial development by providing accommodation or financial assistance to industries. The Act provides the authority for incorporations, powers, distribution of profits or assets, directors, and other matters for industrial development corporations that are established under the Act.

There are no active corporations that meet the criteria in the Act and the last active corporation was formally dissolved in September of 2011. This Act can be repealed as municipal governments are able to establish corporations pursuant to *The Municipalities Act*, *The Cities Act*, or *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*.

Finally, *The Subdivisions Act* will also be repealed by this bill. The Act was passed in 1914 and provides the Saskatchewan Municipal Board with the authority to revise the property assessments of a subdivided area in a rural municipality and to permit the owner of a subdivided area to occupy adjoining vacant land for the purpose of common cultivation.

The Act also permits the registrar of land titles to exercise a variety of powers in a subdivided area without obtaining planning approval from the director of planning. The Saskatchewan Municipal Board has no record of using this Act in the last 25 years, nor do land title officials recall having received an application pursuant to the Act. All sections of the Act have either been superseded by other provisions or have become redundant or inconsistent with current legislation, and the Act can be repealed.

Mr. Speaker, repealing these 11 pieces of legislation demonstrates the government's commitment to review and eliminate outdated legislation. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm once again pleased to be able to rise today in the Assembly to

speak, very quickly and very briefly, about some of the concerns that we think might be attached to Bill 53.

As my hon. colleague noted, that there are 11 pieces all wrapped up in this particular bill, and there are very, very important pieces in this bill that need and merit special attention and focus, Mr. Speaker. There's no question that, as we said at the outset, we would encourage the public to participate in this process. If they have, as a result of some of the . . . whether they're watching the Assembly this afternoon or they simply go online, that if there's something of particular note that they do have some glaring concern about or that there is some information that is very significant in terms of what the minister is trying to do today, I think it's important that we express that welcome and we express the willingness by the opposition to hear them out and hear some of their concerns. So obviously that open door policy and certainly trying to get people to be engaged with this whole process to understand how a bill is introduced and in this case how bills are taken off the record. And I think it's important that we involve the public and we invite the public as often as we can.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know the minister might not want to be known as one of the first bills that he's introduced in the Assembly was the vegetable, fruit, and honey for sale Act, you know, in terms of abolishing that particular aspect of this Act. But obviously those are some of the issues that I think is really important for the public to understand, that there are some Acts within government that need to be abolished. Some of them are fairly old, and some of them are outdated, and some of them are of no use. And obviously as the official opposition, the common sense approach that we would take and we would support as well is to make sure that there isn't any frivolous policies or Acts in the way of making Saskatchewan more modern and more functioning.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think some of the points that I would raise, there's very little information on the NewGrade co-op aspect of the Act. It's one of the 11 items that the minister has spoken about, wrapped up within Bill No. 53. There's *The Sales on Consignment Act* that we need to find more information about. There's also for example I would say the Sask Development Fund, that particular aspect is gone as well. And he alluded to a federal loan program that we have to see as to what the intent was when that fund was in place and who were the benefactors and who were the beneficiaries and what process has been put in place to replace that particular Act.

So there are 11 pieces of bills from various departments wrapped up in this particular bill, Bill 53, that we have to make sure that we take the time to study this bill and to look at everything that the minister has spoken about as to what pertains and some of the work that he's trying to do under the Bill 53 title.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the university income tax process — I'm quite interested in hearing about that — where he has indicated that, and certainly on some cases, that up to 20 per cent of your income on a personal basis could be given to a post-secondary institution. And now that has been changed to 75 per cent from what I understand that the minister spoke about. Now obviously given the fact that I would at the outset say that this is probably pretty good for the Sask Party to do this because they're

saddling all the universities with high levels of debt. I was quite disturbed to hear yesterday during question period the fact that the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] is now one of the highest per student debt ratios in the country, Mr. Speaker. And then you hear about this particular bill indicating that, yes, if somebody wants to contribute to a university fund, they can do so. We're not going to limit to only 20 per cent of your personal income, that we're now going to have the ceiling on some of the incomes in some of the people that are able to contribute to any kind of fund to help the U of S or the U of R [University of Regina].

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that's really, really important to think of the ramifications of that particular Act because obviously if it makes sense, the NDP certainly want to support that. But the big question we have is that if it's a way for government to simply say, look, we've cleared the path for the individual people to now make any kind of donations they want to the U of S or to the U of R and that means it gives us less and less dollars that we have to contribute to them, then you can see exactly what I mean when we speak from the opposition perspective is that you have to really watch what the intent of some of these Acts are and what the purpose is and what is the objective, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

And that's something that's really, really important. And as I said at the outset when I spoke about that particular provision is the minister under Bill 53 has various different levels of Acts that he wants to repeal, and he wants to get rid of them because they become obsolete, and they're of no function to the people of Saskatchewan. And then you look at the university one where he's indicating that there's a change as to how much you're able to contribute from the personal perspective as opposed to what it was before. And to us that means that there is some plans, that there is some objectives here attached to this bill — as much as he may want to gloss over what the intent is — that certainly there is a corporate strategy over there to have less and less support afforded to the U of S and to the U of R and have the individual people out there be able to contribute more.

So, Mr. Speaker, we don't see no major problems with the, like, the Cut Knife Act. That's fairly straightforward, you know, in terms of whether it's one word or two words. I don't think the people of Saskatchewan want us to hold up a bill, you know, for that particular reason. So I think it's important that we as opposition identify where the challenges are on any bill, seek consultation on what we think the problems are, certainly get all nine of us to offer their perspective, and then that's where each nine have to make sure that what is being planned and proposed doesn't have a negative consequence. Because if it does have a negative consequence, then we as an opposition, it's our role and duty to expose that consequence and certainly advise the government and the people of Saskatchewan exactly what we think the intent of the bill is.

So, Mr. Speaker, whether it's *The Sales on Consignment Act*, the Cut Knife, the NewGrade co-op, the Sask Development Fund, the vegetables, fruit, honey for sale Act, or whether it's the university income tax Act, I think it's important we take the time to look through this bill to see exactly what a number of

departments are proposing through this minister to try and repeal some of these Acts that may seem to be obsolete or no longer necessary. And, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we take the time to study them. So on that note, I think I will adjourn debate on item 53. I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2012* (No. 2). Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 54 — *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill 54, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012*.

Mr. Speaker, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009* provided the authority for the provincial government to take responsibility for the seizure of criminal property processed from the police services. While there have been successful seizures under this legislation since making this change, counsel and operational staff have identified a series of changes to make the seizure process more efficient and effective.

The bill will amend the definition of instrument of unlawful activity. The change will make it clear that property used to engage in unlawful activity but that has not yet resulted in the acquisition or production of property may still be subject to forfeiture. Forfeiture could proceed if there is evidence of the likelihood that the activity will result in the acquisition or production of property or evidence of an intention on the part of the respondent to obtain such property.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will also specifically authorize the director to make an application to the courts by statement of claim in addition to the existing ability to proceed by notice of motion. It will deal with the challenges of proof of ownership by removing the requirement to name the owner of the property as a party to an application in all cases and extend the period from 30 to 60 days during which time the director can request an order to prevent the sale, transfer of property prior to bringing a forfeiture application. This change will also provide authority for the court to extend a restraining order for any further period the court views appropriate.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this bill will make procedural changes to provide for a sealing order regarding the respondents' affidavits, provided that evidence of a person that was not charged with an offence is not relevant in making a finding of fact in an application under the Act. It will address how the rules of court will apply to an application under the Act, including one made by way of statement of claim. It will provide that the limitation period commences when the director is satisfied that property is proceeds of unlawful activity or an instrument of unlawful activity rather than two years from the

point of discovery. And it will provide that evidence is admissible based on information and belief in order to lessen the burden on testifying police officers.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents a balance between ensuring due process for individuals who may face an allegation of holding criminal property and ensuring that criminals do not benefit financially from their criminal activities. We remain committed to this program, Mr. Speaker. We are confident that these amendments will assist our officials in using this legislation as intended by this Assembly to prevent profiteering through criminal activity.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 54, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to just give initial comments on Bill 54. And obviously I think what's the important understanding I think, Mr. Speaker, just from what the contents of the bill we're speaking about is really to strengthen the hand of some of the people involved with justice in terms of dealing with properties that are believed to be used for illegal purposes.

Now no question, Mr. Speaker, from the opposition's perspective that dealing with criminal activity is something that's very serious. It's a serious undertaking by our police officers, by the justice system in general and that obviously we want to make sure that there is a speedy process to ensure that criminals that may be using property for their own benefits that they're not holding up the courts unnecessarily, Mr. Speaker. I think everybody in the province agrees with that because obviously there is property being seized, as the bill would suggest, that what you want to do is to ensure that it is done . . . that justice is indeed swift and efficient.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think when the minister speaks of a notice of motion and speaks to some of the legal processes that he understands fairly well being a lawyer, I think the important thing is that we make sure that people out there understand exactly what is being proposed. And that's the purpose of going through these bills one by one and certainly seeing what people might offer on two fronts. I think one front being to educate the public, which is really, really important, and to let people know to not allow criminals to use their property, to not allow criminals to try and hide behind names of people that they might use as a front for some operations, and so on and so forth, Mr. Speaker. So you've got to be very, very wise in this regard.

And of course the second thing is to educate the people in general as to how the process works. So when the ministry uses phrases like "notice of motion," I think it's important that people basically either brush up on their own through the Internet or actually have discussions on this bill to really figure out exactly what is being proposed because there is a lot legal jargon being used in the presentation of these bills. And it's important that people be given the time to understand what these various phrases mean in the long run and how it impacts

on this particular bill. So there's a bit of disadvantage, Mr. Speaker, for a lot of the people out there that might be listening as to how they proceed with trying to understand this bill if they're not sure of the jargon or the criminal process is understood.

The other thing I think is also important is that you also have people's liberties, Mr. Speaker. I think it's really important that the innocent people be allowed to continue to function. There's no question as you look at some of the justice issues over the past number of years, there have been people that have been found guilty in our courts and people that have been found not guilty in our courts. And so I think it's really important that you weigh that particular aspect of the justice system when dealing with bills of this sort, that the premise of our justice system is you're not guilty unless proven guilty, and that you can't have activity under this particular bill that's contrary to that, you know, to that standard.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think there's a lot of general information that the minister could share with the public. There's a lot of processes for the public to participate in this particular bill, but the premise under which we guard our thoughts on any bill that comes forward in dealing with the criminal activity that's hurting our communities is that, from our perspective, that if there's an opportunity to improve the process of law to ensure a fair but speedy process to deal with criminal activity, and in this case with property, that certainly from the opposition's perspective, we would support that notion.

That being said, it's always very important to ensure that justice is done fairly and that it's handed out fairly and that people all have to know that there is that premise that you're not guilty until proven guilty.

So on that front, Mr. Speaker, we'll look through this bill. We'll ensure that the intent, as the minister has alluded to, is being followed and that there's also provisions to make sure people aren't unjustly threatened, that people aren't unjustly accused of activity. That premise, Mr. Speaker, is so very important as we undertake, as law makers, as we undertake the notion that we should have a speedy resolve to justice. There's no question about that, that we have to discourage criminal activity. There's no question about that, that those that offend a community and people, that they have to be dealt with as quickly as possible. There's no question about that on our front.

The only thing that we would say is really important is that the justice system makes sure that this individual or these individuals are guilty before we undertake that process, because there are times when innocent people get caught up in a system either through a mistake they may have made or not knowing some or all the facts. We need to make that concession be known as we talk about these particular bills. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 54.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 54, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 55 — *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill 55, *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act*. This legislation will begin the process of updating and rationalizing the consumer protection framework for Saskatchewan. It begins with the consolidation and simplification of the existing consumer protection Act making the legislation more accessible and easier to understand.

Mr. Speaker, a new part of the Act called designated activities and licensing will permit us to consolidate other consumer protection legislation into the Act. Mr. Speaker, consumer protection in Saskatchewan is spread across 12 separate statutes, each with different standards, enforcement mechanisms, and results. Of these, seven are licensing Acts or contain licensing provisions.

The new legislation will permit through regulations these licensing regimes to be brought into the same Act resulting in consistency of treatment and coordination of administration. Mr. Speaker, this does not mean that each licensing regulation will be a cookie cutter version of all the others.

The Act will allow for individuality of rules governing the businesses depending on the particular needs of the industry being licensed. Also this legislation allows other business types to be brought into the licensing scheme by regulation as the need arises.

Some flexibility will apply to consumer contracts, of which five types are typically regulated pursuant to *The Consumer Protection Act*. These are: Internet sales, future performance, personal development services, travel club, and remotely formed contracts. If our government decides to regulate other types of contracts, the new Act will provide a simple mechanism to do so. Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure you and this Assembly that thorough consultations will be undertaken with affected industry groups, consumer and business groups, the legal profession, and the public before any regulations are passed.

One very important change in this bill, although small, will provide a significant benefit to consumers. Recent cases, including some from the Supreme Court of Canada, have caused us to add clarification to the section of the Act that prevents contracting out of the protections of the Act. This provision has been enhanced to ensure that standard form contracts cannot tie consumers into arbitration clauses or prohibit them from participating in class actions. This will not prevent the consumer from selecting arbitration if that's the appropriate dispute resolution mechanism. However, Mr. Speaker, it becomes the consumer's choice, not the supplier's. Furthermore, this protection has been applied to the entire Act, not just to marketplace practices as was previously the case.

[15:15]

Another small but important feature is the one that permits Saskatchewan courts to have jurisdiction over consumer actions, regardless of the part of the Act under which the consumer rights arise.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the enforcement administration provisions have been moved to a part that applies to the whole Act. This will make it easier for the consumer protection division of the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan to do its job. Through this legislation, Saskatchewan is doing its part to provide a fair and balanced legislation that protects the vulnerable consumer while avoiding an undue burden on Saskatchewan businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 55, *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 55, *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again it gives me extreme pleasure to stand up and offer our initial comments on this particular bill, Bill 55. There is no question that consumer protection is something that is very, very valuable, or valued and certainly valuable — valued by the people of Saskatchewan and valuable for government to undertake such exercises, Mr. Speaker. As the official opposition, any way and means in which we could support and endorse and protect the consumer out there that may have had some unpleasant experience or may have unwillingly been subjected to some unfair practices, that it's important that we strengthen those particular bills and that we do all we can as opposition to support that if the government so wishes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this particular bill has a lot of information in it. There's a lot of different corresponding Acts that it impacts, and I think it's important for people to understand what some of the bills that are being impacted by this bill. And, Mr. Speaker, the consumer bill here we're speaking about impacts *The Auctioneers Act*. It impacts *The Cemeteries Act, 1999*. It impacts *The Charitable Fund-raising Businesses Act*. It impacts *The Collection Agents Act*. It impacts *The Consumer and Commercial Affairs Act*. It impacts *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act*. It impacts *The Consumer Protection Act*. It impacts *The Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, 2002*. Mr. Speaker, it impacts the credit Act. It impacts *The Direct Sellers Act*. It impacts *The Film and Video Classification Act*. It impacts *The Funeral and Cremation Services Act*. It impacts *The Motor Dealers Act*. It impacts *The Sale of Goods Act*. It impacts *The Ticket Sales Act*.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of different Acts that is involved with this particular bill. So I think it's important that the people of Saskatchewan understand that while this bill is really speaking of the consumer and trying to protect the consumer, there are a lot of different aspects of the Act that are impacted when the minister proposes this particular bill.

So it's important that the public out there . . . We're lucky to have a couple of lawyers on our benches and they understand

The Consumer Protection Act better than I do, Mr. Speaker, but they'll certainly have their opportunity. Because I'm sure the people of Saskatchewan will be pleased to know that there are many people within the NDP ranks that have some very, very good skills at understanding how some of these Acts impact the people of Saskatchewan. And they'll have their opportunity from their legal position to be able to clarify for the people of Saskatchewan what may be strong in this particular bill, what may be lacking in this bill, or what might be very weak in this bill. And that's really important that when we get the opportunity to provide our legal team with the process or the plan to express their particular view, I think it's important that people of Saskatchewan take note and to hear what they have to say.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think one of the things that's important is that we know that on many occasions that this particular government doesn't have a good record of protecting consumers, Mr. Speaker. We see that in the high prices of rents, the high prices of power, and the high prices of food and fuel, and the list goes on. So it's kind of awkward for us as an opposition to sit here and watch the Sask Party propose Acts or repeal Acts that's impacting the consumer, Mr. Speaker, because they've been giving it to the consumer for years and years with the high cost of power, high cost of fuel, high cost of food, high cost of rent. The list goes on and on and on.

So the people out there are wondering, why should we trust the Sask Party to make amendments to a consumer protection Act when they clearly don't do their job to protect us as normal citizens? And that's what's really important, Mr. Speaker, is that we take the time to see and to hear what the people of Saskatchewan have to say in this regard. And absolutely I agree with the vast of majority of people saying, you should not allow the Saskatchewan Party to start talking about consumer protection, because quite frankly they don't practise, in any way, shape, or form, what they preach.

So I think that's one of the points that I want to raise at the outset. And that's why when I rattle off some of the other Acts that are impacted, we would hope that when we do that, that people see what a broad range of services that this particular bill has an impact on. And as you look and you go down the list, you can see there are many, many different agencies, many, many different people, many, many different aspects of Saskatchewan's life that are impacted by this.

So I think it's really important that some of the consequential amendments to all those Acts that the minister's proposing through this bill, Mr. Speaker, what does that mean? What impact . . . Does it strengthen big corporations' hands over the people of Saskatchewan? And many instances we've seen them practise that particular skill, and what we want to point out is that it's not a skill that the people of Saskatchewan want the government to have. They want to have a government that'll defend them through the consumer protection Acts, to strengthen those Acts to make sure that they know that the government is listening to them and that they feel somewhat assured that they're not getting . . . people are not being taken advantage of.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think at the outset there's many, many questions we have on this bill. And, as always, the traditional

welcome to people out there who may have information they want to share. And like I said, what's really important is that as much as people don't realize, we have a great amount of legal expertise within our caucus and in our network of caucus, so we're going to obviously seek that legal advice from those folks as well.

And so it's very important to go through this Act with a fine-tooth comb, Mr. Speaker, with a magnifying glass, to make sure, to make sure that all the different issues and points that, you know, that they're raising today with this bill, that there's nothing that hurts the people of Saskatchewan. Because quite frankly, the record of the Sask Party in protecting the people of Saskatchewan is poor at best, Mr. Speaker, and our job is to make sure we strengthen it, not take away from this bill. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 55.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 55, *The Consumer Protection and Business Practices Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 56 — *The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 2000 sur la Cour d'appel*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill 56, *The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2012*.

These amendments allow the Court of Appeal judges to participate in decisions for six months after leaving office in matters that they've heard prior to leaving office. Judges may leave office if they choose to retire or resign from the court or they may be appointed to another court. These departures can lead to challenges in managing the work of the court, particularly if the remaining judges on the panel are unable to agree on a majority decision on a particular matter.

These amendments allow the newly retired or reappointed judge to participate in decisions that will prevent a deadlock among the remaining panel members. The other advantage for the court is it will allow judges who have announced their retirement to fully participate in the work of the court and to hear matters until their departure.

Preventing rehearings benefits the public as well as the courts. All parties incur additional costs if a matter has to be reheard. These costs may include legal fees, time away from work to attend the rehearing, and the costs associated with the delay in resolving a particular matter. Rehearings are costly for the parties and the court, so it's best to reduce them as much as possible.

With this new ability for judges to participate in judgments for six months after leaving office, rehearings should be largely eliminated in the future. A rehearing will, however, still be

required when the majority of judges on a panel have died, are unable to participate due to illness, or have otherwise left office and have decided not to participate in the decision.

Mr. Speaker, most other provinces allow a period of time for judges who have left office to participate in decisions on matters that they previously heard. The time periods vary from 90 days, Mr. Speaker, to six months. The six-month period contained in these amendments is consistent with British Columbia, Alberta, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill 56, *The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2012*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 56, *The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I once again am pleased to stand up today and give the initial comments on Bill 56. At the outset again, it looks like it's a fairly standard process in which I think the minister has spoke about allowing judges upon stepping away from the bench for a number of reasons, whether they step down or whether they're ill, that they allow them up to six months if they're sitting on some committee to allow them to complete their work and on some trial to allow them to complete their work because the rehearing process is fairly expensive. Now, Mr. Speaker, if that's at the outset what the minister was trying to propose in this particular bill, I think the opposition is all for the notion of, as I mentioned earlier, for fair and speedy justice. I think that's important to note.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, is six months an adequate time frame? Because based on some of the court cases and some of the processes that we hear on television, sometimes there's court cases that drag on for one to two years. Now obviously there has been some provisions made in the event that a judge that may have an extension of their time to be served on a court case or a process or a hearing, that quite frankly that they may get ill or they may have other complications. In that instance they have provisions to replace that judge.

But, Mr. Speaker, what happens if the case takes a lot longer than six months? I'd like to know how the minister arrived at the six-month solution. BC [British Columbia] obviously done it, as he made reference to BC doing it in this fashion. What were the provisions, and why did BC do it in that fashion? These are some of the things that we ought to know with this bill. So the questions at the outset, is six months an adequate time frame to avoid the heavy costs of hearing . . . another judge having the power to hear the case over? Is that enough? Is that adequate time, Mr. Speaker? I don't know that. But from what I understand from watching the news and listening to a few lawyers that I'm friends with, that sometimes these court cases take a long time.

The other question that obviously I had is, how did BC arrive at the six-month time frame? Did the minister get any information that BC was willing to share with him in terms of this time frame, that it would be nice to hear that particular information

as well, Mr. Speaker.

And the rehearing costs, what are we actually saving as a result of this Act? Because obviously he mentioned savings because you obviously don't want to have a new judge, a new process, a new panel to hear a court case that's been going on for some time. So obviously you want a provision to let a judge that decides to retire or step down from the bench continue being the judge in that particular case for up to six months. What exactly, what kind of money are we saving here? And that's the other important aspect.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think the question at the outset, six-month time frame, is it long enough? The second point is how did BC come up with the six months? Can you get corresponding information on that front? And what kind of costs are we saving? What kind of costs are we saving as a result of avoiding the rehearing? These are some of the things that we initially want to ask as a result of this bill, all the while, Mr. Speaker, all the while basing any kind of decision that we have when it comes to the issuance of justice on making sure justice is served, that there is fairness, that there's thoroughness, and that justice is handed out accordingly, Mr. Speaker. It's so very, very important that, as an opposition, that the government understand a lot of the bills that are being proposed, if it's about efficiency, cost saving, and really dealing with the issues in a fair, fair but swift manner, I think the NDP opposition would like that offer, that premise.

That being said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I underline the note fair. It's got to be fair. And that's the most important thing because you and I know there are many times where innocent people are accused of things, and then all of a sudden, if justice is too speedy, we forget that there is the fairness perspective. Then I think it's important that we remind people that justice cannot be blind. It has to see all the facts. It has to weigh all the consequences, and it certainly has to be impartial. It's got to be the underlining theme of innocent unless proven guilty. That I think is really important that we say that.

[15:30]

So on that front, Mr. Speaker, those are some of the initial questions I have. I think it's important that we get that information as soon as possible. And other people with much more legal understanding will be offering their insight and their advice on this particular bill as the opposition goes through the process here.

And again the standard offer to people out there maybe listening to this, we would offer the chance for you to share your information, your input, your advice. It's really, really important for us. And that's something that we of course offer to any bill that we speak about this afternoon.

So on that front, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 56.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 56. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 57 — *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2012*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 57, *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2012*. While various areas of the Act are affected, these amendments focus on around four main areas. They include consumer protection, dispute resolution, condominium conversions, and insurance. The bill was prepared after extensive consultation with condominium owners, boards, developers, the Canadian Condominium Institute, lawyers, surveyors, insurers, property managers, municipalities, the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency, and government ministries.

Mr. Speaker, the consumer protection amendments add several new protections for purchasers of new condominium units converted from apartments. The Ministry of Justice heard from many sources that some purchasers of conversion units are experiencing large, unexpected levies to cover repairs or replacements of common property very shortly after purchasing their new home. This Act is being amended to require a declaration from the developer describing the improvements to the common property that are promised as part of the conversion.

The completion of these improvements is secured by a bond or a letter of credit. In addition there is a new requirement for a reserve study before any conversion units are sold. These amendments will ensure that purchasers of conversion units know the state of the unit and the common property prior to purchasing the unit. They also provide security that can be assessed if the developer does not complete the promised improvements. These amendments are supported by stakeholders in the condominium sector including developers.

Mr. Speaker, the second area that I will highlight is the improvements to the dispute resolution mechanisms in the Act. A consistent theme throughout the consultation sessions was that there are often disputes between owners and their condominium corporation or board. The ministry receives a number of inquiries every year from owners who believe they are being treated unfairly or that the corporation is acting in an oppressive manner. The government heard these concerns and included an amendment specifically aimed at addressing them.

An owner will now be able to seek assistance from the court if the board, corporation, developer, or another owner is acting in an oppressive or unfair manner. This amendment puts Saskatchewan condominium owners in the same place as owners in most other Canadian jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, another common dispute that arises between owners and their board relates to the performance of the duties of the corporation and the board as set out in the Act. This bill provides the new ability for an owner to seek the assistance of the court if the corporation is not fulfilling its duties under the Act such as failing to enforce its bylaws or failing to maintain the common property. If the court determines that the

condominium corporation has failed to fulfill its duties under the Act, the court may direct the corporation to fulfill its duties and to compensate the owner for any damage caused by the corporation's failure to perform those duties. Condominium living requires shared decision making on matters of common interest which can lead to disputes. These amendments provide new avenues for resolving these disputes.

The third area that I would like to highlight is the process for approving condominium conversions. Municipalities are responsible for approving condominium conversions within their municipalities. City officials expressed concern that the Act does not provide sufficient guidance on what factors should be considered by the local authority when reviewing applications to convert existing apartments into condominiums. Mr. Speaker, these concerns are addressed through the new regulation-making authority to prescribe a rental vacancy rate that must be achieved in order for a conversion to be approved. The aim here is to prevent condominium conversions from depleting rental accommodations in the province. It is expected that the prescribed rate will be linked to the results of the rental vacancy surveys conducted by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on a quarterly basis for areas where this information is available. Additional criteria can also be added to the regulations. Consultations with the city managers indicate that they welcome the additional criteria that are being added to the Act and the flexibility that the new regulation-making authority will provide when concerns arise in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the fourth area that I want to highlight is insurance. The bill contains a number of amendments to the insurance provisions as a result of the insurance consultation group that include owners, condominium corporations, insurers, property managers, lawyers, and the Canadian Condominium Institute. The work of this group resulted in a new requirement for the condominium corporations to carry insurance on any bare land units developed as townhouses, row houses, or apartment style units. This puts owners in these units in the same positions as owners of other types of residential units.

Mr. Speaker, condominium corporations will also be required to carry directors' and officers' liability insurance. Currently owners are sometimes reluctant to allow their name to stand for election to the board because they are concerned that they are assuming liability for the decisions of the board. This amendment should alleviate these concerns and encourage owners to become board members.

Mr. Speaker, another insurance related amendment is to require developers to establish a standard unit description for each unit or type of unit shown in the new condominium plan. The standard unit description is used to determine the division of insurance liability for damage to units within the development. The condominium corporation's insurance is responsible for damage to the items listed in the standard unit description. The owner's insurance covers any damage to the improvements made to the unit beyond the standard unit description. Existing condominium corporations can amend their bylaws to establish standard unit descriptions for the units within their development.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the amendments focused on the four main areas of the Act that I've highlighted already, I will briefly

describe some of the other amendments to the Act. The bill also contains amendments to require the same level of approval from the owners in a corporation before a service unit can be leased or sold as currently exists for the sale or lease of common property. Service units and common property are owned by the corporation for the benefit of all owners. They should not be sold or leased without the approval of the owners.

During the consultation sessions, owners and condominium boards expressed concern about the ability of condominium corporations to enforce their bylaws. Both owners and renters of units within the corporation are required to comply with the bylaws. Mr. Speaker, this bill includes amendments that will assist condominium corporations to enforce their bylaws and to discourage owners and tenants from breaking those bylaws. In particular, condominium corporations now have the ability to seek compensation in small claims court for damage caused to common property, common facilities, and service units as a result of the breach of the bylaws. Currently the courts can only impose a fine of up to \$500 for a breach of bylaws and does not have a specific authority to order an owner or a tenant who breached the bylaw to pay for the damage.

Mr. Speaker, the bill will clarify how tax assessment and enforcement proceedings apply to parking units. All condominium units used for residential purposes must have a designated parking space or parking unit unless exempted from this requirement by the municipality. The amendments aim to ensure that the parking requirements in the Act are complied with when a municipality takes tax enforcement proceedings against the owner of a condominium unit used for residential purposes.

The bill will lengthen the amount of time allowed for the completion of a phase development, Mr. Speaker. Developers indicated that they had difficulty completing each phase within the current two-year time frame due to challenges seeking skilled tradespeople for their project. With this amendment, the maximum time frame for completing each phase is extended from three to four years.

Other amendments expand condominium corporations' boards' bylaw-making authority to include establishing administrative and service fees for corporate services and fees for using the amenities in another sector.

Bylaws have to be approved by a special resolution of the owners. This bill clarifies the definition of special resolution to clearly identify that the required approval of two-thirds of owners can be obtained by a combination of in-person and proxy voting at a meeting and signatures on the resolution for those owners who did not attend or did not vote at the meeting.

The last amendment that I will note today, Mr. Speaker, is the new requirement for condominium corporations' financial statements to be audited annually. The ministry will consult further on this issue in order to prepare regulations that will define under what circumstances a corporation may be exempt from this requirement. We will consider whether the graduated exemption system used in *The Non-profit Corporations Act* could be adopted for use in the condominium context.

Mr. Speaker, *The Condominium Property Act, 1993* creates a

careful balance between the rights and obligations of developers, unit owners, and condominium corporations. These amendments maintain this balance into the future while addressing many of the current concerns raised through the consultation process.

I extend a thank you to all those, the participants in the consultation process for this bill. They contributed significantly by identifying the issues affecting the condominium community in Saskatchewan and proposing and refining the solutions found in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of Bill 57, *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2012*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 57, *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again I'm very, very pleased and honoured to be able to stand today and give the initial comments, initial few comments that the opposition may have on this particular bill, Bill 57. I think, Mr. Speaker, it's really, really important that people ought to know the difference . . .

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

Mr. Forbes: — Leave to introduce guests, please.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's very kind of you and the House to let me introduce a few guests of some new staff to our caucus office. And as caucus Chair, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Lillian Drysdale and Katherine Norton, if they could give a wave up there. And they're joined by Kyall Glennie, senior staff.

These folks are our sessional staff that are helping us wade through the . . . [inaudible] . . . complexities of some of the stuff that the government's presenting to us in terms of bills and that type of thing. And they're interested in being here. They are interested in being here because they're committed young people to seeing the best for this province, and I know Katherine and Lillian are excited and interested. I'm really actually quite amazed, you know, when people come and work in the legislature. It takes a certain type of folk, a certain type of person who sees or appreciates the kind of things that we do here. And they really seem to show that interest. And we are hoping they enjoy their time here and that they'll be back. And so I ask all members of the House to welcome Katherine and Lillian to their legislature. Thank you.

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

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 57 — *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2012* (continued)

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to welcome our staff. And I'll just spend very, very, a very long time talking about this condominium Act, Bill 57, that the minister has spoken about. And the reason why I want to speak at great length about the condos, Mr. Speaker, is that many people in Saskatchewan simply know that there's a significant problem between condo development when they take older apartment buildings and convert them into condos, that the net effect is that there's a lot of rental property for low-income people that are lost, that are gone.

Now obviously the minister's talking about condo development in general. That he has certainly spoken about some of the things that he wants to resolve in this particular bill, Bill 57, and at the same token, Mr. Speaker, I noticed there is really a conflicting statement there. When the minister talks about the fact that when they do convert buildings, older apartment buildings to condos, that it's really the municipal government that has that right and they have the responsibility.

But then on the flip side, through this particular bill, Bill 57, he gets really into it in terms of, well first of all, we want to make sure that they have parking space in these condo developments. We also want to make sure that the board of directors has a really . . . They have an upstanding list of board of directors. We want to make sure that happens as well, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

And then he also wants to talk about looking at trying to put forward financial statements of these condo developments. No, we're not going to make them do the financial statements of the condo developers, we're going to consult with them on how we could do that, according to the minister's presentation, Mr. Speaker.

So one of the things that people ought to know is that when the Sask Party talks about condo development, I think what's really important is that they are spending more time micromanaging condo development in Saskatchewan, as evidenced here in Bill 57, more time worrying about the rich condo developers that are coming to Saskatchewan to make a lot of money off the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And they're doing very little work and putting very little resources, time, and effort into resolving some of the rental challenges that many people in Saskatchewan have. And, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly my point.

When we talk about bills that are like Bill 57, obviously the minister opened up his statement by saying, municipalities have the right to determine condo development. But we, as a government, are going to micromanagement and micromanage and babysit condo development to make sure that if you do buy a condo, for all the rich people that can afford to buy a condo, we'll make sure that you have parking spaces. Well, Mr.

Speaker, there's a huge problem with homelessness right across the province and condominiums are not going to solve that particular problem because people that are homeless don't have the resources to even pay rent. How could they buy condos, Mr. Speaker? And that's exactly my point.

So on one instance when they mention Bill 57, right off the top they say, don't engage us with stopping condominiums from being developed. Don't even suggest that Bill 57 is going to be talking about that because, as the minister, I'm saying at the outset we don't have no authority on the condominium development process. It's all the municipal government, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's really important that as you look at this bill, as you look at this bill . . . I sit here and I say, okay, you're going to make sure people have parking spots for the condo owners. I'm sure the condominium owners are pretty happy with that. You're going to make sure they have a process to appeal an argument as identified in Bill 57. Oh, they've got a process for that, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to make sure they have public accounting of their condo corporation. No, no, no, he didn't say that. He said we're going to undertake a consultation with them. So I can almost guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, that there will be no public disclosure of condominium developers' financial statements. We won't see any of that, Mr. Speaker.

When the minister makes a reference to that in this bill, to consult with the condominium developers on how they can show their financial position to the rest of the public, like I don't know what fairy tale that minister has read about. The condominium developers, they aren't about to share their corporate information, their corporate income tax information, their personal financial disclosure. None of that stuff will happen, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely not. It's absolutely silly. So when he makes reference of consulting with condo owners about putting out their financial statements on an annual basis, that is complete hogwash, Mr. Speaker. It ain't going to happen, Mr. Speaker. It ain't going to happen.

So when we sit down and we start talking about what we need to do to strengthen the rental market program, Mr. Speaker, not a word. But now you're seeing a whole pile of babysitting. You're seeing a whole pile of politicking with the condo owners and the developers. And you begin to wonder why is this government ignoring those people that have a severe problem with finding places to rent, Mr. Speaker. And then, as some of these apartment buildings get converted to condos, the Sask Party say, oh it's not our problem, and it's not our fault. It's not our fault. It's the municipality that's done that. It wasn't us.

So, Mr. Speaker, you can't have it both ways. You can't babysit the condo developers, Mr. Speaker, and forget about the people that have a tough time putting a roof over their head, finding a decent place for their children or their grandparents to live. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a great, great problem for the people of Saskatchewan. And when I see this bill, it doesn't do nothing to address, to stop the onslaught of people losing their homes. When you see young families or you see older people that all of a sudden find their rents go from 600, \$700 a month to over

1,000, how can they survive, Mr. Speaker?

And this minister and this government is so bound to worry about condo developers, Mr. Speaker, that they put a whole bill, they put a whole bill, Bill 57, to work with the condo developers to make sure that they're welcome here. But we want to play a little bit of politics here. We want to make sure you have a parking spot for your nice new car. You know in the meantime, in the meantime there's some people living in homeless shelters in our centres, in our cities, Mr. Speaker. And did they make a reference to any kind of money they're going to commit to addressing the homelessness problem? Absolutely not, Mr. Speaker.

They're going to make sure that the condo developers . . . We've got to appear, is what the bill is saying, we have to appear to be tough with you condo developers because the people of Saskatchewan, you know, they want us to be tough with you guys. So we'll put in little things like make sure you have a parking spot for your tenant. What else? What's the other rule? They've got to be underground, heated parking stalls. You know, I bet you a lot of people in the province wouldn't mind having heat at night, Mr. Speaker. And then they want to make sure, they want to make sure that you also have good boards in place, like the management of your particular condo area, that you want to make sure that you have a good, reputable board in place, as the minister alluded to.

You want to make sure . . . Oh, we also have to kind of appear, is what the minister is saying to the condo developers, we have to make it appear that we're making you be more accountable to the public because that's what people want, the people of Saskatchewan. So what we'll do is we'll throw in a provision in there, and the provision will state, well we'll consult with you guys on how we can make you more, much more transparent in the public.

So there they are saying, we need to do this. We need to make sure you have parking spots for your tenants in condos. We need to make sure you've got good board members. We need to make sure you show your financial statement every year — which they're not going to do. And that's what I think is the net effect of this bill, Mr. Speaker. It is all about window dressing for their condo developers, Mr. Speaker, that are not just developing condos. We have nothing against that, Mr. Speaker. To be absolutely clear, they can build and build and build as far as we're concerned, and we'll support that continued building, Mr. Speaker.

But when you convert older apartment buildings to condos, Mr. Speaker, with no regard for the people that are living in some of these apartment buildings for years, with no regard for the fact that they can't afford to live there anymore, with the fact that none of them can ever afford a mortgage, Mr. Speaker, that's where the NDP draw the line. And that's where they say, shame on the Sask Party for babysitting through bills like this condo development at all cost. And the people that are living in some of these apartment buildings that are being converted have no rights, have no say. And they end up, Mr. Speaker, living on the street or living in some substandard basement suite or living with family, Mr. Speaker. There's overcrowding and there's lack of social housing, Mr. Speaker. That's the crying shame in the province of Saskatchewan.

It's not babysitting condo developers, Mr. Speaker. We have to understand as condo developers, they're welcome here. They can come build as much as they want. We want to see that build, that growth continue because they hire carpenters, electricians, plumbers. But you don't have to throw people out on the street from some of these older apartment buildings so they can convert these apartment buildings into condos.

You need to find some mechanism to respect the people that have lived in those apartment buildings for years, to respect the fact that they can't afford to pay more, and to respect the fact that they don't want to be pushed out and living on the street. But no provisions whatsoever in Bill 57 to talk about that. It's all about babysitting, Mr. Speaker.

And then that's what I find amazing at times. When we sit here and talk about, again I'll go back to the earlier point when they talk about, well we don't have the authority to tell the municipalities that they're not allowed to convert apartment buildings into condos. But when they do convert those apartment buildings to condos, we've got all these rules now. Now we're engaged. That's the premise of this particular bill and that's the premise of that particular message, Mr. Speaker, from the Saskatchewan Party government.

Now what I think is really, really important that we should know, if they really cared, if they really cared about those people that are being evicted or people that are being forced out of their apartments that they've been living at for years and years and years, they would have got involved with the decision to not allow the municipalities to convert apartment buildings into condos, Mr. Speaker. They could have injected themselves to ensure that the homeless people that are now out there on the streets weren't kicked out of these apartment buildings.

And they didn't do that, Mr. Speaker. Why? Because they weren't committed to that process. And at the outset they say municipalities have the right. Mr. Speaker, that's a senior government. They could have told the municipalities that as a result of the homelessness, as a result of the homelessness that's occurring in Saskatchewan, the fact that we have so much going on in this province, we want to have a moratorium on converting apartment buildings into condos because, quite frankly, it's really having a negative effect on the people that are living in these apartment buildings when all of a sudden they're told, three months from now you're out; you're evicted.

Why are they evicted? Not because they're bad tenants. Why are they evicted? Not because they complain a lot, Mr. Speaker. They're evicted because somebody bought that apartment building and they convert it to a condo. And then when that process was happening, when there's all these conversions into condos, not a peep from the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker — not a peep from the Sask Party. They were very quiet. Then the moment that apartment building becomes a condo, all a sudden we get bills like this, Bill 57. Now they're engaged, Mr. Speaker. Now they're engaged.

And what's really worse, Mr. Speaker, what's really bad, the reason they're engaged is they don't have a problem with homelessness. They don't have a problem at all with homelessness because they don't see it in their own lives, Mr. Speaker, but many people do. Many people in our cities in

northern Saskatchewan do.

And the other thing that really irks me about bills of this sort, Mr. Speaker, bills of this nature that really quite frankly pretend to address some of the condo issues, is they spend a lot of time and effort on creating bills of this sort to make sure that condo developers are taken care of. They take the time and the effort, but you look at some of the misery, the misery that is occurring when people get evicted from apartment buildings that have been converted to condos, Mr. Speaker. They stood idly by. And what did they say when the issue came up? Oh it's not up to us; it's up to the municipal government. I'll tell you if the NDP were in power we'd say, we either build, we build social housing units to match the need, or we don't allow apartment buildings to be converted to condos unless there's a plan of action to address the needs of those people living in those apartments.

Why didn't they stand up for them, Mr. Speaker? They never stood up for them. They never stood up for them. They bring bills of this sort to the Assembly and that's why we tell people, that's why we tell people you've got to watch what these guys are doing. You've got to watch every word and every bill. That's why we engage the public. What is the intent behind these bills? Their intent behind these bills is to babysit condo developers, Mr. Speaker, with no regard for people that are being booted out of their apartments because they can't afford higher rents. They can't afford higher rents, Mr. Speaker, and the Saskatchewan Party simply don't care. We told them this time and time again. They simply don't care.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think one of the points that I want to also raise is as you travel north, northern Saskatchewan, and I was visiting a couple of communities this weekend. And there was not a bloody word in this government's Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — The member's been in this House for quite some time, and I would ask him to choose his words more carefully. I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for that word, but the emotions got to me, Mr. Speaker. I'll tell you why. I'll tell you why. Because I went to a small village in my constituency this past week, and I was visiting with one of the elders there. And guess what? She was not a condo owner, Mr. Speaker. She was not a condo owner. She was a homeowner under the Sask Housing, Mr. Speaker. So when I went to visit her, she showed me her washroom which had a toilet bowl that was barely hanging on because all the wood had rotted because of moisture problems. And then I asked this elderly lady, how do you heat your home? And she said, well I've got a wood stove. I said, well don't you have a furnace in your house? She said, no, I don't have a furnace. And I said, why not? Because the road to get to our community was too rough, and the oil companies don't deliver here on a regular basis, so we put in a wood stove. We put in a wood stove, and that's how we heat my home. And I said, but you have a basement, and you have an upstairs. How do you heat both floors with one stove? And she said, well I can't because I don't have a system to get heat down there, so as a result, the basement is getting a lot of moisture, and there's some problems down there. Mould and moisture is a continual

problem in my basement.

[16:00]

Now imagine for a moment, Mr. Speaker, if somebody from the condo developers that had a condo and was told, you've got mould in your bathroom; you've got mould in one of your units, and the toilet bowl's almost going through the floor here. Oh my goodness, then you'd see the Sask Party jump up into action. Then there'd be a major . . . There'd probably be an inquiry, Mr. Speaker. There'd be an inquiry. And that's probably why the minister brought forward the inquiry amendments an hour ago, in case one of the condo developers had somebody fall through their floor. But it comes to a lot of people that see their apartment buildings being converted to condos and the Sask Party babysitting condo developers at the expense of people that are renting these buildings and these apartments for years . . . All of a sudden they're very, very quiet on that side, Mr. Speaker.

So all the attention afforded to condo developers in this particular bill, Bill 57, Mr. Speaker, it's an absolute shame that they don't show the same attention to the people that are being evicted from some apartment buildings that have been converted to condos. And they turn around and say, it's the municipality's choice, not ours. It would be sure nice if Bill 57 made, that the title is appropriate — *The Condominium Property Amendment Act*. It'd be sure nice if in this bill, this thick bill that talks about, that talks about the rights of the condo developers, it would be sure nice if somewhere along the line, somewhere along these many pages, the government says, but we'll not allow apartment buildings that have a number of families and seniors that have been living there for a number of years, we'll not allow them to convert those apartment buildings into condos. Not a word in that regard in this particular bill, Mr. Speaker.

So I go back to my earlier point, my earlier point being that the people out there ought to know that it's important for the opposition to look at these bills. It's important for the public to understand who their target audience is, whose bread that they're buttering, Mr. Speaker, if I can use that phrase, and what their objective is. Their objective is not to be concerned with those homeless people. That's how they're going to phrase that, Mr. Speaker, and our social housing unit . . . Actually, Mr. Speaker, I challenge the Premier who has just joined us here to make sure that for every condo developing . . .

The Speaker: — The member is an experienced member and knows that you cannot refer to the presence or absence of a member. I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I would point out that it's important that people out there in Saskatchewanland know one thing, is that when you look, when you look at the quarters that the Sask Party really want to court, Mr. Speaker, it is not the people that live on fixed incomes. It's not the people that have had their apartment building converted to condos and as a result they're out on the street or they're with family or they're with friends, Mr. Speaker, because they can't afford the increased rent. They are making the effort and the time to make sure they cross all the t's and dot all the i's under this condominium development Act, 2012 that's being proposed

and titled Bill 57.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of problems in Saskatchewan and one of the biggest problems is the fact that the Sask Party is ignoring a lot of people that are being impacted by decisions that they make and bills of this nature that ignore the reality of many people that suffer from homelessness. And, Mr. Speaker, those numbers are many. They're not a few. There are many, Mr. Speaker.

Now I go back to my earlier comment about this elderly lady who said to me that she has so many problems in her home, and she heats her house with a wood stove upstairs and she can't get the heat downstairs. And as a result of that, mould and mildew set in and then her home, the basement bedrooms are all full of black mould.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's no effort, there's no effort to address those issues. And why doesn't she have a furnace? Because they can't get the fuel to that community because of poor roads. Now that is a crying shame in this province, Mr. Speaker, the province of Saskatchewan 2012, Mr. Speaker, when you have that kind of activity. And where is that lady's rights? Where is that lady's respect for the issues that she has to face and the trial and tribulations that she faced? Where is that corresponding Act that addresses that? Instead of worrying about condo developers, where is another Act that's saying . . . Why don't you just name that Act, we will address the homelessness problem and we will address all the houses that are in poor shape that are under the ownership of Sask Housing. None of that is on any bill, Mr. Speaker.

And that's the important message that I have to those that are listening today, is that these bills that are being proposed, they're friendly to certain people. They're innocuous; nothing heavy-duty here, is what the ministers say. And the problem we have, the problem we have is that you have to ask the question is, what's in there to begin with? What's the intended target? And the most important thing is, what's not in that bill? What's not in that bill?

Why don't they have a seniors' bill of rights like the lady up in that community I was talking about, where she has a bill of rights for her as a tenant of Sask Housing? Where's her right to a safe washroom? Where's her right to not live in a house that has black mould? Where's her right to make sure that she has an opportunity to have doors that lock and windows that close?

None of that is identified, Mr. Speaker, in any of the Acts of the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, and that's my point. When you look at these bills, Bill 57, there is so much they're missing. There is so much that they are missing. They're not making any effort on any of the fronts that I've identified. Instead the bill talks about making sure that condo owners have parking spots and if there's no parking spots, then we will get a provincial inquiry going, Mr. Speaker. That's the intent of this particular bill.

And again I disagree with the minister when he says we will ask the condo owners to post their annual operating budget or their financial statement. Well good luck. That ain't going to happen. If they're a private sector person, they have no obligation whatsoever to listen to the rules of the provincial government to disclose to the public of Saskatchewan their private financial or

corporate information. They have no right to ask for that, and the minister knows that very well. So this whole band-aid or the babysitting process that we'll consult on how we can do that, well guess what? That ain't on and it ain't going to happen.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really important is that this government has to assume responsibility not just to make sure the condo owners have a safe place to live and they have a place to park their car. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the government should start focusing on Bill 57 to make sure that people have a place to sleep that is warm, to make sure children don't have to sleep in a mouldy bedroom, and to make that there's some alternative heat in place for some of the elders in our northern community that simply heat their home with firewood, with wood stoves. And, Mr. Speaker, that is happening in many northern communities and on many First Nations communities as well and in many inner-city communities as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are problems galore with homelessness. And this bill talks about the condo owners. It talks about their rights, their responsibilities, the need for parking their vehicles. And as far as the NDP is concerned, yes, park your vehicle in your assigned spot. And yes, you be part of the condo association. Great. And yes, if you have a beef with your condo developer then you have a membership, a board of directors that you can deal with. But I know every condo owner in the province of Saskatchewan, they'd be shocked to see what some of the other living conditions of other Saskatchewan people are. And they would be concerned.

So yes, it's important to take care of their needs but don't forget that there are other needs out here. And as long as we have seniors living in squalid conditions like many of our northern seniors live in, Mr. Speaker, then some of these Acts really don't impress the NDP. They don't impress us at all because you're missing the mark. Why are you coddling rich condo developers who can find the money to build condos? Build away. We don't care. Build as many as you can. That creates jobs. That creates opportunity for many of our tradespeople. And we support that.

But for crying out loud, at the very least if you are going to do some protection measures for the condo owners, then maybe you should flip the page and look at the homelessness that's occurring in our cities. Look at the squalid conditions that many of our seniors live in in our northern communities. And shouldn't somewhere along the line that you guys recognize that they have rights as well? A right to a safe home. A right to a heated home. A right to a functioning home. A right to a home that doesn't have doors that don't close and windows that have to be pried open.

Now, Mr. Speaker, where in the world and when in the world is the Saskatchewan Party going to start thinking about human rights instead of corporate rights? There's got to be a shift, Mr. Speaker. There's got to be a shift. And that's exactly my point, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Sask Housing is sitting in her chair laughing about that. It's not funny, the conditions that people are living under. It's not funny at all, Mr. Speaker.

The problem you have, the problem you have is many elders in northern Saskatchewan . . . I'm going to start taking pictures now, Mr. Speaker, and I want to bring them to the Assembly,

and I want to show the minister herself how some of these people are living. I'm going to show them pictures of the washrooms, the doors, the windows, and the floors. And I'm going to show her the bedrooms where some of the children sleep. I'm going to take those pictures.

And, Mr. Speaker, and we hope, we hope at the end of the day, we hope that we have another bill, maybe Bill 58 or Bill 59 to complement what Bill 57 is saying, to say that yes, we recognize that the people who live in some of these units in northern Saskatchewan or in a city or First Nations communities, that they have rights too, that they have the same rights as the condo owners. That's our point, Mr. Speaker. That's our point today.

And what's really appalling, Mr. Speaker, is that this lady, she's about 67, 68, and she told me, I actually got this letter today and I can't read it very well because my English is not good. And what does it say? So I took the letter, and you know what the letter said, Mr. Speaker? The letter said, we are reviewing the amount of rent you pay and we are looking at some of these options why, and they had a list of questions. And they're saying, this is the reason we're doing this; this is the reason we're doing that. And the poor lady didn't know that they're going to relook at her rent. And heaven forbid, Mr. Speaker, if she finds out later that not only does she not own the house which she thought she owned, Mr. Speaker, they're now going to increase her rent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, where is that lady's rights, the same rights that is described at great length from the Sask Party for condo owners in this particular bill? They specify the condo owners' rights, Mr. Speaker. They specify their rights in this bill, fairly comprehensive. Where are the people that rent from Sask Housing? Where are the people that rent from some of these other entities that offer social housing? Where is the book of their rights? Where are the rights of the people that got evicted from some of the apartment blocks that were converted to condos while the Sask Party sat idly by, Mr. Speaker? Where are those people's rights? Why is it so important to spend all this time on condo owners' rights and nothing on other people that have been evicted because they can't afford rents, or other people that have houses that should not be lived in? There's no mention of that from the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. And when the leadership opportunity came to stop the conversion of apartment buildings to condos, the Sask Party sat idly by and they said in their document in this bill, they said, they said, it is not our responsibility. The municipalities have that right to stop that if they want.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is Saskatchewan 2012. And, Mr. Speaker, they talk about \$11 billion in their budget, talk about a booming economy. They talk about a growing population and, Mr. Speaker, in this day and age there's a great many people being left behind. And I can tell you right now that the condo developers are not one of them being left behind. It's the vast majority of people that have for years suffered and sacrificed and made Saskatchewan what it is today. They are now being forgotten — that's the Aboriginal people; that's the teachers, Mr. Speaker; that's the chiropractors, Mr. Speaker. The amount of people that are getting angrier and angrier with this government because their lack of action on . . . [inaudible] . . . Despite having all that wealth, they have zero action on

addressing some of these issues.

[16:15]

And as long as we have, as long as we have elders living in poor homes and . . . As long as they have elders living in poor homes, as long as they have families living in overcrowded conditions, Mr. Speaker, as long as we have black mould bouncing around in all our northern communities and we hear that TB [tuberculosis] is making a comeback, as long as we have those problems, I can tell you that those problems from the NDP perspective are way up there — not condo developers' rights, Mr. Speaker. Not even close. Not even close to condo developers' rights.

The Saskatchewan Party are concerned about those guys. We're concerned about the folks that have homelessness, the people that have been kicked out of their apartment buildings, the people that have floors that are caving in and doors that won't close, elders living in homes that have black mould, Mr. Speaker. And not a peep from the Sask Party government about what their rights are.

So it's fine you want to protect the rights of your friends by the . . . the condominium developers as your friends. You go ahead and do that. That's your right. But our argument on this side, the social conscience of the NDP is telling you guys that you better start doing something similar to those people that have problems with homelessness, problems of being evicted, and people that live in homes that should not be lived in, Mr. Speaker. Where are their, where's their bill of rights? Where's their Act? Where is their Act? And not a peep from the minister or from the Government of Saskatchewan. Not a peep. You know why, Mr. Speaker? Because they simply don't care. That's the bottom line. They simply do not care, Mr. Speaker, and that's the bottom line.

Now had we had a similar bill in here that spoke about Sask Housing's need to improve their accommodation, the need to build more social housing units, the need to make sure that the people in Saskatchewan, the people that rent off Sask Housing, or rent off the housing authorities in the North, have similar rights as defined under the condominium owners. If they had a similar Act and a similar bill then, Mr. Speaker, that'll show a little bit of compassion. That would show a little bit of intelligence as well, but we see none of that here.

So the whole point I'm trying to make today is that obviously you want to take care of your condo developers as your friends. We understand that. But don't try and fool the people of Saskatchewan and especially don't try and fool the NDP, because we know you're not committed to the same constituency that we are when it comes to people that are being evicted from these units, people that are homeless, the elders, the many families that suffer through mould-infested houses. Mr. Speaker, we know those examples exist. We see it every day in our communities. And you want evidence? We can prove that evidence to you in a heartbeat, Mr. Speaker.

So obviously I would even suggest today as a result of some of the bills that are being introduced here is, why don't we do a public inquiry on the state of housing in northern Saskatchewan, in the inner cities, in First Nations communities?

Why don't we do an inquiry on the state of housing that the Sask Party, through Sask Housing, owns? Why don't we do that, that we've talked about that today? And heck, we'll even let a judge that maybe wants to retire stay on for an extra six months to finish his work. We don't have a problem with that.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really, really important that the people that have issues, the people that have housing issues, not just the condo owners, we know that they're important. We need to respect them as well, but the people that have housing issues, their issues need the same attention and action and focus as the condo owners are getting under this bill. That is my point, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's really important and there's a lot more that I would like to say, a lot more that I want to say, and there'll be a lot more that my colleagues will say because this issue is not going away, Mr. Speaker. This issue is not going away.

And to add insult to injury, Mr. Speaker, this Act allows condo owners and their association to make sure they have a good board of directors. The Act also allows them to appeal some of the decisions of the condo developers, and they also have really rigid standards for any kind of organization within the condo unit itself. They have all that. It's all identified there, Mr. Speaker. And I can almost guarantee you if the condo developer were to say to any of his tenants, guess what? I'm raising your rent from 800 to \$2,000 per month. And the condo owner says, why? Well because you're making more money. Well imagine the trouble that that would create, Mr. Speaker. Imagine the trouble that that would create.

Well let me give you an example of what this bill does not do, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't address that when it comes to Sask Housing, because this minister and this government are now telling the working people in northern Saskatchewan that if you've got a housing unit and you're raising your family, you're living on fixed income, then over the years you went to school, you showed initiative, then you started working at a low-level job, and then you started making more and more money. And all of a sudden, Mr. Speaker, you're working at the mine where they make 80, 90,000 a year.

And now the minister's saying, oh you can't stay here no more because you're making too much money. Imagine if you tell that to a condo owner under this bill. You can't stay here no more. You're making too much money. You pay me 2,000 a month or you're out. Well that's exactly what this minister and the Sask Party's doing to many working people in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, exactly what they're doing.

And then the minister says, oh, there's 13 people making over 100,000 in these units so we're going to kick out 800. Well, Mr. Speaker, you know, that's actually splitting hairs here, and to use those 13 people as an example for what . . . I have always believed that they had no intent of addressing northern Saskatchewan housing issues or the rights of some of these tenants or finally telling some of these tenants.

The same way that you stood idly by to allow apartment buildings to be converted to condos, why don't you stand idly by and let these working families buy these houses off Sask Housing and get out of their faces, get out of their hair? Let the

working men and women of northern Saskatchewan own these houses. The same way you give rights to the condo owners to buy up apartment buildings, why don't you offer the same right, the same opportunity to the working men and women in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker?

Why won't they do that? You know why, Mr. Speaker? Because they don't care. They simply don't care for those people, the working class in northern Saskatchewan. But if you're a condo developer, guess what? We'll get a whole brand new bill set up for you. If you're a condo developer, we'll make sure that you have a nice place; you can come and build your multi-million-dollar buildings. But guess what? We got to deal with the condo owners too, make sure they have parking spots. Can you do that? And we'll insist publicly that you've got to produce your financial statements. We'll negotiate that in public, but we know, we know you won't do that.

So the minister says, we'll consult the condo owners on making their financial statements public each year. Well I've got a bridge for sale in P.A. [Prince Albert] for you. No, it can't be in P.A. They didn't get their bridge. I've got a bridge in Buffalo Narrows that I could sell that minister. Congratulations. There's no way, Mr. Speaker, there's no way that a condo developer's going to share his financial information with the public of Saskatchewan because they built a condo project in downtown Saskatoon. No way. That ain't on, Mr. Speaker. And for the minister to say, we're going to consult with them — good luck on that one. I can almost guarantee you that ain't going to happen.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really important. There was a song in my heart for the effort they tried to undertake to support condo owners. I appreciate that, because a lot of my friends own condos, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate what their point is, Mr. Speaker. But they ignored and they omitted and they simply don't care about the other group of people that are homeless, Mr. Speaker, that live in squalid conditions. They simply don't care.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's going to be a fight coming up in northern Saskatchewan over their program to end the cap on rent. There's going to be a big fight coming, Mr. Speaker. There's going to be a lot of problems occurring in northern Saskatchewan because of that minister's decision to throw away the rental cap and then start attacking working men and women in northern Saskatchewan. These people are not through, Mr. Speaker. There's going to be a lot of people coming out of the woodwork, and there's going to be a fight on that front.

So, Mr. Speaker, why would you do that to one group of people and not do it for another, Mr. Speaker? Why are you choosing winners and losers in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? Why are you doing that? And, Mr. Speaker, you know, the amazing thing is the Minister of Finance is smiling at his chair here, laughing. At the very least, when he assumed that position in that chair, there was money in the bank, a booming economy, and the population was growing. The population was growing. And yes, we sit here and we all smile when they say, oh we done it. Look at us, what a wonderful job we're doing. We sit here and we smile, Mr. Speaker, because the people of Saskatchewan, everybody knows it wasn't them that created it, but they left them a lot of money — \$2.3 billion in the bank.

And, Mr. Speaker, the first two months, the first two months they say, oh we paid down the debt 40 per cent. So we turned around and we said, well that's the money we left you. You know, that's the money we left you. So the whole point is, you're welcome, but please don't mess it up. That was our only message, Mr. Speaker, don't mess it up. And what did they do? They messed it up, Mr. Speaker. They went to war with labour. They threw out the environmental agenda. Their social conscience doesn't exist. They're going to sell the Crowns.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're sitting here saying, my goodness. We asked them very kindly, despite all the work, all the work done by the people of Saskatchewan, and the tough sacrifices made by the NDP administration . . . And it took us 16 years to rebuild this economy, Mr. Speaker, 12 years of which was cleaning up the last Tory mess, Mr. Speaker. That's where we spent a lot of time. And yet they still have the . . . We still left them all those assets. And we asked them for one thing. One little thing, don't mess it up. That's all we asked.

And I'm going to be curious to see, I'm going to be curious to see our financial statement coming up in a couple of weeks, Mr. Speaker. Where exactly are we? You know, I need to find that out. And we're going to pay close attention to that, Mr. Speaker, because the bottom line is, despite what the Sask Party inherited, Mr. Speaker, they're going to the same old tricks. They're forgetting about the people of Saskatchewan and the issues that matter, Mr. Speaker. They're forgetting about the integrity of managing this economy and this province well, Mr. Speaker. They're really not taking care of business that they should be and making sure that absolutely everybody should benefit from this booming economy, not just a select few or their friends, Mr. Speaker. It's got to be everybody.

So I'll point out again on Bill 57, on Bill 57 that it's not really what the bill is talking about today and talks about condo developer's rights, Mr. Speaker. My point is, where are the rights of the other people that rent from Sask Housing? Where are the rights of the working men and women in the North that are being kicked out because they earn too much money? Mr. Speaker, where are the rights of those elders that have substandard housing? It's not identified in this bill. It's not identified in any way, shape, or form. So from my perspective, it's not about the bill that we will study vigorously to see what they might be doing wrong. It's about what the bill forgot about as well, Mr. Speaker. And that's the message, Mr. Speaker. That is the message.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would also point out that the whole notion of going after working men and women, I have no idea, I have no idea why that's effective nor is it common sense for the people of Saskatchewan. I can't figure that out, Mr. Speaker. I can't figure that out.

And we hear a rant from the former minister of Justice, the guy that wants to add three more MLAs and stop people from voting. You know, that's the point that I've raised, Mr. Speaker. Every right wing plan that comes forward from the Sask Party is come from that corner, Mr. Speaker. And we fully realize that. And the whole process . . . I'm going to go back to my earlier statement, my earlier story on Bill 57, Mr. Speaker, is when they're rocking their grandkids and talking about what they've done in government, that grandchild will ask his

grandfather or grandmother, will ask grampa, well who done all this work? Was it a guy named Gerry Mander? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, no, no. It's not Gerry Mander . . .

The Speaker: — Will the member please make comments related to the bill. He's been wandering all over the place, and I ask him to come back to the bill.

Mr. Belanger: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the bill itself, the bill itself is omitting a lot of issues. It's a lot of issues. And I want to hear, I want to hear the minister of housing get up and say, yes, this is a great bill, Mr. Speaker. I want to see how she votes on this bill, all the while knowing, all the while knowing the incredible, squalid conditions that many people are living in in some of Sask Housing units. The fact that she has kicked out working men and women out of these units that they've occupied for many years, refuses to sell them those units, Mr. Speaker, and refused to build new social units to address the growing demands in our community, Mr. Speaker, because the money's not there.

And the last time I checked in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker, on the housing file, related to Bill 57, is that I think they fired half the Sask Housing workers in Prince Albert. I think that whole floor is gone, Mr. Speaker, the whole floor is gone. So we ask where is, where are all the employees that deliver programs, Mr. Speaker? They have been fired. They have been terminated, Mr. Speaker. And the minister ought to know that because it's within her portfolio.

[16:30]

So I think one of the biggest things, Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest things is quite frankly, Bill 57 totally misses the mark. It totally misses the mark because all I see here is condo developers' protection. Why didn't they just simply call it the condominium developers' protection Act? Why didn't they name it that, Mr. Speaker? Because that's all this bill does. It doesn't address any other issue, Mr. Speaker, at all. So on that note, I'd like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill 57.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 57, *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 58 — *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2012*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to move second reading of Bill No. 58, *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2012*. I heard the member opposite, the member from Athabasca's comments and, Mr. Speaker, before I go into my remarks, it's my intention to go through each and every comment that he made and review and analyze that. However if I was serious on that, Mr. Speaker, we'd be here until about 2 o'clock in the morning, so I will go

ahead directly and comment on Bill No. 58, *The Workers' Compensation Act*.

Mr. Speaker, in 2010 the government appointed a six-member committee to review the workers' compensation system. This committee of review held public consultations across the province in 2011 which allowed stakeholders to comment on their experiences with workers' compensation. Feedback received from employers and employees was condensed into a series of recommended changes to workers' compensation which the committee presented to the government on November 7th, 2011. Those that require legislative amendments are included in *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2012*. In addition the Act has been modernized and restructured to improve readability and ease of use.

Mr. Speaker, this bill represents a positive step forward for workers' compensation in Saskatchewan. It increases benefit levels for injured workers. It introduces a system of indexation to ensure benefits are adjusted annually. It allows workers to chose between purchasing an annuity or receiving a lump-sum payment. It provides the Board with the ability to assess administrative penalties, and it increases the Board's borrowing limit.

Mr. Speaker, some injured workers in the province have not had an increase to their workers' compensation benefit levels since 2005. This bill addresses this in a manner that is fair and fiscally responsible. The minimum wage rate will be increased from 55,000 to 59,000 for workers injured after this bill comes into force. The Workers' Compensation Board will then increase the maximum wage range incrementally over the following four years until it reaches 165 per cent of the average weekly range. Additionally all current claimants in the province will receive an annual increase in benefits to ensure that they are consistent with inflation.

The bill now contains a benefit formula that will ensure future changes to benefits will be done in a fair, transparent, and predictable manner. This bill moves from the current system of fines, payable upon summary conviction, to administrative penalties for contravening the Act. An administrative penalty of up to \$10,000 can be applied in the event that an employer breaches their obligations under the Act, such as failing to notify the Board of an injury, collecting money from an employee for a medical expense, and refusing to let the Board inspect their records without a lawful excuse. The introduction of administrative penalties is intended to enhance the Workers' Compensation Board's ability to recover money owed to employees.

This bill also, Mr. Speaker, increases the WCB's [Workers' Compensation Board] borrowing limit to \$25 million. Saskatchewan currently has the second lowest borrowing limit of all workers' compensation boards in Canada. When considered relative to the amount of premiums the WCB is responsible for and the value of benefits paid on a weekly basis, Saskatchewan has the lowest credit limit in all of Canada. The increase to \$25 million provides the WCB with additional flexibility as it conducts its daily operations.

Mr. Speaker, this bill places an obligation on employers to assist with an employee's Return to Work program. Return to

Work programs assist in maintaining an employee's connection with the workplace. They also increase the employee's sense of self-worth during the recovery process. This change will pay dividends to the employee, the employer, and the workers' compensation system.

This bill provides clarity to a number of WCB's internal processes. These include codifying the fair practice office within the legislation and clarifying the appeal process for claimants that disagree with the decision of the WCB regarding a claim for compensation. The fair practices office has been in place since 2003 when it was first established through WCB policy. The fair practice office will continue to operate as the internal ombudsman of the WCB. The appeal provision has been clarified in the Act for ease of use by stakeholders. The appeal process itself has not been changed.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill also modernizes the previous legislation by removing gender-specific language, using consistent terms, and improving clarity and ease of use for stakeholders. By proposing these changes, we are ensuring that both employers and employees continue to benefit from a modern workers' compensation system that addresses Saskatchewan's growing economy. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of this bill. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Bill No. 58, *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2012* has been moved for second reading by the Minister of Advanced Education. I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm again pleased to be able to stand here today and offer my insights on this particular bill. I want to point out at the outset that there are many people out there that are impacted with workmen's compensation. We've had cases come to our office. We've had people describe many times of the shortcomings of the process, and as a government, I think the people of Saskatchewan are genuinely concerned as to where this government is going to go when it comes to protecting workers' rights.

And certainly the copy of the bill, I think, is something that we need to share with people because, quite frankly, it's something that people need to pay attention to. They need to pay close attention to Bill 58, primarily because if you look at what the original plan was when the NDP were in power, I can remember that some of the things we were talking about when we talked about workman's compensation rights — and I need my colleague, the former minister of Labour here to correct me if I'm wrong — but at one time we had the plan to support and protect the workers, that we'd have enough cash within the workman's compensation Act, enough cash on hand to cover as many of the working people that may have got injured for a long, long time, Mr. Speaker. That was part of the management, financial management plan of the workman's compensation board. And I'm not certain whether my colleague from Saskatoon Centre was one of the architects or was a minister at the time, but that was a vision that the NDP had. And, Mr. Speaker, it's really, really important to note that clearly we knew protection of workers was paramount to the success of our economy, that we had to do that.

And when the NDP talk about smart growth, Mr. Speaker, what

we're talking about when we talk about smart growth, Mr. Speaker, is balancing three or four principles. And the three most important principles, Mr. Speaker, is to allow investment into our province. Because we understand that, as we've seen under the leadership of Romanow first taking back our province from the depths of debt, Mr. Speaker, and then you transfer to Calvert who really built this economy, Mr. Speaker, by inviting companies, oil and gas companies to come here from Alberta. And in a heartbeat, Mr. Speaker, they came. They came to Saskatchewan, and one of the reasons why they came is because of Premier Calvert and the NDP administration at the time, Mr. Speaker.

And I do have the transcripts, and I'll pull them out one of these days. When I attended a conference in Lloydminster, Mr. Speaker, when I was at that conference in Lloydminster, people were there from the oil and gas company, this CAPP [Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers] at the time. And they gave rave comments about how great Saskatchewan is and how visionary Calvert is, Mr. Speaker, and how great the royalty schemes are, Mr. Speaker. They had all that, Mr. Speaker, in a presentation. And I got that, Mr. Speaker, and I got that statement. And I want to share it with all the Sask Party colleagues pretty quick, Mr. Speaker. I want to show them what those oil and gas company people said.

Now I noticed that member from Moose Jaw is giggling from his seat, Mr. Speaker, at that statement. Perhaps he should have been showing that much energy and enthusiasm in defending Valley View Centre instead of entering into debate on the economy of Saskatchewan. He should have shown a bit more enthusiasm on that front, Mr. Speaker. But like his colleague from Moose Jaw, pretty quiet over there, Mr. Speaker. You throw in the odd giggle and the odd statement and that's the extent of their defending Moose Jaw's interests, Mr. Speaker.

But that being said, that being said, when we had that presentation from CAPP and from some of these oil and gas leaders in . . . I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, they came to Saskatchewan in droves, and they really stimulated the provincial economy, and everything from the Bakken play, Mr. Speaker, to all the activity around Lloyd, Mr. Speaker — all that exciting things, all the exciting opportunity and times that Saskatchewan enjoyed, Mr. Speaker. It was absolutely phenomenal for us to see. And, Mr. Speaker, we continued building.

Now the biggest thing I think is important is that when we look at that notion of inviting industry, attracting investment to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the NDP's not going to take any advice; don't take a back seat to the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker. Because we make sure we do it in a fair, pragmatic fashion that's good for not only the businesses that are joining us, but good for the long-term health of our province, Mr. Speaker. That's really important.

The second part of what I think is important as a cornerstone for our economy is to make sure that we take care of the environment and make sure we have clean air, fresh water, and we have lakes and rivers and streams and forest and farm land and wildlife to sustain human life. We think that's really important, Mr. Speaker. But what I think is happening on the other side is they're taking their lead from the former federal

connection that the member from Martensville may have had with Harper. And she is kind of dictating their environmental agenda, which is nothing, Mr. Speaker.

So I think one of the points is you look at an example of a species at risk where the federal government has basically washed their hands of that. Now the Saskatchewan Party is saying, you have the responsibility. Not a peep from them. What's going to happen with that particular exercise?

So my point being, Mr. Speaker, is that you have to have good investment. You've got to have protection of the environment, and you have to have protection of workers, Mr. Speaker. You've got to have protection of workers because that's who drives the economy overall. You've got to give them fair salaries. You've got to give them good workplace safety. You've got to give them appreciation. You've got to give them a pension plan because they put a lot of their own money at risk, Mr. Speaker. And you've got to make sure you give them the respect and admiration that they enjoy. These are the people that are working in our oil fields, Mr. Speaker. These are the machinists that are doing their trade in a number of different mines, Mr. Speaker. These are the electricians, the journeymen plumbers. These are the people that are really the oil of our economy. And what this government decides to do is go to war with them.

So you're throwing out the environment, you're going to war with organized labour, and then all you're doing is following the NDP lead on attracting investing. So what kind of government is this, Mr. Speaker? Is the government that's sitting there ideologically driven to sell the Crowns, and it's every man for himself? If you want to be government so bad, and the premise that's used is getting rid of government, that's one thing I can't understand, Mr. Speaker. They're talking about less government and getting rid of government, yet they want to be government. Because, Mr. Speaker, it is quite frankly, absolutely confusing.

And the worst part of it, they're adding more MLAs. So for a party that's advocating less government, we're going to add more MLAs. So the people are saying, well what's up with that?

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, going back to my bill, I think what's important is that when you look at the organized labour file, why they've done that to begin with is I don't quite understand, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan don't understand, Mr. Speaker.

You know, and you talk about the lean program, the lean program where they're going to cut — what? — 15, 20 per cent of the working staff in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And why didn't they do the lean program with the MLAs? They should have got rid of three of them instead of adding three more. But what's up with that, Mr. Speaker? You don't do as we say . . . They don't practise what they say. And they tell the organized men and women that you don't follow our lead; you just do what you're told. And we're going to cut, cut, cut, cut. And we're not going to take care of you when the chips are down.

So, Mr. Speaker, why didn't they do, why didn't they do a lean program on the backbench over there, Mr. Speaker? They

should have done a lean program on the backbench because at the end of the day, when there's great problems in P.A., you don't hear no MLAs in P.A. talking. When there's Valley View Centre problems from Moose Jaw, you don't hear no Moose Jaw MLA speaking. So they should cut out that. They should cut out that area because really they're not contributing anything to the debate. They're not contributing anything to their community. And they're simply singing from the song sheet handed from them, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

My goodness, why don't they stand up and get that second bridge for P.A.? My goodness, why don't they stand up and fight for a good solution to the Valley View problem that they have in Moose Jaw? Instead all you hear, Mr. Speaker, is, we're part of this government. We're so excited to be part of it. We're just going to keep quiet about it.

And what really is amazing, Mr. Speaker, as a result of Bill 58 is you'll stand . . . We see those members stand up even though they know many of the people that work in Moose Jaw for the government will be hurt by this process. The people that work and contribute to Saskatchewan's economy will be hurt by this process. But they'll stand up and the first words out of their mouth, the first words out of their mouth . . . What's that, their phrase? Their growth plan. You know, I noticed you don't hear very much about the growth plan anymore, but you know why? Because their growth plan is dead, Mr. Speaker. The growth plan is just some figment of somebody's imagination somewhere, Mr. Speaker. The bottom line is that they made the statement and they tell all their backbench, say this over and over again and pretty soon people will believe it.

Well we in the opposition don't buy that growth plan one bit, Mr. Speaker, because of bills like this, bills like this, Bill 58, Mr. Speaker. It goes to war with organized labour. It doesn't protect workers through workmen's compensation, Mr. Speaker, not a bit. There's nothing in here that impresses the NDP whatsoever, Mr. Speaker, because quite frankly they forgot, they forgot two pillars — two pillars, Mr. Speaker, in their growth plan. Number one is you've got to make sure you look after the working men and women through Acts like this, which they've never done. They cut 15 per cent, 20 per cent of their workforce, Mr. Speaker. And second thing is, they threw out, they threw under the bus the environmental agenda. The environmental agenda, Mr. Speaker, that's gone too.

And about the only thing that they've done, Mr. Speaker, that was smart, was they followed the NDP's investment strategy to attract corporations to Saskatchewan, namely oil and gas, Mr. Speaker. But the very least, at the very least they've done one of those things right, was to follow the NDP lead on how to develop an economy and attract investment. Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what they've done.

So on the flip side, on the flip side we said, look after your workers. Workmen's compensation should be, the workmen's compensation Act should be the centre of all the things we do as a government. We should make that paramount to any activity happening in our province, that worker's rights and positioning men and women to get those jobs and be paid fairly, to have that protection. All those issues are so important, Mr.

Speaker. I almost used a bad word there. But they're so important to the provincial economy and I'm trying to explain to the Sask Party who simply is ignoring it right now, has their backs turned.

But the fact of the matter is we won't be silenced when it comes to workers' rights, Mr. Speaker. We will not be silenced when we see the Sask Party go to war to organize labour and we will not be silenced when we have bills like Bill 58 coming up, that are watered down and confusing and from our perspective is, quite frankly, we simply don't see no commitment for the workers or for the people of Saskatchewan coming from that government, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why on Bill 58 I'm going to make sure, I'm going to make sure that all my colleagues have their time to sing from the heart and fight from the mind on the points of protecting workers, and stop going to war with our working men and women and build up ... [inaudible] ... the workmen's compensation Act, workers' compensation Act, Mr. Speaker, and to make sure that this government doesn't get away with anything.

And I know our organized labour, the organized union people out there, they will not give up. They will not give up. They know that this government wants to get rid of them. They're not going to sit idly by and let them do that. They're going to fight back every inch of the way, Mr. Speaker, and the NDP's going to be right alongside of them because it's the right thing to do for our economy. It's the only way you can build a long-lasting economy and it's time the Sask Party got that message.

So on that point, Mr. Speaker, I adjourn debate on Bill 58.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment on Bill No. 58, *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Government House Leader has moved that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:50.]

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