



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

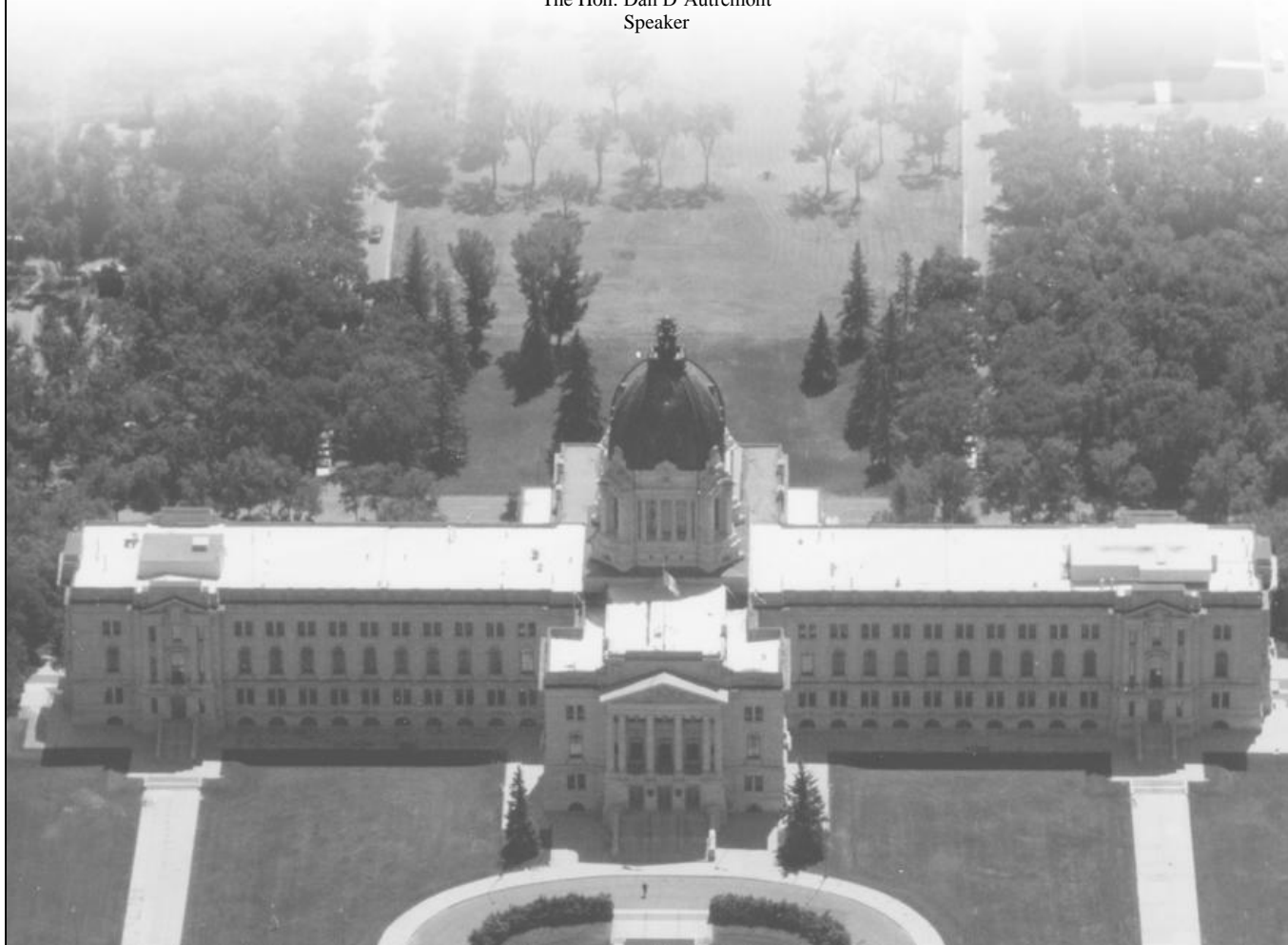
of the

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. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, it's an honour to introduce a guest that has joined us. He is seated in your gallery. He is Mr. Peter Kujawinski, who is the consul general of the United States of America to our country. And obviously he's visiting our province both for meetings today, and I'll have a chance to meet with him tomorrow. This is the consul general's first visit to the province of Saskatchewan and to our Legislative Building, and we hope he will return frequently for ongoing discussions, and as we further this relationship between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, he is a career diplomat, having joined the United States state department in 1998. He has been posted to US [United States] embassies in France and Israel and to the US delegations to the United Nations Security Council in New York. He served in the US embassy in Haiti as a political counsellor and coordinator of US assistance promoting governance and the rule of law.

He's going to be meeting with a number of provincial and community representatives including the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of the Environment, and the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources and for Trade.

Mr. Speaker, I don't need to tell members in this House how important the relationship is between our country, indeed our province, and the United States. Last year Saskatchewan exported \$17.2 billion worth of goods to the US. It's actually a 23 per cent increase from the year before. And on the other side of the coin, we bought about \$8 billion worth of US goods into our province.

Mr. Speaker, by way of perspective, by way of context, it's important to note that the state of Illinois — and I think the consul general's from Chicago — the state of Illinois represents \$55.8 billion in Saskatchewan exports. That actually is three times larger than our entire trade with China. So the relationship is the most important one we have with respect to trade. We look forward to it continuing and of furthering the relationship to the mutual benefit of our two countries and the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in on behalf of the opposition and welcome the consul general to Saskatchewan. If this is your first visit, I know what you will find in Saskatchewan, that many of us have American roots back in our ancestry because so many people who settled Saskatchewan came via Chicago, via Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota.

And so practically you have many, many friends and probably, if you look a little bit carefully, you may even find some relatives. So I think that's important because the trade relationship that we have as Saskatchewan people with United States is crucial to our future, but I think it's also crucial to the future of the US Midwest and all of the United States. And I know that's why you come to the job that you have in Calgary. It's a very important one, and we welcome you.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, it is an honour to introduce my friends and their daughter, seated in your gallery. No stranger to this province is Dan Rashovich, wife Laura, and daughter Olena, recently moved back from Calgary. Give us a wave. Dan played for the Riders for 13 years, was a teammate with the member from Regina Dewdney; might be a few stories there we'll hear later. Culmination of his career led to his induction into the Riders' Plaza of Honor in 2011.

The one sidebar here, the day after the ceremony, a wee bit late, Dan had promised to door knock for me. And the deal was he could quit when he got someone to take a lawn sign. Well I can report that Dan was one for one — one house knocked and one lawn sign. Probably helped that the house had a Go Riders Go sign in the window.

Laura is a great clinical and diagnostic social worker, and Olena is a future Olympian, presently with the Dolphins and takes Ukrainian dancing with Tavria.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like all members of this Assembly to welcome Dan, Laura, Olena, back to Regina and to their legislature.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature, 17 grade 5 and 6 students from École Connaught Community School in Regina Lakeview. They're accompanied by their teacher, Jacqueline Roy, and Jackie Jerret, and Scott Mazur. And so I ask all members to welcome. They're seated in the east gallery.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I have the pleasure of introducing a number of guests seated in the west gallery, and I would ask them to stand or give us a wave when I say their name.

Mr. Speaker, today is World Diabetes Day and we have a number of events planned this afternoon at the Legislative Building. And I'm very pleased to be able to introduce the president and CEO [chief executive officer] of the Canadian Diabetes Association, Mr. Michael Cloutier; the vice-president of government relations and public affairs for the CDA [Canadian Diabetes Association], Mr. Glen Doucet; Warren Wagner, the regional director for Saskatchewan for the CDA. I

had the opportunity to meet with Warren this summer at the diabetes run which I had the opportunity to attend.

Paige Orser, a student and CDA leader in training from Estevan; Robert Lydiate, a CDA volunteer from here in Regina; Tristan Banyay, a CDA leader in training in Saskatoon; and Carlene Schmaltz, a nurse diabetes educator from Carrot River.

Mr. Speaker, as I said a moment ago, we have an opportunity to meet with these individuals later this afternoon. As well, the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] reception is this evening and I hope we have a good turnout this evening. And I would ask all members to help me in welcoming them to their Legislative Building.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming this group of individuals to the Assembly today on World Diabetes Day. Thank you so much for the work that you do throughout the year. I think all members in the Assembly have a family member or a friend who lives with diabetes and that's why we appreciate and value so much the work that goes on on an ongoing basis throughout the year for improving awareness and pursuing advocacy at all levels of government. So I welcome all individuals. But I do want to say a special hello to Tristan Banyay who is a constituent and I know is very active in Saskatoon. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would say welcome and we look forward to the reception this afternoon. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to request permission for an extended leave for introduction.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Third time's a charm, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, visitors in the Speaker's gallery, 27 members of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association. I thank them for the work they do throughout the year promoting snowmobiling, which I believe has become our number one, our premier tourism attraction, as well as making it safer.

Just recently they have worked with the SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] and the Minister of SGI to deliver an online snowmobile safety course that will be delivered starting November 19th. So we thank them very much for that.

They have worked very hard to develop snowmobiling to the true family-oriented sport that it has become. Mr. Speaker, I'll ask them to wave as I introduce them separately. Firstly, Mr. Chris Brewer, president and CEO of the SSA [Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association]. His wife, Jeannie Brewer, who is a breast cancer survivor and founding member of Prairie Women

on Snowmobiles which to date has raised \$1.8 million. Beside them, well no, not quite beside . . . We'll just ask them to keep waving. Bev Bradshaw isn't able to get up in the gallery. She's seated on your floor, a good friend of mine and a mother of a good friend mine from Yorkton. Her husband, Barry Bradshaw is up in the gallery. He's the chairman of the SSA and one of the founding, if not the founding member of Timmy's Snowarama or Easter Seals Snowarama in Saskatchewan. He's been there since the inception, Mr. Speaker.

With them is John Popoff, founding member and director of the SSA, and his wife, Mae Popoff. Founding member of . . . Another founding member of the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles, Carol Tulik. And other members of Prairie Women on Snowmobiles, Mr. Speaker, Carol McKnight, Daphne Wickstrom, Carol McSmytz, Pat Haeusler, Rhonda Dressler, Cheryl Lorenz, Clarice Hunter, Ingrid Conrad, Ruth Lockert, Shirley Biehn, Shannon Scott.

And along with them other members of the SSA is Jennifer Schneider, Kelsey Lockert, Chelsie Steurmer, Jill Kratky — Emily Grimes is on the floor down here with us, Mr. Speaker — Kathy Lindsay, Don Thompson, Joan Thompson, and Barry Nontell.

I will be speaking more about a few of these members during members' statements in a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, but in the meantime I ask all members to welcome these significant members of our province and members of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association to their Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to join with the member from Yorkton in welcoming the 27 members of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association to your legislature.

I know through the years the activities of the Snowmobile Association have increased and taken on greater and greater significance here. It takes tremendous effort to ensure that there are marked and groomed trails for snowmobile enthusiasts across the province. And perhaps even more important is the work your association does in educating and reminding people about the safety aspects involved in snowmobiling. So thank you for all your work in that regard.

It looks like apparently winter's here in full force again. And I know many people would have seen that as a bit of a downer but there's so many snowmobile enthusiasts who are thinking it's a wonderful thing that winter is finally here. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming the members from the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you there is a lady here from Carrot River who's Carlene Schmaltz, who is a RN [registered nurse] in the Kelsey Trail district specializing in diabetics. And Carlene works hard at her job there. And not only that, her husband, Cory Schmaltz

happens to be the coach of our Carrot River Wildcat football team, which is well known for winning four provincial titles in the last 12 years, Mr. Speaker. So I would like to welcome her to this Assembly.

Plus while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, with the SSA is Emily Grimes who is from Carrot River. And Emily has been a tireless volunteer at various different things throughout the community and a very good asset to the Carrot River community. So I'd like all members to welcome these people to their Assembly. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand today to present a petition in reference to cellphone coverage. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

To undertake, as soon as possible, to ensure SaskTel delivers cellular service to the Canoe Lake First Nation, along with the adjoining communities of Cole Bay and Jans Bay; Buffalo River First Nation, also known as Dillon, and the neighbouring communities of Michel Village and St. George's Hill; English River First Nation, also known as Patuanak, and the hamlet of Patuanak; and Birch Narrows First Nation along with the community of Turnor Lake, including all the neighbouring communities in each of those areas.

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are primarily from Cole Bay, but we have signatures from all throughout the northwestern Saskatchewan, including Turnor Lake, Patuanak, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Buffalo Narrows, Cole Bay, Jans Bay, etc. And, Mr. Speaker, I so present.

[13:45]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Remembering Jim Sinclair

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remember Jim Sinclair, a driving force of the Aboriginal movement in Canada, a true leader in Saskatchewan, our nation, and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition spoke of Mr. Sinclair's accomplishments yesterday, so they are already on record. This statement is of a more personal nature. The Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations was going to do this member's statement, but it was agreed that I do it because of my personal connection with Jim.

Jim has been a close friend of the Campeau family for many years, so close that I thought he was a blood relative until I actually got the opportunity to work for him. He was active in Aboriginal politics along with my late uncle, Clarence

Campeau, and my uncle, Alvin Campeau. I looked at old news footage of Jim this morning, and in most of the shots you could see my Uncle Alvin right next to him. They were inseparable, and when they had the time, you could find them on the golf course.

Those who knew Jim knew he had a lifelong love affair with golf. Jim had a picture of Jean Chrétien and himself on the golf course on his desk when I worked for him at the Native Council of Canada where he was a founding member — the first time I was 15 years old, and later as an adult. And I remember him asking me, how the heck did you get a status card?

So recently, just this last year, Jim gave me his blessing to run for a seat in the legislature. Jim had affected me in a profound way which caused me to not accept the status quo and to always push myself to do better and to expect more from others. Recently Jim was able to get a status card due to Bill C-31, and I always wanted to ask him and get cheeky and, how the heck did you end up with the status card? Sadly I didn't get the chance and there will never be another leader like Jim. However he carved a path for others to follow and made sure Aboriginal rights were included in the Canadian Constitution.

On behalf of the government and the people of Saskatchewan, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Sinclair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

University of Saskatchewan's Wall of Honour Inductee

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Marguerite Gallaway on being inducted into the Wall of Honour for the University of Saskatchewan's College of Education.

Marguerite is a true community builder. She grew up in Birsay, Saskatchewan and taught in Estevan before turning her career focus towards the arts. In 1974, she was hired as the first executive director of the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils where she organized 55 new arts councils. She also started the Saskatchewan concert series and the program, *Koncerts For Kids*.

Marguerite has served on many influential boards including UNICEF [United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund] Canada, UNICEF Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan arts, SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology], and the Sun Country regional health board. She was also a founding member of CAPACOA [The Canadian Arts Presenting Association/l'Association canadiennes des organismes artistiques]. She went on to develop Souris Valley Theatre and served as executive producer for 20 years. During that time she also founded the Souris Valley Museum where she gathered an impressive collection.

Marguerite has been honoured with many other awards, including the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Order of Canada, an honorary degree from the University of Saskatchewan, and most recently a Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all to join with me to congratulate and honour Ms. Marguerite Gallaway and to thank her for a life and career truly dedicated to enriching our proud province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

World Diabetes Day

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize World Diabetes Day. Ninety-one years ago, Canadian Frederick Banting gave the life-saving gift of insulin to the world. World Diabetes Day is an opportunity for Canadians to celebrate this important discovery on Frederick Banting's birthday.

Today over 80,000 people in Saskatchewan are living with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes. This number is expected to increase to 111,000 or close to 10 per cent of the population by 2020.

Mr. Speaker, over the last year our government has followed through on its commitment to better support those living with diabetes. In December 2011, two long-acting insulins were listed in the Saskatchewan formulary as full benefits. And in January 2012, the insulin pump program was expanded to include adults up to age 25. Diabetes must be diagnosed early and managed well in order to delay or prevent serious complications. Access to diabetes medications, health care providers, devices, and supplies is critical for individuals to manage their disease. By ensuring people with diabetes receive the support they need to manage their illness, we are ensuring a sustainable future for all people living in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as a type 2 diabetic, I would like to thank all those who work in the diabetic field in our health system, and I would also like to thank the work of the Canadian Diabetes Association. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of the House join me in commemorating World Diabetes Day.

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

St. John's Anglican Cathedral Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year St. John's Anglican Cathedral celebrated the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone by the Governor General, His Royal Highness Prince Arthur.

This beautiful and historic building's stained glass windows are among the finest in Canada and the steeple is among the tallest in Western Canada. The building was designated as a municipal heritage site in 2004 and is among the most visited and photographed historic buildings in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, when the cornerstone to this beautiful building was laid, hiding behind it was a shallow copper time capsule. This year the cornerstone, now badly in need of repair, was carefully removed by masons and the time capsule brought out. Isabella Rhodes, born September 14th, 1912, was on hand to open the capsule. Now housed in an antique display case in the

cathedral's north annex, the 100-year-old capsule contained many things. Among them were a Bible and a *Book of Common Prayer*, coins of the realm, photos of the bishop and Canada's then recently appointed Governor General.

The cathedral has marked its 100th anniversary year with a whole range of events. In September, they had a three-day homecoming celebration where the restored cornerstone was replaced, this time with three time capsules filled with current photos and other items.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone at St. John's Anglican Cathedral in Saskatoon. Thank you.

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

International Education Week

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to announce that our government has proclaimed November 11th to 17th as International Education Week. This week is celebrated in over 100 countries and is intended to increase the profile of international education and to help celebrate its benefits for our scholars, our students, our employers, and our province.

Mr. Speaker, the global theme this year is Canada Engages the World: Realizing our Potential through International Education. Mr. Speaker, since 2008 the number of international students studying in Saskatchewan has increased by nearly 35 per cent. Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to helping build a better quality of life for people right across the province, and to do so our Premier recently unveiled the Saskatchewan plan for growth. Importantly our plan includes strategies and steps to better connect Saskatchewan to the world, including goals to enhance international education, goals like increasing the number of international post-secondary students by at least 50 per cent by 2020, promoting the study of international languages in our business schools, as well as by establishing the Saskatchewan international future scholarship, which will provide 20 business students a year the opportunity to study abroad as long as they come back to help fuel our future growth.

Mr. Speaker, these goals help to demonstrate Saskatchewan's commitment to International Education Week, to our students, and to the continued growth and prosperity of the new Saskatchewan.

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

Drug Awareness and Healthy Lifestyles Day

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today Saskatoon recognizes Drug Awareness and Healthy Lifestyles Day. This annual initiative is hosted by the Saskatoon Health Region's mental health and addiction services, the Saskatoon Police Service, Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services, and MD Ambulance. It is aimed at educating young people about positive choices that contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, more than 1,900 grade 7 students assemble at Prairieland Park. They are given presentations on making healthy choices and the consequences of making poor choices, such as using drugs, drinking and driving, and texting while driving.

The Government of Saskatchewan, through SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] and SGI, is providing \$15,000 in support of Drug Awareness and Healthy Lifestyles Day in Saskatoon. By supporting this initiative, government is helping our province's young people learn about the negative consequences of minors consuming alcohol and the dangers associated with impaired driving. SLGA is committed to promoting the responsible use of alcohol, and SGI is committed to reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by impaired driving.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing Drug Awareness and Healthy Lifestyles Day and to join me in thanking the Saskatoon Health Region's mental health and addiction services, the Saskatoon Police Service, Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services, and MD Ambulance for their support in this worthy cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

International Snowmobile Hall of Fame Inductees

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize four Saskatchewan citizens and one Saskatchewan-based club who've been recognized by the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame, based at the World Snowmobile Headquarters in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Chris and Jeannie Brewer, Barry Bradshaw, and John Popoff are four Saskatchewan snowmobilers who have been recognized for their efforts in promoting the sport of snowmobiling throughout North America. Barry and John were both inducted individually in 2008 as volunteers, while Chris and Jeannie Brewer were Saskatchewan's most recent inductees, being recognized in 2012 for their dedication to and promotion of snowmobiling.

Prairie Women on Snow, co-founded by Jeannie Brewer and based out of Wadena, Saskatchewan, were also inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame in 2009 for their volunteer efforts, which brings awareness and raises funds for breast cancer research through snowmobiling. This may make Jeannie Brewer the only person inducted into this significant international institution twice for separate reasons.

Mr. Speaker, the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame is dedicated to recognizing the men and women who have made snowmobiling what it is today — a national winter pastime, and likely Saskatchewan's premier tourism activity. The first induction of awards and the awards ceremony was held in 1989, and to date only 90 people have been inducted.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the achievements of these Saskatchewan citizens and thank them for their commitment and join me in congratulating them on their inductions into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Information Services Corporation

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's now been a full month since the Sask Party announced its plans to privatize the information Crown corporation, ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan]. When they were first elected, the Sask Party minister of ISC said it'd be his priority to ensure all of the Crown corporations remained publicly owned. He said it right in ISC's annual report, Mr. Speaker.

Then the new minister announced he's interested in privatization. He has already drafted legislation to do just that. On October 11th he said, "We don't want to slip past the fall session." In that same scrum, the minister said that the evaluation by RBC Securities would be done by the end of October, so he presumably has had it now for several weeks. Will the minister now table this report, and has the Sask Party government decided to privatize ISC?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wasn't sure I was going to get any more questions on ISC after the amnesia that struck the NDP after the last set of questions they asked. Mr. Speaker, none of them could remember that they put a bill in this House that had ISC included and then it was taken out, Mr. Speaker. Not even the Leader of the Opposition, who was head of the legislative instruments committee, Mr. Speaker, an avid reader of legislation, but couldn't quite remember that ISC was in and then taken out, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think they also should have a memory check when they were in government because not only did they take ISC out of the legislation, Mr. Speaker, they had a financial study done on ISC by RBC Dominion Securities. And one of the recommendations, Mr. Speaker — and I have it here, and I'd be more than glad to table it — was selling ISC directly to Teranet, Mr. Speaker. So not only did they have the study done, but it also suggested selling it to Teranet, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have not made the decision. That would be coming very, very soon.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That was one of the better non-answers I've heard since I started in this career.

Mr. Speaker, maybe he'll answer this question. On October 11th, there is "a real hesitation for other jurisdictions to contract a government-owned company." Well that doesn't actually seem to be the case, Mr. Speaker. Yukon officials lined up meetings with ISC about potentially doing business together. They were scheduled to meet in the beginning of November. Specifically, Mr. Speaker, they are interested in contracting

ISC's excellent database software for Yukon's land titles system.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party said one of the main reasons for selling ISC was to allow it to do business with other jurisdictions. Since Yukon is interested in doing business with ISC, why would the minister then tell the media the exact opposite?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we know there are a number of jurisdictions that are interested in doing business with ISC. In fact if we want to look back again, and I know this is awkward for the opposition, but Chris Axworthy said that ISC was set up to tap into the \$1 billion worth of land title registry information that was out there, Mr. Speaker. They thought they could tap into it. How many sales did they make when it was solely owned by the government, Mr. Speaker? Not one.

Mr. Speaker, there was another reason. They went and sold ISC technology before it was even up and running, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, of course they didn't make any sales. What we are hearing from other jurisdictions that haven't bought with ISC, or haven't contracted with ISC, is because it is solely owned by the government.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Sproule: — It would be helpful if the minister would give us the names of those jurisdictions. Yukon officials have asked ISC directly: "What opportunities might exist for Yukon to piggyback on yours or another system by purchasing or leasing all or part of your software and adapting it to our needs?" Mr. Speaker, it's clear that ISC is valuable for the people of Saskatchewan. And it's also clear its services are valued by other jurisdictions, including Yukon, who are interested in using this Crown corporation services for their own land titles registry.

The Sask Party's central argument about wanting to sell ISC doesn't hold water, Mr. Speaker, because it's clearly able to offer its services to other government clients who are seeking what ISC is selling. This leads one to wonder if there's another reason they would want to liquidate valuable assets and privatize this Crown.

Mr. Speaker, are there buyers already lined up for ISC, and if so, who are they?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, you know, I would refer them back to question number one, when they had an evaluation done of the company, and it explained that Teranet was interested in buying it when it was under the NDP [New Democratic Party], Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will not go on, Mr. Speaker, as far as any decisions that have been made because that will come in the future, Mr. Speaker. I will say though that we are in possession of the latest evaluation, Mr. Speaker. ISC is a very profitable company. It is positioned very well, Mr. Speaker. It's positioned very well to be able to sell its goods around the country, Mr. Speaker, but I can tell you there is one reason why it hasn't, out of 16 years of the NDP trying, Mr. Speaker, is it never sold to one jurisdiction because it was solely owned by government.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the president of ISC told reporters a month ago that governments like Yukon wouldn't want to buy a service from ISC. Yet, Mr. Speaker, that is the exact scenario Yukon wanted to explore with ISC officials. Those officials sought ISC's advice because they recognize our Crown corporation does excellent work for this province.

Mr. Speaker, one has to wonder why the Sask Party would want to sell ISC when it's presently able to market its services, meet with other jurisdictions, and bring in good revenues for Saskatchewan people. People didn't vote for the sale of the Crowns. The Premier has said, in no uncertain terms, "The Crown corporations will not be privatized under a Saskatchewan Party government."

Why is the Sask Party government going back on their promises, presenting false arguments, and making plans to privatize ISC?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we were very clear in the last election of 2011 that turned out pretty darn well, Mr. Speaker. We were very clear that in the last election that we would follow along with the Crown protection Act, a Crown protection Act that was introduced by the NDP, Mr. Speaker. We've said we'd follow along with that. That's the same Crown protection Act that had ISC in originally and then taken out by the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

Why was it taken out by the NDP? Because I really think, with an evaluation done by RBC and excluding it from the legislation, that they had plans on selling it. Now every NDP on that side now is trying to distance themselves as far as they can. In fact, Mr. Speaker, even the Leader of the Opposition doesn't seem to have a memory of taking it out when he was head of the legislative instruments committee for the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, we know that ISC is a very good company here in Saskatchewan. We think it's got very good potential to sell those goods outside of the province, Mr. Speaker, and I think you'll hear more on that in the future.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Prince Albert Bridge

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. No

news on a new bridge remains bad news for the people of Prince Albert. The southbound lanes of the bridge will be closed due to repairs on the underside of the bridge, leaving P.A. [Prince Albert] residents and the businesses frustrated with their single option to cross that river. But the work doesn't end there, Mr. Speaker, because northbound lanes are going to be closed for another four weeks of work.

Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert desperately needs a second bridge now. A growing economy in Prince Albert can't work without it. Yet completely missing from the Premier's booklet and his speech in Prince Albert were details on why the Saskatchewan Party can't get the job done on a new bridge for Prince Albert. To the minister: why has the Sask Party government failed to build a new bridge for Prince Albert?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that the bridge in Prince Albert, when it was built many, many years ago, it was built, Mr. Speaker, by the provincial government. The city of Prince Albert at that time said that they would pay for repairs. Repairs have been needed, Mr. Speaker. That bridge had deteriorated and now repairs are needed. Our government, Mr. Speaker, has picked up 100 per cent of those repairs to make sure that that bridge will be functional well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I find it curious because, you know, for 16 years there was no growth in the province. Now we hear the critic talking about growth, but I wish he would ask his seatmate sitting right beside him because the Leader of the Opposition said that growth was a myth here in Saskatchewan, an absolute myth. But now his seatmate is saying, why don't you fix another bridge? Why don't you build another bridge because there is growth, Mr. Speaker. I would ask those two to just kind of talk to each other for just a little bit and determine, is there growth in Saskatchewan or is it a myth?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert's gateway to the North status has been hard-earned, but the city's current efforts to have another bridge built have been ignored by all of the Sask Party MLAs from the region and from the city and from this Premier and this government.

Mr. Speaker, the city has resorted to launching a campaign to build a second bridge. Perhaps people are going to go now to buildasecondbridge.com and reading about how the Sask Party has failed to work with the community at Prince Albert to get the job done. With Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan booming, the lane closures are making businesses and residents slow down to a crawl. It's affecting people's quality of life and the economic opportunities of the entire North.

Mr. Speaker, why is Prince Albert's second bridge missing completely from the Sask Party's plan?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — I didn't hear the answer to the growth question, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the critic will talk about that in the future. But, Mr. Speaker, we know that there is growth in the province, Mr. Speaker. We know that.

That's why a study has been conducted just recently. We've just received the study, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be talking with the officials in Prince Albert on the feasibility of a second bridge and the growth in the area as to whether it has warranted a second bridge. Mr. Speaker, we know that there are two studies that have been done before that would show that a second bridge wasn't warranted in the area, Mr. Speaker. But we've just received another study and will be reviewing that and dealing with the officials in Prince Albert in the very near future.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to spending on bridges, on roads, on highways in this province, we'll take no advice from the opposition, Mr. Speaker. In fact this year, \$631 million spent on our roadways in Saskatchewan — the second highest budget in the history of this province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, the lane closures are causing financial hardships, and the long lineups are really frustrating for many drivers and the people of Prince Albert. And the need for a dangerous goods route put the spotlight on the city's desperate need for a second bridge. Recently the Premier said, "We should think about the bridge and the infrastructure in this city in terms of what is going to happen in 5, 10, 15, 20 years and not necessarily what's happening right now."

Mr. Speaker, the Premier says the second bridge is on the list, but you can't travel on a list, Mr. Speaker. You have to actually travel on a physical bridge, Mr. Speaker. They brag about the money they have. They brag about the mandate they have. Yet they take no responsibility for helping Prince Albert get that second bridge.

To the minister: when will this minister or members from P.A. stand up for the people of Saskatchewan and provide leadership and a new bridge for the people of Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I can guarantee that the members from Prince Albert and the members around Prince Albert stand up for P.A. each and every day in caucus, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they have for four years, Mr. Speaker, and they'll continue.

But I would ask before, if you go back to the last dying days of the NDP government, why didn't the members from Prince Albert stick up for their city then when they were NDP? Because if you remember back — and he used to be a minister of Highways; he was that minister of Highways — they had trouble with that P.A. bridge when they were in government. And what they did do is, they fixed part of it and then relied on the city to do the paving on top. They would only pay for part of the repairs, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, did those members

from Prince Albert stand up then? No, they didn't.

Mr. Speaker, our members have. That's why we're paying the full cost of this repair, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we'll continue to invest in our infrastructure here in Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

State of Corrections System

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. For a number of years, overcrowding has been on the rise in Saskatchewan's corrections system. Earlier this year the Ombudsman had some fairly alarming things to say about the circumstance of prison overcrowding, stating that he was very concerned that the current situation could go "from bad to worse."

Mr. Speaker, securing inmates and running orderly prison facilities is fundamental to ensuring public safety and security. My question is to the Corrections minister: can she provide accurate numbers on where prisoners are being housed each night in the Saskatchewan correctional system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I get into my answer, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the staff at our correctional centres throughout the province of Saskatchewan for successfully managing the number of offenders within existing structures.

Mr. Speaker, our investment in facilities in this province, it is huge. In June of 2009, we put 90 beds into the Saskatoon Correctional Centre. 2009-10, we put more security upgrades into our correctional facilities. Pine Grove correctional facility for women, we added 60 beds. In Prince Albert provincial correctional centre, we added 144 beds. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that there's pressures in our correctional facilities in the province of Saskatchewan, and we are working hard to address it. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, she did not answer the question. But in addition to the Ombudsman's report, I am also concerned about a news report I watched recently. A good piece of investigative journalism on Global revealed just how bad the Sask Party has allowed the situation to become in the province's jails.

The news story discussed where inmates are being housed, based on information it received through a freedom of information request. The reporter revealed that there are 360 inmates being housed in 196 overflow spaces. Mr. Speaker, that leaves us wondering where 164 unaccounted-for inmates are being housed. So my question again to the Corrections minister: can she explain where the additional 164 inmates are sleeping at night?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A hundred and sixty-four inmates unaccounted for — Mr. Speaker, the premise of that question is absolutely ridiculous. We have spaces in our facilities for every person who belongs in a correctional facility in this province. We will never turn anybody away. We don't put no vacancy, no vacancy in our correctional centres, Mr. Speaker. We will find room, albeit there are pressures within our facilities, Mr. Speaker. And we are working hard to address these overcrowding pressures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, we're sure she'll never turn anyone away, but we'd like to know where they are, is the question. If a corrections worker had the count off by 164 inmates, they would be fired, Mr. Speaker. In the interests of public safety, I ask again: where did the 164 unaccounted for inmates sleep last night? And does the minister believe that this situation is in the best interests of public safety?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, the people that the member opposite cites are not unaccounted for. They are in our correctional facilities, and if we had the world according to the members opposite, those people would be out on the street. Mr. Speaker, we will find room. We have room for people who deserve to be in our correctional facilities, and we will continue to manage the pressures that we are currently experiencing.

And, Mr. Speaker, our overcrowding pressures did not start in 2007. We had these problems long before. What were the members opposite doing at that particular point in time? Well, Mr. Speaker, we all know. We're dealing with these issues today.

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, if inmates are sleeping three to a bunk or sleeping in closets or hallways, that doesn't sound like security to me. What is worse is that the minister cannot account for the 164 inmate overflow on the current 196 overflow inmate spaces — inmate spaces that are already overflow, Mr. Speaker.

Common sense would tell us that this situation is a risk to public safety. It tells us that there is an increased likelihood of violence in the system, and it tells us that more inmates will be on the path to reoffend. Mr. Speaker, can the minister admit that there is a major problem in the Saskatchewan correctional system? And can she tell us what her plan is to fix it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, this issue of overcrowding did not just happen in 2007. We inherited the current overcrowding issue that we are facing within our institutions.

Mr. Speaker, let me just go back on some of the history, the

record of the NDP government: 2001, the design of the Regina Correctional Centre replacement project, denied. 2002, inmate counts were increasing, Mr. Speaker; the only capital spending was a \$30,000 tractor, Mr. Speaker. 2006-2007, 40 new cells for Pine Grove Correctional Centre and 216 new cells for Saskatoon Correctional Centre, denied. It's a constant issue with those members opposite, Mr. Speaker. They denied every proposed increase in bed space in this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for the Film Industry

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The public has been talking about the Sask Party's nonsensical decision to cut the film employment tax credit since March. One would think, as the leader of the government that cut the tax credit, the Premier would have understood how it worked, but it still seems he hasn't been properly briefed.

Last week he claimed, "It's a cheque whether you spend the money or not." That could not be more false, and he should know this. How is it possible that the Premier still does not understand how the film employment tax credit works?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, this government, this Premier in particular, understands completely how a refundable tax credit works in this province, Mr. Speaker. We know that single-purpose production companies are formed between producers in this province and producers outside the province. They funnel all of their expenses through this single-purpose entity, Mr. Speaker, and apply for a 45 per cent refundable tax credit on labour costs, Mr. Speaker.

We think refundable tax credits are not good public policy. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we are working with the creative industries in this province to move forward on a new mechanism to support all of the creative industries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a cheque you get whether you spend the money or not. I would suggest that there's many, many people who would like to straighten the Premier out on that particular quote.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the Sask Party needs a lesson on the film employment tax credit. The program helped film producers plan their project finances and leverage money from banks and investors. Only after a project was wrapped and delivered, meaning all the money had already been invested and spent here, producers could apply for the tax credit for a portion of their Saskatchewan-based labour costs. But the Premier doesn't get it, and people are tired of his campaign of misinformation. How is it good government and governance to eliminate a major program without first studying or even understanding the

possible effects of that decision?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, we should be clear with the hon. member the difference between a refundable tax credit and a non-refundable tax credit, Mr. Speaker. The entity that receives the refundable tax credit pays no corporate income tax in this province, Mr. Speaker. In all likelihood these single-purpose entities, these single-purpose production companies, Mr. Speaker, funnel all of their costs through the single-purpose production company that only exists for the purpose of the production of that particular production. So, Mr. Speaker, they then apply for a 45 per cent refundable tax credit. They receive the money, regardless of whether they spent any of that money in the province of Saskatchewan or not.

We know, Mr. Speaker, by SaskFilm numbers that 63 per cent of production volumes, 63 per cent of production volumes are spent here in the province. Thirty-seven per cent of production volumes are used to procure goods and services outside the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We also know that then the distribution of marketing rights of these particular productions are taken elsewhere. That's where the money is really made in the production of these films, Mr. Speaker. Those entities pay no corporate income tax in this province, virtually, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party should base public policy on facts and common sense, not on their own narrow opinions. The tax credit worked for our province — fact. The business community supports its use — fact. The industry knows the tax credit helped create jobs — fact. The families employed in film see its value — fact. The community sees the economic and social spinoffs — fact. But the Sask Party ignores every single fact presented to them, including about how the tax credit actually works, and plows ahead with rigid ideology. Why can't the Premier admit he's got all the facts wrong on the film tax credit and fix his government's huge mistake?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said earlier, there is no other business in the province of Saskatchewan that enjoys a 45 per cent refundable tax credit on their labour costs.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the taxpayers of this province have contributed over \$14 million over the last 14 years to SaskFilm, an entity that only exists to promote film in this province, Mr. Speaker. We know that taxpayers in this province have spent over \$10 million over the last 14 years on the Canada-Saskatchewan production studios, Mr. Speaker, a film studio that only exists for the film industry in this province. These are direct taxpayer-related expenditures, Mr. Speaker, in the province of Saskatchewan.

These are also the facts. SMPA [Saskatchewan Media

Production Industry Association], the motion picture industry association has said, Mr. Speaker, a new mechanism "... should be as cost neutral as possible. It needs to meet sector requirements while not participating in what is seen as a bidding war. And it cannot be a tax-related initiative," Mr. Speaker. Those are SMPIA's words, Mr. Speaker, in a letter to me on October 3rd. We're trying to build a new mechanism to support all of our creative industries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 66 — *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 66, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Advanced Education has moved first reading of Bill No. 66, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 59

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 59 — *The Animal Identification Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to weigh into discussion this afternoon as it relates to Bill No. 59, *An Act to amend The Animal Identification Act* to offer a few comments. Of course this has recently been introduced, and there's an awful lot of consultation, conversation, and dialogue to be had as it relates to this bill with the respective stakeholders in industry and across the province, Mr. Speaker.

What I recognized in the minister's statements that he's suggesting that this is a bill that's required to provide needed flexibility, as he suggests. He states that this is about industry control and, in many ways, outsourcing the role and responsibility that has been that of government in working with industry to, I guess, see that transition occur.

What I notice, or I guess want to put onto the record, is that this relates to brand inspection in this province. And brand inspection and quality brand inspection is really an important aspect of support that we can work with producers and work with the industry to make sure that we're supporting our producers across this province.

So brand inspection itself is very important, and certainly working together to adopt best practice, making sure that we're modernized and responding to the needs, and as effective as we can be, is a very important discussion for the industry itself. I know it's something that various producer groups have weighed in on. I know the Cattlemen's Association are participating as we speak; the stock growers, I believe, as well. I believe some of the livestock marketing companies and organizations are involved in this, as they should be.

But when I look at this, I'm not quite certain yet what the minister is suggesting and have some caution around, I guess, changes that are being proposed that haven't yet been fully consulted with those for whom it impacts, Mr. Speaker. And making sure that we do get it right as it relates to brand inspection and that we're bringing forward the tools and looking in as broad of a lens as we can with the resources of government, along with our producers and the industry, to make sure that we're serving that industry as well as we can be.

What we've seen in many ways from this government is them taking a very narrow-minded approach to looking at problems and seeking out solutions. I'm not sure that that's the case in this event or not. Certainly we'll be seeking out those sorts of questions in consultation with industry stakeholders. But really what we need to be looking for on all fronts is a responsive government that's willing to take a very wide view and look at what the most common sense solutions are to be as effective as we can be towards our goals. And our goal should be certainly to be providing a very effective brand inspection process in this province, and certainly I support and urge that sort of thoughtful and broad consultation to occur.

What's interesting when I look at this legislation is in fact there's really no plan in place yet. What the minister's referenced is that stakeholders in industry are meeting and having discussions on this front, and I believe he states actually that the reason he's putting forward this legislation now is to make sure that there's not any obstacles for when a solution is found.

Mr. Speaker, I'd caution against this sort of approach in deriving legislation. I'd caution that we're better served by working with stakeholders well in advance, working with stakeholders in a consultative fashion, understanding full intended consequences of decisions we're making but also understanding some of the unintended consequences that might occur or result from changes that are rushed ahead by government.

So I find it passing strange that we're actually looking at legislation here that in fact supports changes for a plan that has yet to be identified. What we should be able to do here when we're talking about such legislative changes is also be talking about the plan. We should be able to talk about those stakeholders and what their perspective is as it relates to the plan and hopefully their involvement in deriving that plan. And really none of that has happened to date. All we have is a message from the minister that there's meetings that are occurring, a committee that's been struck, and that's all valuable work. But it seems that the minister and this government have the cart a little bit ahead of the horse on this process, and that's where it's going to be so important for us to make sure we're doing, as we will, the consultation with stakeholders, with producers, with industry leaders to make sure we're understanding their perspectives and making sure that we're serving them as well as we can be to be supporting our producers here in this province. That's the kind of work we'll be doing moving forward.

I wish we had a plan before us at this point in time. I wish it reflected consultation, full consultation with the full industry, all players, the stakeholders for whom will be impacted. Certainly that hasn't been the case. So what we see is legislation before us without a plan to support the kinds of changes this government has in mind. So on that front it's difficult to examine this bill in too much more detail at this point in time, other than I think it's, as I say, it's sort of having the cart ahead of the horse a little bit here, that it seems to be a bit of a hasty or rushed approach by this government.

What I'd urge them to do is to dedicate their resources, their time, to work with the sector, to work with the industry to get the plan right, to make sure we understand all the consequences all across the province and for all that are impacted and then bring something forward to this Assembly here.

[14:30]

But certainly, you know, putting forward legislative changes without any substantial, meaningful plan, or any plan at all that is, Mr. Speaker, signals a reckless approach of government and one that I would take a cautious approach to and one that we'll dedicate our time and our energies to make sure we're working with the sector, with the industry all across this province in all regions to make sure that we get this right and make sure that we're able to serve the industry well in finding an instrument and a process that best supports brand inspection in this province.

It is interesting to see this legislation put forward, which does outsource responsibility that has been that of government, suggesting in vague ways that that process was out of date, but without any of the consultation that's really required to make sure we're getting this plan right.

So at this point in time I don't have much else to say other than to let Saskatchewan people know, to make sure they're connecting with us on this front, let them know that we'll be connecting with the industry and that we'll be leading informed dialogue and discussion on this front, both in this Assembly and into committee structures, as we move forward, making sure that we serve the entire industry's best interests, something that

right now through this rushed process and lack of a plan seems to be sort of an afterthought of the current government, Mr. Speaker. Without too much more to say on Bill 59 at this point in time, I will adjourn debate, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 59, *The Animal Identification Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 60

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 60** — *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to weigh in on the subsequent bill here, Bill No. 60, *The Animal Products Amendment Act*. This bill identifies a couple different purposes, a couple different goals that it's pursuing. It again, this is one that's been . . . This is in response to a federal government that has abdicated some of its responsibility in food protection, food security and has done so without any consultation with the current government, something that, you know, certainly all of us should expect better of our federal government.

And I know when we're looking at the delivery of inspection of our food, this is something so critical when we're talking about food safety and protecting our industry as well, and our producers' interests, and something that has certainly recently occupied a lot of the public debate as we've seen the risks, the harm as it results to the process that was in place at one of our meat-packing facilities and the subsequent impact back onto communities. What I find interesting is that this is something so critical and so important to beef producers in this province. It's important for them that their industry is . . . that the product of their industry is safe and hitting the tables of consumers across this country with a level of confidence. And this is something that our federal government has truly failed us on as a province.

I recognize that the reason for this legislation to be brought forward is in fact cuts and abdicating a role that the federal government once fulfilled to producers and to facilities here in this province. It's stated in the, actually, the minister's message here, his speech. I'll quote, "This was a federal decision and we had no input into it." And this is speaking about the fact that CFIA [Canadian Food Inspection Agency] once fulfilled this role. The federal government has stepped away from fulfilling that responsibility, and now the provincial government is scrambling, if you will, to provide something that should be an absolute certainty to our producers and to consumers and kitchen tables all across this country.

It's an approach though that's sadly consistent with the federal

government as it relates to agriculture in this province, a federal government that has foisted changes onto producers here in this province without any consultation either with that Agriculture minister or this government or with certainly the producers themselves. We've had a provincial government that's failed to stand up for producers on this front, on so many fronts.

And I know so many producers right now are trying to get a sense of what the recent cuts to AgriStability and AgriInvest will be for producers, for themselves, for their operations. We haven't had any of that analysis put forward by the current government nor any representation of any meaningful nature and standing up to make sure that our producers and our industry has been well served on this front.

The list actually goes on on this front of the federal impacts, the federal cuts as it relates to agriculture and the impact back to Saskatchewan. It's not just the cuts here as it relates to the role that CFIA played in food safety in this province and in this country. It also extends, as I say, to AgriStability and the cuts there and AgriInvest and the cuts there. But it also goes further. It gets into the community pastures that have played such an important role in balancing off our agricultural sector in this province and also protected some of the biodiversity and environmental protections that are important to Saskatchewan people and as good land stewards.

We recognize that the cuts as well go further. And I know one community that's been particularly impacted, and certainly our entire province and producers have been impacted, are the cuts to the federal tree nursery out at Indian Head here in the province. And this is a tree nursery that has served this province and Western Canada so well, establishing itself in fact before we were actually a province, Mr. Speaker, and has distributed more than 600 million trees all across Western Canada. And often I know as I travel across this landscape, our province, from the Southwest to the Southeast to the Far North, I find it astonishing to see this landscape that was once barren in many parts in fact transformed in no small way, or actually in large measure, by the tree nursery and the . . . [inaudible] . . . in this institution that served Saskatchewan for so many years, an institution that still plays a vital role to our province now and right well into the future.

And again this was another cut of the federal government that was made without any consultation, as I understand, certainly with the producers, certainly no consultation with the workers. And I don't know if there was consultation with the Premier or with the minister or not, but it was certainly . . . This was announced in the recent federal budget that was brought forward and the same federal budget that that Premier pats praises onto the federal government for, Mr. Speaker. So certainly it seems to me that there's sort of a federal and provincial government working together to eliminate some of the very important structures and institutions that have served Saskatchewan in our agricultural sector and industry so well.

When I'm looking at Bill No. 60, I know some of the shift that they're looking at is shifting the delivery from what was CFIA and the role of the federal government and on to third party delivery. Another example of it appears to be outsourcing, Mr. Speaker. We don't have any sort of a plan put before us about what sort of assurances the public has on this front or what sort

of assurances that our beef producers have on this front. And I think it's important.

When we look at the failure to provide food safety and food protection as we've seen recently with the XL Foods debacle, Mr. Speaker, and the federal debacle that the federal government has placed us into, I think we have to recognize that this has an impact both for confidence of those that are utilizing our food, in this case beef, and it has a direct impact back to the producer himself. And in our province, I mean, and in all parts of Canada, we need to care about both those pieces. Certainly first and foremost, food security needs to be our number one priority, and it's sad that it's become sort of an afterthought by a federal government and, you know, in many ways a provincial government that has worked hand in hand with that federal government.

But we also need to make sure that we're serving our beef industry, our producers well in this province. And I find it awfully frustrating . . . And I've heard the concern and frustration from so many across this province that have worked so hard and have seen that industry through some dark days, through some tough days and many, Mr. Speaker — and I know you would have many in through your own constituency, Mr. Speaker — that were finally in a position to see a reasonable return or a better return. And, Mr. Speaker, that just hasn't been the case. That opportunity's been taken away from them by a reckless approach to government, a reckless approach of cuts and outsourcing responsibility. And in this case neither the consumer or the families that are putting that meat on the table have the confidence that they deserve. And unfortunately our beef producers all across this province have taken a direct hit by those actions of government.

Certainly Saskatchewan people and all Canadians deserve nothing less than full protection of our food security, our food safety. And I know that the plans that are . . . Well I shouldn't say there's . . . Again this is the problem with this legislation is it in fact puts forward a structure that allows a third-party delivery model to be in place, and it talks about a new inspection delivery model to be established. But, Mr. Speaker, there's no plan yet. There's nothing in place. And so it's incredibly difficult when we have something that's as large of a priority as food security and food safety, Mr. Speaker, for us to enter in with any level of assurances that the best interests of consumers and our beef producers are going to be maintained or met through this process.

And this is where we're going to make sure as an official opposition that we're following this process through in direct consultation with the entire industry, all stakeholders, all partners, all producers, and all food security, food safety organizations, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that the tool and the mechanism that's being put forward is putting the priority that should be placed on food safety and the protection required for our industry, our beef producers all across this province and all of our producers across this province.

Again this is a case where legislation is in fact brought to the Assembly, put before this Assembly, but there's no plan in place. And what we would expect is that legislation that comes to us has a plan to go with it and reflects fulsome consultation with those producers, the industry all across this province in all

regions, Mr. Speaker. And I can say with certainty that that hasn't occurred yet.

I find it incredibly troublesome how this government continues to simply accept cuts and impacts of the federal government onto our agricultural sector here in this province. They, as I've said, have made unilateral decisions without consultation with those for whom it impacts, with cuts and reductions in AgriStability, AgriInvest, with the elimination of community pastures that serve a very important role to producers and to our environmental protection in this province, and the elimination of our tree nursery, something that is a proud legacy but also purposeful to our future, Mr. Speaker, and something that really has transformed our province and our landscape.

So I question in many ways when I look at this. And I quote from the minister here who says, "This was a federal decision. We had no input into it." That's a shame, Mr. Speaker. We deserve a stronger relationship with our federal government, a relationship that does in fact respect the interests of our province and our producers, our industry. That hasn't been the case.

I know a second component of this bill is putting forward a fund, an assurance fund for producers. But again this legislation's brought forward, but it speaks to the fact that this assurance fund that they speak of is currently a discussion point for the industry. And for us to have meaningful discussion, meaningfully consultation, meaningful questions of the plans being put forward, we need to have something more substantial than that. We need fulsome legislation that's been derived out of fulsome consultation with the industry, with the producers. And certainly what I know of the plan that's being discussed right now, there's certainly no consensus at this point in time within the industry or those important partners. And that's something that we need to work towards.

So again I would argue on this piece of legislation that this government has the cart ahead of the horse, that they're rushing through a process without getting the plan right, without the fulsome consultation, and that we should be making this a major priority for us as it's so important to our agricultural sector, to our economy. And of course food safety should be a number one priority, our number one priority back to consumers and families in our province, across the country, and abroad, all the consumers of our product.

So at this point in time, I don't have much else to say other than we expect a better relationship with the federal government. We expect our provincial government to start standing on its own two feet and start standing up for Saskatchewan producers in our agricultural sector, something that we haven't seen. And certainly we expect better performance from our federal government as it relates to our agricultural sector and all of those for whom it impacts, Mr. Speaker.

At this point in time, I don't have any other comments, but certainly we'll be engaged in consultation with industry and bringing further questions, comments, ideas, suggestions forward. But at this point in time, I adjourn debate of Bill No. 60, *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of Bill

No. 60, *The Animal Products Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[14:45]

Bill No. 61

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 61** — *The Railway Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Glad to rise today to join in the debate on Bill No. 61, *The Railway Amendment Act*. Primarily, Mr. Speaker, this bill is concerned with the orderly transfer or sale provisions of a rail line when it is to be abandoned. Under the current legislation of course the abandonment process requires the railway owner first advertise their intentions to either sell or abandon the line and invite any expressions of interest from buyers.

One of the key sort of changes in this piece of legislation, as far as I can tell through my perusal of it, is the bolstering of the powers accorded to *The Highway Traffic Act* wherein they've presently got insufficient authority to remedy situations where either the seller or potential buyer is negotiating in bad faith. And again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of negotiating the net salvage value, or the NSV, it's in the current legislation with the government purchase phase. A municipal government is required to either decline or accept the offer to purchase the net salvage value within 60 days of receiving the offer. They can only request a net salvage value after they've accepted the offer. Consequently these folks are being forced to make critical decisions without knowing what the exact purchase price will be.

So again in terms of lending some clarity to that situation, Mr. Speaker, and in terms of making for a more orderly approach to the whole question of rail line abandonment and hopefully putting another tool in the toolbox of interests such as shortline railroads in this province, Mr. Speaker, in terms of bolstering the hand of municipalities, both urban and rural, and in terms of making sure that the railways that we know so well in this province — and we know so well also, I'd say in some cases far too well, the occurrence of rail line abandonment — I think it's only right and just that local people working together can have an opportunity to take advantage of these public goods that were afforded to private rail interests to ensure that those services and that transportation opportunity continues to serve community.

I guess one other thing about the piece of legislation just in going through the provisions, Mr. Speaker, in addressing the bad faith negotiation allegations against the seller during the sale phase, it proposes to give the Highway Traffic Board new powers to evaluate the dispute, and that evaluation having been conducted, Mr. Speaker, if necessary issuing an order to the parties to enter in an agreement that the board believes is fair

and reasonable. It will be interesting to see again how that is operationalized, Mr. Speaker, how that plays out. Also wherein the board is able to make a determination of potential buyers negotiating in bad faith, giving the board the authority to relieve the seller of their obligation to continue negotiating with the interested party. Again, Mr. Speaker, in the immediate context of this legislation and in the immediate context of *The Railway Act* itself, this would seem to be fairly sensible.

We of course want to make sure that they're given full scrutiny and due diligence. We want to talk to the communities that will be affected most by this legislation. We want to gain a better appreciation of how this has played out in the field, out there in the real world, Mr. Speaker. We want to talk to folks in the shortline rail industry which has been a real boon to the province. We want to talk to, you know the CNs [Canadian National] and the CPs [Canadian Pacific] of the world. And we want to talk to partners out there in the municipal government land such as SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], as well as local RMs [rural municipality] and urban municipalities.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that there are other of my colleagues that are interested in this debate. This again would seem to be on the face of it a useful proposition, but, as with various things forwarded by this government, Mr. Speaker, sometimes what's on the face doesn't match up to what's beneath. So we want to make sure that we do the due diligence on this and that this is as it seems to be. As such, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 61, *The Railway Amendment Act, 2012*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 61, *The Railway Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 62

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doherty that **Bill No. 62 — *The Parks Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today to speak to *The Parks Amendment Act, 2012*, Bill No. 62, and have a few comments I'd like to share with the Assembly in relation to this bill.

First of all I'll just speak a little bit to the comments that the minister made as he announced the bill. And he's announcing a very large new provincial park here in Saskatchewan including Anglin Lake and Emma Lake. And I think for anyone who's ever travelled in that area, they'll know it's one of the more beautiful parts of our province.

Certainly the boreal forest is one of the most beautiful parts of the province. And it's one that I'm very familiar with and really

enjoy spending time there, both in the summer and in the winter and in fact during every season, as I think it's one of the most beautiful places in the world. This part of the northern boreal forest is in the parkland. And there you get the beautiful mix of the deciduous trees and the conifers, and it really makes for I think what makes Saskatchewan special. You know, in addition to our prairies, we've got these beautiful, the forested lands. And certainly protecting those forests in terms of a parks context is something that is commendable, and I think we're looking forward to seeing these new parks established.

The process he has indicated he's done extensive consultation with various groups including First Nations and Métis groups. I think we want to hear from those groups as well, Mr. Speaker, as to the adequacy of the consultation. Quite often we hear that this government is of the view it's adequately consulted, but often we find out that the consultation is actually not what was anticipated or was acceptable to the people that were being consulted.

So we will definitely want to have a look and talk to some of the groups that were consulted and find out if there are groups who weren't consulted that felt they should have been. So we're certainly looking, will be looking at that and asking any members of the public who are watching now or have any interest in this area whether they have any comments about these the establishment of a very large new provincial park.

The ministry indicates it will include a total of about 16,000 hectares which is a large area. We also understand that the area will include the existing recreation sites of Anglin Lake and Emma Lake recreation sites. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, that's a very busy area, particularly in the summer. And so of course the interaction between humans and the other species that inhabit that area is always one of a delicate balance. And with the amount of activity that's going on, human activity, it's often a challenge to ensure the integrity of the ecosystem of these parks.

He's indicated that by designating the land as a park, it will result in improved protection of this mid-boreal upland ecoregion and will protect the watersheds as well. This is something again that we're interested in and concerned about to ensure that these watersheds are indeed protected, particularly with the intense activity and the rather large cottage lots and intensive development of the shorelines of these lakes, Mr. Speaker. And those are things that can be of concern and need to be really monitored carefully.

So hopefully the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and certainly the Minister of the Environment will ensure that these water bodies are protected, particularly when we see the federal government once again abandoning its responsibility in the protection of watersheds by drastically changing the nature of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. Most of these lakes will now be removed from the purview of that bill. And that was an internationally recognized environmental protection bill which is now being gutted basically in Bill C-45.

And very little has been said — certainly by this government, but by anyone — because of the speed with which the federal government is pushing this basically down the throats of the Canadian people. And the whole notion of a large 400-page bill

being introduced federally to change things like water protection is something that is actually appalling and is alarming to a lot of people in this country.

So we are looking definitely to this government now to pick up the slack where the federal government is abandoning it and to ensure that these water bodies are protected, in particular with the extensive development that we see happening in the cottage lots areas around these parks and around these lakes.

We also see that, in this case, there will be an amendment to remove some land from the Danielson Provincial Park, again something of concern. We should always be somewhat, I guess, vigilant when it comes to removing lands from provincial parks. The minister indicates that the land has low ecological integrity due to impact from the construction of Gardiner dam. So that may be the case, Mr. Speaker. We're certainly looking to hear from the people in that area whether they agree with this observation by the minister and his staff, and want to be sure that if we are removing lands from provincial parks for cottage lot development, that indeed it is appropriate and that the land shouldn't be perhaps rehabilitated and protected rather than removed from the park.

Now he's saying there's an offset to this reduction in the acreage, and what will happen is that 65 hectares of other lands will be added to the park. Now these are lands he indicates that contain native prairie grassland. And I have to say, Mr. Speaker, it's very encouraging to see a minister from this government protecting native prairie grassland, because unfortunately that's not what we're hearing from the Minister of Agriculture right now, when it comes to protecting the 1.6 million acres of native prairie grassland that's on the selling block if he continues with his plan to sell and dispose of the community pastures here in Saskatchewan, which are actually one of the largest intact areas of natural prairie grassland in the world and certainly part of our obligations under the representative area network system that we have obligations federally and internationally to protect these grasslands.

So while it is encouraging to see this minister protecting native prairie grassland, he's protecting 65 hectares, and we see the Minister of Agriculture actually disposing of 1.6 million acres. So it's kind of like a drop in the bucket what this minister is doing, but we're hoping that his leadership will encourage his colleague and the Ministry of Agriculture to do the same with those vast tracts of native prairie grassland that are at risk with his plan to sell.

There's a couple of other points the minister has indicated that he hopes to achieve with this new bill. One is protecting visitors while they're in the parks. And of course we know the dangerous wildlife exists. That's their home. They live in the parks, and certainly it's the humans that are the visitors there, Mr. Speaker. So we're looking to make sure that humans are safe. And certainly I think the tragedy in all of this, as he indicated, that there was 1,000 calls with nuisance bears in the provincial park system last year, or . . . Sorry, in 2011. Yes, last year. And my experience with nuisance bears is that once they've been exposed to human food, they often find it very difficult to give it up. They're immediately addicted and for all intents and purposes that bear is spoiled and in most cases will keep coming back when they know there's human food around.

And it's very difficult to manage these bears and in most cases they have to be destroyed. And that's not acceptable when we go into someone else's home and cause damage to their way of life that effectively causes them to be put to death.

It's a tragedy and I think it's . . . I agree totally with the minister on this one that education is very important, to continue to try and educate visitors to parks that they are endangering those bears when they leave food and waste improperly disposed of. So that's a positive step.

And finally, we see this bill is dealing with an amendment to the description of Steele Narrows Provincial Park and they're improving the mapping of the park. That's a very interesting park, Mr. Speaker, and a very important part of our history with some of our . . . One of the last wars, actually the last battles fought in Saskatchewan, was at Steele Narrows where the park is. I've had the opportunity to visit there and there's some interesting monuments and gravesites there that are remnants of that battle, and I guess a reminder of our shared history with First Nations and the treaty people. So I think it's always appropriate to do something like that. So I have no further comments on that part of the bill.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would, at this point I think that's the extent of my comments on Bill 62, *The Parks Amendment Act*, so I would like to adjourn debate on this bill.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 62, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[15:00]

Bill No. 63

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doherty that **Bill No. 63** — *The Regional Parks Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's a pleasure this afternoon to be able to join in on the discussion on this important piece of legislation.

It's important, Mr. Speaker, because for the vast majority of Saskatchewan people, I believe the role of regional parks is very important. It's something that we care about. It's something that we want to ensure is a top priority and it's something that we want to protect and preserve for the years to come. And we want to protect it, Mr. Speaker, and promote it in an environmental sense in terms of having space in our province where people can go and enjoy the great outdoors.

But we also, Mr. Speaker, want to promote and encourage the role of regional parks with respect to the important role that regional parks play in our province economically. I think of . . .

Well probably most members in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, have had a fair amount of exposure to regional parks. For some MLAs there may be regional parks in their constituencies. But for others, regional parks are the places that we go to holiday, the places that we go to build memories with our families, the places that we go to have a break and have an opportunity to relax.

I know in my own experience, Mr. Speaker, Memorial Lake Regional Park is a very important place for my family and spent many summers there enjoying the golf, enjoying the lake, enjoying friends, enjoying camping and campfires. But also great places like the regional park at Outlook as well, and there's so many examples. And each person in the province, I hope, would have a positive opinion of a regional park in their backyard or a place where they commonly go to and travel in order to have that holiday whether it's, Mr. Speaker, in the wintertime or the summertime, though summertime is often when parks are most commonly used in the province. Though today with the presence of the snowmobilers' association in the Assembly, we're reminded that we're a 12-month province here, four seasons of activity, and good outdoor activity happens around the year.

So it's important, Mr. Speaker, when we're looking at any sort of legislation around regional parks, it's important to ensure that we're taking the right steps. And this has to do in a legislative sense when we look at the protections for parks, when we look at the rules and the governance structure and how decisions are made, it's very important. Because we love this province. We want a healthier and a stronger environment in the years to come and that means having legislation in place that allows us to realize that goal, that objective.

Regional parks are also hugely important and this is why we have to get it right when we're looking at legislation about them in an economic sense, as I said in my earlier comments. The presence of regional parks in local communities can be a huge factor in economic activity for a local area. Mr. Speaker, I think of the example of Memorial Lake Regional Park and I said that's a place where I go in the summers very often — beautiful part of the province and we love going there.

An Hon. Member: — Where is it?

Mr. Broten: — By the town of Shell Lake. The Health minister's interested in knowing. But you can see a real change in the community between the summer and the winter months. And you can see a number of businesses, Mr. Speaker, that are in the area because of the existence of the regional park, because of the existence of a good golf course and of good camping facilities and then all of the economic and business spinoffs that are associated with the regional park being in that location.

So it's important when we're looking at legislation and making decisions, looking at proposals about how governance structures and decisions about the parks are made, that we get it right. And it's not just one park in isolation, Mr. Speaker. We have to realize that the network of regional parks across the province is a strong network. It's an important network and it's a network that has an impact and an influence on many parts of the province.

So when looking at this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012*, and it was introduced by the Minister Responsible for Parks as an Act and changes coming to things that needed to occur, according to his view. And the minister highlights a number of areas where this legislation is having an influence. He first said, Mr. Speaker, that "The first . . ." These are his words: "The first area of improvement under the proposed legislation [is], Mr. Speaker, is to provide a much clearer description of the minister's powers with regard to the regional parks program."

At face value, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't disagree that we need to have the powers and the roles clearly explained within the legislation. I think that is an important thing. It also, Mr. Speaker, talks about, according to the minister's second reading speech, and what he is suggesting that this legislation will accomplish is that it ". . . establishes the authority to delegate certain minister's powers to the . . . Regional Parks Association via a formal administration agreement . . . by the Lieutenant Governor in Council."

So decisions, Mr. Speaker, that traditionally have been the realm of the minister being delegated and having local associations with being given the power and the authority to make new decisions. And that's an important point. Also, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is looking at a ". . . formal recognition of community and non-profit organizations in the establishment and operation of regional park authorities, where previously only municipalities had this formal recognition."

So I would assume, Mr. Speaker, that this . . . I hope . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well perhaps the minister can explain further on in committee. But it's a modernization and a recognition of the role that other players on the ground have in the functioning of the parks, and that of course is very important. And "A fourth component of the proposed legislation is overall improved clarity throughout the legislation, including the removal of many out-of-date and redundant references."

So that's the modernization aspect. And then it goes on to talk about the adjustments in boundaries and the type of public accountability that is required.

So at face value, Mr. Speaker, some changes here which are significant are important because, as I said, the topic itself is very, very important. But when we think of regional parks and the news that has been generated by regional parks, we think of the sale of the regional park at LeRoy, Mr. Speaker, and that's a broader discussion. The minister's comments in his second reading speech were silent on that issue. But I can't help but think that this is connected or coming out of those decisions that had been made. And as I said before, any time there's a decision to, if there is a decision to sell a regional park, that's a pretty big deal and it's not something that we should take lightly. It's something that should be discussed and debated and be conducted and pursued in a very transparent and open and accountable manner.

And so I hope, Mr. Speaker, that any steps in that direction would in fact be openly discussed in the Assembly, would be discussed in an open manner by the minister. And I would, Mr. Speaker, like to have additional comment from the minister

with respect to how this legislation ties into that other situation. Because when we think of the hot spots that have been in the news around regional parks, most certainly the sale of that park is a major issue for, as I said, affecting one specific area of the province, but it has much broader and far-reaching implications for the regional park system throughout the province. And that's an important, a very important note to recognize.

So I wish the minister had elaborated more on that point because I think that's what many people are wondering about and are concerned about. And it would have been good if his remarks had addressed that in a more upfront manner and been open about why the changes are in fact occurring.

As I said, this piece of legislation is significant. It's important. And for that reason we need to get it right. And for that reason we need to hear and listen to many people in Saskatchewan. And I would encourage all members of the Assembly to do that, ensure that these proposed changes are in fact in the best interests of individual parks and the parks system. And I would encourage all members to do that. It's most certainly what we'll be doing in the official opposition as we continue to discuss this bill through adjourned debates and perhaps later on at the committee stage.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 63. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act*, 2010. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 64

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doherty that **Bill No. 64** — *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Regional Parks Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having just made a few remarks about Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012*, I'm happy to carry on the discussion about the value and the importance and the significance of regional parks through the context of Bill No. 64, *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012*.

Mr. Speaker, as the title and the name of the bill would suggest, this is of course quite tied to the previous piece of legislation in the sense that often when you change and make amendments to one part of legislation, there are implications for other bills. And, Mr. Speaker, this is the case in this situation. We know that just as the regional park system is valued but it's complex and diverse, and it most certainly touches many parts of the province, the legislation about the regional park system also touches other parts of existing legislation. And therefore when

changes occur in one area, it's necessary to make adjustments in the other.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, is bilingual, which is always nice, and it's Bill No. 64. As the minister said in his second reading speech when talking about this, Mr. Speaker, he said that these consequential amendments "... update references to *The Regional Parks Act, 1979* which are contained in *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*."

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a connection between these things. Alcohol and gaming regulation Act, the minister's remarks were fairly brief and perhaps he could've expanded a bit more. Often when people are at a regional park, they might like to enjoy themselves around the campfire. And that's part of the reality of going camping too, so long as it's done in a responsible, safe, and respectful manner. So this is a legislation that is tied to that.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that the earlier comments I made concerning Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act* would apply to this piece of legislation in the sense that when we make changes, any sort of adjustment to legislation affecting parks, it must be done in a responsible manner, must be done in an open and transparent manner, aware of the full implications of the decisions that we make, and how that may affect local communities because regional parks are hugely important for the local environment, for preservation of places that we love, whether it is a river or a lake or a piece of grassland. And, Mr. Speaker, regional parks are hugely important as economic drivers in local communities, providing business opportunities and employment for many people, so it's important to get it right. We will carry on with the consultation that we need to do on this piece of legislation and look forward to doing that in the weeks ahead.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 64. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Massey Place has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 64, *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments 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. 65

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 65** — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to Bill No. 65, *An Act to amend The Securities Act, 1988 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*. And this is a very technical bill dealing with securities and those related matters. And as I've read through it, of course, it

is one that needs to clearly be well-thought-out, well-articulated, and I appreciate the comments that have been made to date on it.

Fortunately, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't have my stories about buying pots and pans or getting my lawn fertilized and that type of thing that would relate to this bill. I don't have the same kind of experience going on on a Saturday afternoon, buying some over-the-counter derivatives. But I will do my best because I think what you want to do is have bills that work for every person.

[15:15]

And I think that, as the minister in his opening comments alluded to, that a lot of the things that happened in the financial crisis of 2008, there were many causes, but one of the things that played a role was over-the-counter derivatives. And he talked about the role it played in the financial crisis of 2008. And it's important, and I quote:

In 2008 the OTC market and the complexity of OTC derivative contracts was compounded by a lack of transparency. This made it challenging for regulators to identify the risk before the crisis. This is contrast to the trading of derivatives on regulated exchanges which did not experience any significant failures during the financial crisis of 2008.

So it's important that we get it right as we see, in Saskatchewan and across the world and throughout North America particularly, the interest in securities and online investing and this type of thing and how it's important that there be some level of transparency and that people who are investing have confidence in this system. And clearly in 2008 confidence in the system was severely, severely shaken as we saw particularly what happened in the United States. And they're still recovering, and of course what happens in the United States has a major, major chilling effect here in Canada.

And so this is an important piece of legislation, and it's important that we get it right. And so we'll be making sure that we talk to the stakeholders and those in the know about this type of thing to say, does this meet the test? Does it meet the needs of investors, ordinary people who are looking to invest their money to make sure they're not at risk, that they're going to see some return, and that you don't have the large, systemic computer-driven collapses of what happened.

We often think back now about the marketplace. And clearly it's got to be, now it's becoming one of the most complex areas for anybody to try to understand when you're investing money, when you're talking about particularly relating it to the housing market, when people were hedging their mortgages and mortgages were grouped together and the impact of that. Boy, it does make your head spin to try to keep track of all the details.

So we're glad that this is being taken on and we hope that it's the right thing. And of course, as I said, we'll be looking at it further with those in the know. And you know, when we think back and we think back about some of the stories that came out, particularly from Wall Street where this kind of investment and people who were able to benefit greatly by the kind of things

that were unethical, but clearly they were able to do it because of the lack of transparency that the minister speaks about.

And so I think this is very, very important that we see this kind of work be done, that it's transparent, that it's clear, and people can understand what the risks are, and when they're investing, what will happen to their money. So we're glad to see this. And of course when the minister talks about jurisdictions where many of our Canadian firm counterparties are based, such as the European Union, the United States, they are . . . [inaudible] . . . ready to impose a new regulation on the OTC [over-the-counter] derivative market. And of course when they have those rules set out, there has to be consistency across the marketplace internationally, nationally, and provincially. And so we hope that those meet that test. This is very important.

As he talked, he says, “. . . regulatory inaction is not an option given the commitments Canada has made as part of the G20.” And that's very important that we do live up to those obligations.

You know, one of the things, and we take a lot of pride . . . You know, on one hand we often hear about getting rid of regulations and regulations are bad, that somehow the less regulations, the better the marketplace can play.

But you know, one of the things that we sure are proud of in Canada is our banking regulations, and the things that we can take a lot of pride in that have been balanced over the course of the years that meets the need of the marketplace so people can do their business but they do it ethically and that people are safe and not left in vulnerable positions. And so this kind of thing, and of course when our national government takes leadership at the G20 [Group of Twenty] and says, these are the regulations and hopefully they're meeting the needs at the international level, and then down to the national, as I said. And now down to the provincial level, it's our obligation to follow suit as soon as we can. So we hope that these are sufficient to meet those tests.

Clearly it's an important area and we cannot, we can't all fall behind. We just don't want to hear the horror stories of what happened in 2008 repeat itself. Just too many families, particularly in the United States, we can see were left in positions that they're still trying to recover from. And so while that was limited in Canada and even more limited here in Saskatchewan, it's one that we just don't want to see again. So it's a lesson learned, I guess, at the school of hard knocks. And of course, unfortunately for those who did lose significant amount of monies, particularly in their retirement funds, it was a hard, hard, hard lesson.

So we will be watching this one very closely. It's an important one and a complex one. I mean it's one that when I look at . . . The legal terminology is dizzying if you're not familiar with it. But I'm glad that there are people within the public sector, within the public service who know this area. And that's part of the consumer protection authority, it references that. And I think that's a good thing because people need to, as I said, have that confidence in the system, that there's the leadership of the government, the provincial government's there to protect everyone.

And more and more we know that while it's a tough thing, it's a tough thing to deal with debt, but if you're fortunate to have some savings, fortunate to have some securities, you want to make sure that you're not at risk of losing it because it took a lot of work to get your savings, to get your investments together. You sure don't want to have it be lost because of something you couldn't see. And I guess that's the ultimate test, or the transparency test, isn't it? You couldn't see it. You didn't think of it. It was too opaque, a term that the minister uses. So we think this is important.

He also talks about that:

this bill also provides that certain confidential records and information gathered by officials with the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority may not be publicly disclosed. These include records relating to examination of market participants and self-regulatory organizations . . .

And he goes through, he says, "Protecting the confidentiality of these records is critical to ensure the effective enforcement of securities legislation."

And I think I appreciate that in a sense of, you know, in terms of the business climate, you want to be competitive but yet you have to have some transparency. And so when you have our agency, the Financial Consumer Affairs Authority, being able to do a thorough investigation, that there's some confidence in terms of the business marketplace that there will be some confidentiality that these records will not be bandied about and that there will be an ability to keep some of their practices, their records, what they do in a confidential manner, is important.

So I think this is an important bill. Clearly if they said that when we look back to the crisis of 2008 and how it manifested itself in so many different ways — whether it was in the manufacturing sector in Ontario, whether it was the housing collapse in the States, or the financial sector with the collapse in terms of investments for people, particularly in terms of pensions — it was so widely felt and how it's all interconnected. And so it's important to make sure all links in the chain are strong, and whatever we can do to make that as strong as possible, that's very important. And I do appreciate the fact that this is largely driven through a national, international response to make sure we don't have that kind of thing happen again.

And as I said, we can take a lot of pride in the fact that we do believe in the importance of government regulatory frameworks so that business can have a level playing field, so everybody knows what the deals are, but that the consumers, the individuals are protected and they're not left in vulnerable positions because of a lack of transparency.

It's only fair that people can have confidence in the marketplace, especially when, as I said, you're investing what to individual people may be large amounts of money. To others it may be small, but when you lose your investments and your pensions and you have to work several years more, this can be a crushing, crushing life experience at a time when you want to . . . when you're looking forward to retirement and something comes along and essentially just blows you right out of the

water because of some unethical behaviour and a chain of events that's launched and that were within the legal framework, but unfortunately it was not transparent and it wasn't as well thought out as it might have been. And so I hope that this fits the bill, that it actually meets the need that it's trying to do.

We also hope that there are no unintended consequences. We hope that people do have confidence in the marketplace, will invest, will look at over-the-counter derivatives as a financial product that they can have confidence in. We think this is important that when they do this kind of thing, that it will be fair.

Now I know the minister in his remarks . . . And they were very technical and so I appreciate that. And of course I can't match that technical knowledge and I won't try to. So we'll have to leave this to the experts to really comb through and say, yes, this is the right answer; this is the way it should be. Or if there are things that are left out, if there's some glaring omissions, we clearly will be raising those questions about why isn't this part of the issue. So I think this is an important issue to go forward.

He does talk about the fine collection branch that will be operating and collecting financial compensation orders and how that will proceed, and I think that it seems to be all part of the package.

And so with that I know that many other people will want to speak to this, and of course we hope that we will have a chance to speak more in committees and different venues about this issue. Because clearly, as I said, when you're dealing a consumer protection area like this, this is an important one, that people say it meets the needs. It's the right thing. It allows for the marketplace to offer a wide range of products, including the OTC derivatives, but that they're fair and that they meet and do what they say they're going to do and not anything more.

And so it's not making people accept the risk that shouldn't be there. It shouldn't be there, and that it then, you know, is part of a larger collapse as we saw with the financial crisis of 2008. You know, when I think about some of the stories and of course the films, the narratives of some of the things that happened in 2008 where people lost so much money, and yet some people were able to walk out of that with a whole lot of money, millions of dollars, because they happened to be at the right place or it seemed like the money fell from the heavens. Now how did that work? I don't know. So it's a bit of a mystery, but I think this goes a long way to solving that. I think that, again as I said, we'll be talking to people in the know who can assure us of that. That's what we'll be asking. I would want to know more about that.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we'll be asking a lot more questions about it. We'll be having . . . I know many more people will want to talk a bit about this. But at the time being right now, it's a very thick bill. It's not a small one. Like some of the other bills will have one page or something. This again is some 40, 50 pages, 49 sections, very thorough. But it has to be. It has to be when we're talking about contracts and financial contracts, some 49 sections. So a lot of work here that needs to be gone through and a very thorough, thorough combing of all the details to make sure that all the pieces fit and that it actually

sets out to do what it means to do and that there won't be any unintended consequences. It doesn't create any more loopholes or weaknesses in the legislation so problems can arise.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to move adjournment for Bill No. 65, *An Act to amend The Securities Act, 1988 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 65. Is it the pleasure of Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

[15:30]

Bill No. 45

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 45 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Saskatchewan Telecommunications) Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's always a pleasure to wade into the debate on bills in this House. And today I'm speaking to Bill No. 45, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Act and the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation Act*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in looking at the bill and the minister's second reading comments, the two things that this bill proposes to do, Mr. Speaker, is to . . . They speak to borrowing limits and provisions to allow SaskTel to in fact borrow at 30-year terms which is consistent with the Ministry of Finance and . . . over 30-year terms actually which is consistent with the Ministry of Finance and allows them to access some of the financial tools that the bond markets has put onto the marketplace here in Canada.

The second part of this bill, Mr. Speaker . . . And as I said, the minister in his second reading comments refers to these as housekeeping items. But what is happening here is there is . . . The minister says here: "Currently [you need an order in council] SaskTel requires an order in council for all lands purchased in excess of \$100,000." And the minister says, "This can delay the purchase of land for cell towers." And he's arguing that this ". . . impacts SaskTel's ability to provide exceptional service to its customers in the highly competitive cellular market . . ."

So they are removing the need for an order in council for lands purchased in excess of over \$100,000, which of course our Crowns are . . . Crowns exist to provide exceptional service to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The whole goal of Crown corporations is to ensure all Saskatchewan residents have access to the services, that it's not limited or that it's just not people in Saskatoon or Regina who have access to

services, but people in the North, people in rural and remote communities have access to whether it's cell service, Internet service, all those kinds of things.

So I think it's useful or I understand why the minister is saying that it's important to be able to react quickly. But any time you're removing a piece of oversight or diminishing oversight in any case, there are some concerns. Our giving more power and less scrutiny to government is problematic, especially here in this province where we've had some difficult financial times and where there were some less than stellar borrowing practices in the '80s, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So yes, we do understand the importance to be able move quickly to provide services to the people of Saskatchewan by accessing land. But obviously it is some concern that there is a little bit less scrutiny or oversight in that.

Also the one thing that stands out, this is a government who, particularly thinking back to 2009 with the Crown sector, took \$755 million in one year from the Crown sector. So the Crown, in this case SaskTel, is increasing its borrowing limits. But one could argue that this enables the government to mask, mask some of the debt that it's incurring by not having it in the General Revenue Fund. Instead, that borrowing is happening in the Crowns, and because the government doesn't report on a summary financial basis, we don't get a full picture of the province's accounting, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So that is a bit of a problem. But these are early days when we receive . . . Sorry, I have a bit of a cold, Mr. Deputy Speaker. These are early days. We've just seen these bills in the last couple of weeks, and it does seem like a pretty simple bill. But our job as the opposition is to take a look at the bill and see if there's any other questions or concerns, and as the opposition, we will continue to do that.

And with that I would like to move adjournment of debate on Bill No. 45, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Act and The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation Act*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 45. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 46

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 46 — *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The topic of pension, something that everyone should think about often. Some people think lots about it and act about it, and others put it off, Mr. Speaker. But it's an important topic because it talks about the

type of lifestyle and benefits that one can have when they've completed their working years, Mr. Speaker. And it's an important topic because we know that individuals in society, those that have paid into pension plans for so many years, Mr. Speaker, deserve to receive the benefits according to the rules of the plans.

And so when we're looking at pensions, it's a really important issue for everyone. It's top of mind, Mr. Speaker, for people who are retired or people that are close to retirement. I think, you know, some individuals might look at their pension numbers and use that as a calculation as to when they might be able to finish working or complete working or do some sort of semi-retirement arrangement. For others, Mr. Speaker, it's more of a far-off prospect but still thought about from time to time, I would think, by most people.

So whenever we're making decisions around pensions and there's legislation on pensions, it is important to get it right. We know that there have been many discussions provincially as well as federally with the types of pensions and old age security and benefits that individuals in the country have in their senior years. And it's rarely without controversy, Mr. Speaker, that there are changes to pension plans without people raising their voices. And rightfully so because when people pay into a plan for many years, it's only fair that they expect the benefits to be there when they're needed, when they're entitled to them. But pensions are also very important, Mr. Speaker, because they also involve the role of the employer who pays into a plan, recognizing the work that the employee is doing, the contributions that the employee is making.

Generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, there are two types of pension plans: either the defined benefit plan or the defined contribution. The defined contribution plan, Mr. Speaker, where the employee would put in some and then there'd be some of type matching arrangement by the employer, and it's put into some sort of fund where the employee has a say in levels of risk that he or she is willing to assume and also assumes more of the risk associated with the plan and fluctuations in the market and how the pension dollars are invested. So that's the one side of the equation. And for most people, Mr. Speaker, defined contribution plans, I would imagine, are more common these days. And there's been a shift from other types of plans to defined contribution plans. Most for example most civil servants in the province paying into the public employees pension plan, or PEPP, would fall under that category.

However the defined benefit plan, Mr. Speaker, is a different arrangement where an employee once they hit a magic number of age and years of service are able to retire and then be given a percentage of their annual or monthly earnings on a going forward basis. And in some situations, Mr. Speaker, that benefit may be indexed so that it increases as inflation in the country occurs. And so it's a very secure model, Mr. Speaker, in the sense that when individuals who have been working in a career for a period of time have put in the service, they know that they will be getting a certain benefit for the duration of their life. And then when they die, that benefit would end, though there are most often spousal arrangements for entitlements to pension plans under a defined benefit scenario.

So this piece of legislation here, Mr. Speaker, I make those

introductory comments because I think it's important to set the stage for the nature of the discussion that we're looking at with this particular piece of legislation, the municipal employees' pension plan, which is a defined benefit plan. As the minister said in his second reading speech — our Finance minister, Mr. Speaker — *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act*, the plan is commonly referred to as the M-E-P-P. Perhaps it's pronounced or said as MEPP [municipal employees' pension plan]. I'm not too sure on that, Mr. Speaker, but it's a defined benefit pension plan administered by the Municipal Employees' Pension Commission.

So when we're looking at possible changes to a pension plan, especially when it's a defined benefit plan, there's sort of two main factors I think that we need to consider. One is the solvency or the financial well-being of the plan and the fund, whether or not there's enough money being contributed by the employer and the employees in order to ensure that the dollars will be there in the long run, in the years ahead, as people retire — live increasingly long, Mr. Speaker, thankfully in most cases — and are expecting a benefit, and there needs to be enough dollars being contributed on an ongoing basis in order to keep the defined benefit plan on good ground. So the solvency and the health and the well-being of the fund is one factor to consider.

What's also important, Mr. Speaker, to consider is the aspect of contributions and the aspect of benefits. And so when employees have worked for many years, Mr. Speaker, have given their years of service under existing plans and rules, it's fair as most would see, Mr. Speaker, and as many courts would discuss, that they're entitled to the arrangement of the plan at the time that they signed up and paid into the plan for many years.

So there's a benefit that pensioners are entitled to. And then at the same time, there's a responsibility for the employer in the situation with defined benefit plans to pay into it and ensure that it's on good ground.

So looking at these changes, we should never take any sort of change to pension plans lightly. We always have to make sure that we ask the correct and the proper questions. Many of the plans, many of the changes here are of different nature. Some of them are more administrative and perhaps more modernizing and some of them might have a larger story behind them. And that's information that we don't necessarily know given the short length of the minister's second reading speech.

There's one aspect about continuing the length of terms for Chair so that there is continuity. Mr. Speaker, that's one component, so that's an important point to make note of, but there is also, Mr. Speaker, the issue on plans: we want to ensure that there is the necessary steps being taken, that there is new leadership coming in, and proper decisions are being made.

There are also, Mr. Speaker, comments that are made by the minister concerning benefits being given to spouses in the situation of marital breakdown or a death of a loved one, Mr. Speaker. It's important to have clarity around that. And it's based on, the changes here, I would imagine that the changes being brought forward are coming out of a situation where the pension plan has had a problem or a concern. So I would hope

that issue has been handled properly and appropriately and that this legislation would help in that matter, but I am interested in finding the background story on what is the impetus for this change that's being brought forward and proposed by the Minister of Finance.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, some important comments. Whenever we're talking about pensions, we need to be careful and we need to be thorough. And I look forward to ongoing discussions on the issue of pensions and on the particular issue of Bill No. 46, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act*. So with that I would move to adjourn debate on this piece of legislation. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Massey Place has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 46, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

[15:45]

Bill No. 47

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff that **Bill No. 47 — *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to enter debate on Bill No. 47, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*. Mr. Speaker, this bill actually seems fairly straightforward, that basically the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is going to be renamed the Water Security Agency. So the bill itself is only, well two pages double-sided, but basically it is a name change.

I do know the minister in his comments, changing the name of the Watershed Authority to the Water Security Agency, I know the minister in his comments, which isn't mentioned in the bill, did talk about amalgamation: "The Water Security Agency brings together for the first time all of government's core water management responsibilities and technical expertise to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to water management." So I know that the minister mentioned that in his second reading comments, but that's not in the bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The one thing about water, the minister actually had quoted Mr. Thomas Axworthy and Mr. Bob Sandford: "Water security is the foundation for food and energy security and for overall long-term social and economic development," and I would completely agree with that. Without access to water for drinking, for cleaning, for economic activity . . . Water is the thing that we need, Mr. Deputy Speaker, more than anything else. And I think sometimes here in Saskatchewan with the

abundance of the lakes and rivers that we have here, that we often take water and water security for granted.

I know here in, well not here, but in Saskatoon over the summer, in a community in Saskatoon, there was a boil-water alert for about a week. So we take completely for granted that when we turn on the taps that clean, safe water will flow from the taps, but that isn't the reality all the time. As I said, this community in Saskatoon faced some difficulties. I know in communities around the province that can be a very real issue, and living under a boil-water alert is not particularly fun, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So making sure that we have access to clean water for drinking and living is imperative.

In terms of recreation and livelihood, I grew up actually just four blocks from the South Saskatchewan River. It's been a huge part of my life since I was about 10 years old and able to have permission to run or ride my bike along the river. I know the huge role that the South Saskatchewan plays in my life and continues to in terms of recreation. And many people in Saskatoon and visitors to Saskatoon, the access to the amazing river valley and the water is hugely important. For myself too, when it comes to recreation or accessing all the waterways that we have here in Saskatchewan, I've had the opportunity — it's been many years now — but to canoe the William River into Lake Athabasca, which I would say is probably one of the highlights of my 42 years. It was the most amazing experience, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to be on this pristine waterway, the William, and see both the power and the purity of that body of water, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Apparently I've mentioned my age, which I don't think is a big deal, but the current Minister of Highways thinks it's a big deal. So anyway, recreation and access to our waterways is an important part of life for many people here in Saskatchewan. This is another interesting fact. I think water for birth, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is an important thing. I know from my own experience, my second daughter was born in a big plastic pool in my living room which . . . So water is something that we need from the start of life to the end of life. So making sure that our waterways and security of that water source is absolutely imperative.

And this bill, as I said, simply speaks to the name change of the Watershed Authority to the Water Security Agency, which I wonder a little bit about why. Why the name change? You always wonder when a bill comes before the House, what's the rationale? Where has this come from? So again, is this a rebranding effort? I'm not sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but we have no idea what the Water Security Agency or why, why the need to change the name from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to the Water Security Agency. And that wasn't laid out. Why the change has happened, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has not been laid out in this Act.

But I think the reality is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we all recognize that water again is imperative for life, for quality of life, for health, for economic development, all those things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and making sure that there . . . We often take that for granted and we need to think more about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate on Bill

No. 47, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 47. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Bill No. 48

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff that **Bill No. 48 — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak to Bill No. 48, which is *An Act to amend The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*.

I have a few comments about the bill itself and I guess its predecessor bill, or I guess the bill is now chapter M-2.01 which is *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases and Adaptation to Climate Change Act* which I understand, although it was assented to over two years ago in May, it's still not in force. And so I do have a couple questions about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But first of all to the bill itself, the minister's indicated that it's just meant to allow the province to negotiate an equivalency agreement with the federal government on the federal coal-fired electricity regulations that were gazetted just a couple of months ago in the House of Commons.

And so what appears to be happening here is this equivalency agreement is just to avoid duplication of regulation, which makes a lot of sense. We see that happening when there's duplication of regulation in things like food inspection. Unfortunately that seems to be flip-flopping around, a lot of it. So we have to be very careful when we're talking about a duplication of regulation in these areas, and particularly in the environmental area because we've seen it with food inspection. And what happens is that the province got out of the field because the federal government was in the field. But now we have the federal government and the Minister of Agriculture getting out of the field, and so now the province is going to have to step up its efforts to make sure it's in the field.

And these kinds of flip-flops are something that I think are unfortunate, particularly in times of fiscal restraint like we see these days, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And so in terms of management and reduction of greenhouse gases, as we know, this is an issue that's very important in the entire planet, not just in the province of Saskatchewan or the country, the nation of Canada, but indeed around the world. And we know that greenhouse gases are seriously impacting climate, and we see

the types of extremes of climate that pretty much has established science these days that is caused by the increase of greenhouse gases in the planet, and certainly in Canada and Saskatchewan where we know Saskatchewan is one of the largest producers of greenhouse gases.

Now I'm looking right now at a document that was presented actually today in Calgary by the deputy minister of the Department of Environment, Liz Quarshie, and it was presented to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. And she gave an update on Saskatchewan to CAPP [Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers], particularly on environmental issues.

And one of the things she had was a pie chart on the PowerPoint presentation that she provided. And in that pie chart, she sort of indicated where greenhouse gas emissions are coming from in Saskatchewan. And I think the public might be interested to take a close look at this kind of chart, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because although we think, you know, in our residential buildings and in our homes, that that's a source of a large amount of greenhouse gases escaping . . . And if you don't have secure and sustainable houses, there's a lot of greenhouse gases escaping into the atmosphere. But actually, residential buildings in Saskatchewan only account for 3 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions that are being emitted in our province.

So who do you think the other culprits might be then? Well maybe it's big commercial buildings. But in fact those are only responsible for 2 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions. I know, then it might be cars. We're thinking, well it's got to be our personal cars. Well they certainly do have a lot of emissions, but cars, personal transportation, 6 per cent, 6 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. Well maybe it's those big trucks we see driving up and down Highway 11. Yes, there's a lot of those, and in fact more and more all the time. Well they account for 11 per cent. So we're still not even really about a quarter of the greenhouse gas emissions that come from the province. Homes are 3 per cent. I already mentioned that, but I want to reclarify that for the previous minister so that he knows how much his house is responsible.

Then we look at there's other three main areas, other three sources of greenhouse gas emissions. First of all agriculture, a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions come from the agriculture fields — 17 per cent. Then what would be next? You would think well probably power plants, and that's correct. Coal-fired power plants I assume would be a large part of this. Twenty per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions come from coal-fired plants. And the big winner in the greenhouse gas emission contest in Saskatchewan is the oil and gas sector — 37 per cent. Almost half of our greenhouse gas emissions come from the oil and gas sector.

So that's something that might be interesting to the people of Saskatchewan. And certainly the management of these greenhouse gases is something this government is attempting to deal with, and also they're trying to reduce it. We heard some numbers the other day that in fact they haven't introduced any significant measures since they came into government to actually reduce greenhouse gases. And although there have been some lofty targets set for 2020, we're not sure how that's

going to go for this government. So we'll be watching that very carefully.

Certainly coal-fired emissions from power plants, as I said earlier, is responsible for approximately 20 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions. And hopefully these bills that this government has, well, they've introduced — they haven't passed them yet — will make a change. But we're not sure because of the environmental scan that was recently released for the department shows that no change has really occurred yet. So again we see lots of good words and lots of good intentions, but we will be looking for results. And as much as I'm hopeful, I'm not going to hold my breath, Mr. Speaker, on these just yet.

So Bill 48, what it does is it seems to try to bring the government's bill that was introduced two years ago into the requirements for the equivalency agreement with the federal government in order to allow the province to occupy this field of regulation. And the basic change that the bill attempts to do is to allow for individuals or citizens to have an investigatory power as well, and that's a legal requirement for the equivalency agreement. So the citizens, anyone over the age of 18, this amendment will allow anyone over the age of 18 to apply to the minister for an investigation into a matter they think is a contravention of the Act. So this is something that's drawing citizens in and giving them some of the responsibility and powers to ensure that the government is doing its job and that if there's a contravention of the Act, which is a fairly significant Act in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, that the government will be responsible for ensuring the investigation takes place.

So the first change they're adding is section 62.1. And that one just defines who it is that can actually apply for an investigation, and that would be any resident of Saskatchewan who's 18 years old and is of the opinion that a contravention against this Act or the regulations or code has been committed. So they're allowed under this section to apply to the minister for a contravention. And in their application, they certainly have to state who they are, what's the nature of the alleged contravention, the names of people alleged to be involved in the commission of the contravention, and a concise statement of the evidence supporting those allegations. So those are the three requirements for any citizen to file or apply for an investigation.

And once that happens — this is a very strong section, Mr. Deputy Speaker — after 20 days of receiving one of those applications by any resident of Saskatchewan, as long as they've given all the information required, the minister has to send them a letter and tell them or provide them in some form of acknowledgement of their receipt of the application and the minister shall investigate all matters that the minister considers necessary to determine the facts. So the minister has no choice. They have to investigate as far as the minister considers necessary. So there is a bit of room for the minister there to make some sort of determination, but the minister has to do this.

[16:00]

And then after acknowledging, the minister has to report to that same applicant every 90 days on the progress of the

investigation. So no matter how long it takes, the minister's required to file a report with that applicant. It's a very good move, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is something that really keeps the applicant in the loop and feels like they're part of the process. So I think that's an important change, and if it brings it within the equivalency agreement that the government's negotiating, that makes good sense.

And of course the minister is also required under the second new clause to “. . . include an estimate of the time required to complete the investigation or to implement action.” The subsection, the new subsection also says a report isn't required if the investigation's discontinued within that current 90-day period that the minister is under.

And then subsection (5) of 62.2 says the minister can discontinue if he's of the opinion that the contravention does not require further investigation. So certainly there's an opportunity there for the minister upon consideration to discontinue the investigation if he or she feels it's not warranted. However if they do discontinue it, again they have to report to the complainant or the applicant and make sure that they're aware of it and the reasons, and they must state the reasons why.

So I think this is definitely a positive move for including concerns of citizens in Saskatchewan and ensuring that they are part of the process of dealing with the contraventions under this Act.

I would really encourage the minister to take the similar approach when it comes to investigating illegal drainage under the Saskatchewan, well it will be the Saskatchewan water security Act because the process that happens there is actually quite a bit different. And in that case, neighbours are pitted against neighbours. They have to report against their neighbour first before the ministry even gets involved or the authority. And in that case, you know, sadly the authority seems to be understaffed, and they're not able to keep up with the volume of complaints. And we don't see this kind of process where the ministry or the authority that's responsible for the investigations are required to report and make 90-day reports and then every . . . you know, and then let the people know who have complained. In fact those people have to pay to have the complaint heard by the, currently, the Watershed Authority.

So I think this kind of approach makes a lot more sense and would probably be more proactive. And certainly I think people would think more than once about actually conducting illegal drainage on their property. And currently I don't think the current process seems to encourage people to follow the law. There seems to be more benefit in not following the law because it's so difficult for this government and for the authority to enforce it.

So I'm thinking since the minister is responsible for *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* is also responsible for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, this is an approach I think that we would certainly recommend that he consider for the control and certainly reduction of illegal drainage which is an equally important issue here in Saskatchewan. Well maybe not as important as greenhouse gases and climate change, but it certainly is one of the

contributing factors to some of the climate change that we see in Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the other thing I did want to talk about a little bit was sort of the climate change framework that this government is approaching. And I wanted to indicate that the province has signed an agreement in principle on efforts to address climate change with the federal government in 2009. So take a little look at the timeline here. So this government signed an agreement in principle in 2009. Then they introduced a bill. And in 2010, the bill passed but . . . Or sorry, it received third reading, but it's not in force yet. That's more than two years ago now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, two and a half years ago. We still don't have the bill in place. Now two and a half years later, the government is finally introducing changes to enable it to enter into the equivalency agreement that was contemplated back in 2009.

So I think this is another example. We've seen two or three examples in this session where this government is not properly passing bills to begin with. They're not doing the proper consultation. They're not doing their homework. They're hastily passing the bills. And then we see two years, two and a half years later, oops, we forgot to deal with the citizenship requirements under the equivalency agreement. We now can't pass the bill until we do the proper amendments. Oh okay, we've got to get the amendments through this session. Those likely won't get through until next year. It'll be a full three years before they can pass the original bill that was passed in 2010. And they're still not able to sign the equivalency agreement with the federal government that they entered into in 2009 or they promised to commit to negotiate an equivalency agreement.

So this government is really quite behind. Alberta has already passed this equivalency agreement. They're caught up, and they're dealing with it although their greenhouse gas emissions are significantly higher than ours, as you can imagine, with the tar sands and the oil and gas activity in that province.

So greenhouse gas emissions are a serious issue. It's one that we take very seriously, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And we will be watching not only the progress of this particular bill but more importantly this government's progress on its commitments to Canada, to the federal government, to the people of Saskatchewan to ensure that not only these lofty goals are set but really, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that these lofty goals are met. And based on what we've seen so far, we're actually going in the other direction.

So if carbon capture happens and coal-fired generation, they can get the ball rolling. Hopefully that will make a difference. That's one area where this government is making, attempting to make progress, but there are other areas that have been overlooked and we haven't seen any action on.

So at this point, I think I can say that the amendments to this bill or the Act, I guess it is, seem to be in order. It will move us along, our obligations, federally with Environment Canada and that hopefully once these pass, if we can get them through, this government will be able to proceed in a more timely fashion with its obligations to the federal government.

I think that's the extent of my comments at this point. I'm sure my colleagues are going to want to comment on this as well. And so at this point, I'd like to adjourn debate on Bill 48, *An Act to amend The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 48. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 49

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff that **Bill No. 49 — *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to speak to Bill No. 49, *The Forestry Professions Act*. And this professional legislation is being amended in some ways that I think requires some further study and further information as we move forward.

The minister, when he introduced the bill, talked about how this title as a forester or professional forester would be further protected, but I think we need to understand what the issues are in the forestry business.

Now I have to say off the top that I'm a lawyer by profession and not a forester, but I have had many years of experience in forestry as a worker in the mills, and also my uncle was very involved in the forestry business. So I know quite a bit about this over many decades. And one of the interesting issues that comes from looking at this particular bill is how they've decided to change the definition of forestry. And it's not entirely clear from the minister's comments or from the comments in the explanatory notes and other information that's here why these changes are being made.

Our present legislation has the definition of the professional practice of forestry under section 2(m) state that it includes all of the standard things that foresters do. And I think it's quite interesting to actually look at that. First one is, “. . . the planning, classification, inventory, mapping, measurement, certification, appraisal and evaluations of forests and forested land.”

And we know that in Saskatchewan we have a large boreal forest with some little pieces that are south of the boreal area. But our forest is actually the size of modern-day Germany. So we have a very great interest in making sure that this forestry definition and use in Saskatchewan is appropriate because all of these plans for the harvesting of trees, whether it's done through some of the larger companies or through some of the smaller companies, all have to be certified by a forester. And so therefore the plan and classification of the trees, the mapping,

all those things need to be approved by the forester. So that's the core definition of practice of forestry. But also in this whole process it also includes how you set out the development and implementation of the harvesting programs and then subsequently examining how the harvesting has been done, and then ultimately auditing how that has been done.

Also there's a role for the foresters to be very much involved in the long-term cycle of the forest, and I think we often forget about that. What we know in Saskatchewan is that our forests have a lifetime of about 100 years, maybe slightly less, and that when forests are I guess conserved or preserved in a way that allows for more older trees, they're subject to risk of disease but also forest fire. When we look at a map of Saskatchewan, we can see the numbers of fires over the years which have been part of the rejuvenation of the forest, and much of the work of the professional forester is to understand how the harvesting fits in with the natural cycle of the growth and then death of the forest.

And so it's important that the people who are involved in this area have those professional skills. What happens also then is professional foresters who are on the licensing side will approve plans done by other foresters and make sure that they follow the standards that have been set out in the forestry legislation in the province of Saskatchewan.

And then finally there's the other roles that it has here of developing the integrated forest land use plans. And we've seen in Saskatchewan some of those plans like the ones around Meadow Lake or around Prince Albert or over on the east side around the Hudson Bay area. All of those are extremely important for the long-term health of the forest but also for the health of the communities and the industries that rely on those forests.

And finally there's a role of a forester to actually be the manager within the various commercial companies that are involved in the harvest of the forest.

Now what this legislation does is it takes out of this professional practice of forestry two terms that have been there, or are still in there now, but will be removed by this legislation. One of them is "the teaching of forestry at a college, technical institute or university," and the other is "the conducting of research activities related to forestry."

Now it's not entirely clear from the information that we've received why those two areas have been removed from the definition of professional practice of forestry. I can just see from my own profession as a lawyer that we do not remove lawyers from membership in the Law Society because they're teachers or doing research. They end up paying the fees like everyone else if that's what they want to do.

Now they're not absolutely required to do that, and it may be that there is something here that relates to the fact of requiring professional fees, but we don't have that information. Or it may be that there was some mention of trying to be in sync with our western neighbours and their forestry legislation, but we don't have that information either.

[16:15]

So it raises a question for me as I look at this legislation, that people who have traditionally been involved in the professional practice of forestry are now being moved out of that category into what they call a "broader science of forestry." Now I'm not quite sure exactly what that means.

Now there may be another issue which I guess we have to speculate on. And that may be an issue that people who primarily are teaching forestry or primarily doing research have also been able to, on the side, do all of these other forestry-like activities and maybe take work away from professional foresters, and that therefore in the profession itself they've made some decision to try to move these people who are maybe a bit of freelancers or people working on the side. Now we have no, once again, no evidence that that's what has been proposed here. But it raises the question of, if that's one of the reasons that this legislation has come forward.

So there in that one small provision we've ended up . . . and so, which under the Bill 49 is section 2 amended. We've taken out two small clauses but there's a lot of questions about why that has happened.

Now they then go on into another section which under the bill is section 4 and it says section 22(1) is amended. And so what it then does is to I think basically add something called a restricted member, but once again it doesn't really explain what this person is and why the restriction is there. It will expand the use, it says, of the professional seal to other categories of membership but it doesn't totally explain why this particular perspective is taken. And so it . . . Now it appears also here that they've created some other categories or maybe included some other people who have forest technology training into the professional forester designation. But once again it's not entirely clear why this is being done or what it will do to change the nature of the profession in Saskatchewan.

And so I know that professional legislation is often not brought to this House without a request but in this area once again it's not entirely clear what the legislation is, the purpose of this change is.

So we need to continue to look at this and see if more information is forthcoming as this matter proceeds. But it's important that we don't dilute the professional standards of the people who are monitoring our forests in Saskatchewan because they're part of a long-term resource in this province. So in those particular sections of that, we end up with some changes.

Now as we can all see, this bill is only two pages long but already it's raised a number of questions for us here in the opposition and we look forward to getting more information as to exactly why many of these changes have been included.

And so then the next area of change is section 5 which adds a section after section 23 in the existing legislation. And this amendment says that there are individuals and classes of persons that may engage in activities falling under the definition of professional practice of forestry without being registered as a professional forester, a professional forest technologist, or a restricted member. So that's an interesting point that there are people that do some of these types of work, but they're not registered under this Act. So the question

becomes, well why do they have these special exemptions for these people?

So we need to then look at, well who is it that can be a professional forester? And this new section 23.01 says that basically a professional forester is a person who is registered as a member with the association of professional forest technologists, registered with an association as a professional forester, or is registered with the association as a restricted member pursuant to section 19(6). And so those restricted members are I guess people who have been approved by the particular association.

But then it goes on to say that there are people that can do some of the activities which are regulated by the professional legislation for foresters that don't have to be a member of the association. And so the first category is people who are foresters-in-training or forest technologists-in-training, provided that they're working with a professional forester. So that seems to be a reasonable exemption.

The second person who doesn't have to be under this legislation is an individual who works ". . . on property or premises owned or occupied by that person, if the work is for the sole benefit of that person." So that includes the person who has a forest on their own land. They can go and do forestry work with that forest that they own without causing any difficulty under the professional forestry legislation. Now that's an interesting concept that, you know, obviously is a holdover from how things have happened in Saskatchewan, but it does raise the question about the responsibility when different people or different groups own a portion of the forest where the management of the forest is crucial when it includes all of these privately owned pieces.

Another person who is exempted is "a member of the Canadian Forces performing his or her duties in the Forces." So that raises quite a few interesting possibilities. I assume it's the issue of taking down trees when they're in doing whatever work they're doing in the forces, but does it also include some other activities of planning around the use of the forest? And we do know that there are some parts of the northern forest in Saskatchewan that were part of military lands or have some military reserve status. So this may relate to some of that but once again it's not entirely clear why that exemption is there.

Then subsection (d) talks about another exemption where a person is responding to:

a present or imminent situation or condition that requires prompt action to prevent or limit:

(i) loss of life; or

(ii) harm or damage to the safety, health or welfare of people.

So that's not entirely clear what that is but presumably it might relate to a forest fire or it might relate to some other situation. So that would be helpful to have some explanation for that.

Subsection (e) talks about an exemption for an agrologist. Now maybe this relates to the practice of tree farming and the rapid

growth of trees within a farming-like operation or a forestry agriculture kind of a situation, and I think that may be appropriate but once again we should probably get some information about that.

And then it also, under (f), gives an exemption for a land surveyor who is practising their surveying skills under the meaning of *The Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Act* or a Canada Lands Surveyor. And so I assume there are some things that these surveyors would do that would infringe on *The Forestry Professions Act*. But once again I think we could use some information that would help us there.

And then we have under section (g) an exemption for a professional engineer or professional geoscientist who are doing some of their work. Now does this relate to the types of clearing of the forest or plans that are created around some of the mining operations in the North or some of the oil and gas well operations? And does that mean then that the requirement to have a professional forester do an overall plan for an area could be overridden by somebody with some other purposes? And where does this exemption lie? And who makes the decision as to whether the engineer or the geoscientist's approval of a particular process overrides that of the professional forester who is out to protect the forest? So there's a big question on that one.

Section (h) in this new section also gives the prospector engaged in the activity of prospecting, whether they're doing it for themselves or for others, they also get an exemption under *The Forestry Professions Act*. So once again that's a place where we would need some explanation as to why all these exemptions exist.

The legislation itself, as you can see, is quite short. But it has a whole number of questions within the Act that are not fully explained yet, and I think we will have other of my colleagues raise some questions about this that they see. And we'll also be looking forward to spending time in committee, when we get to that point, so that the minister and the ministry officials can give us a full explanation of what the intent of this legislation is.

So at this point, I would move we adjourn debate on Bill No. 49.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 49, *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 50

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 50 — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had quite a few questions about a two-page bill. And now we've got Bill 50, which is *The Medical Profession Act*. And it's a little bit longer, and once again it has a number of questions.

But I think what I will do is start out with looking at what appears to be the intent of this particular legislation. It's clear in Saskatchewan that the medical profession is a profession that's had professional legislation for a long time and that they have developed many procedures for dealing with the issues that arise in the practice of medicine in Saskatchewan. As well, they have worked very closely with their colleagues in other provinces across the country and in fact the States, the United States, and probably in other medical professions in other of the western medicine countries of the world. And so what we have is legislation that meshes with this international perspective on how medical profession legislation is organized.

[16:30]

What we're seeing in this particular piece of legislation though is a move away from having some of the registers or the ways of keeping track of the numbers of doctors in the province spelled out very clearly in the legislation and moving it to bylaws which can be changed more easily. And as many of the members of government know from when they were in opposition, this was something that they would often spend many, many hours talking about in the legislature because it relates to transparency and openness and how the public knows what's happening within a profession. A little bit of that is covered as it relates to *The Medical Profession Act* because many of their activities are very public, even though they're not public in the legislature or in a legislative committee.

So I don't have quite as big a concern about that, but this legislation is once again moving the transparency about, especially the registers that they talk about quite regularly in here, into bylaws. And it sets up a generic method of describing these registers which then can be established by the medical profession itself. And that's not necessarily a bad thing, but it does put a special onus on the medical profession to make sure that the information is open for inspection for all. And if we go to section 9 of the legislation, which describes new sections 27 and 28, it really does go through to say, well these registers shall be kept at the head office of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. They'll be open for inspection by anyone without a fee during the normal hours that the college is open, and it will have the information available for people to check up.

Now what we also know is that these registers are, more often than not, available on the Internet. So that information is available by people outside of the hours that are set out in the legislation, and I don't think that the medical profession is opposed to that. They want to make sure that the information is available and can be used by people when it's needed.

But one of the interesting things about the medical profession itself is that there are often situations where the qualifications, the licensure, and related professional standards of medical doctors are called into question. And sometimes it's related to incidents that happen in another jurisdiction that harm the reputation of the practitioners, so they want to get away from that place and move to another place. Sometimes we've had

situations where there are people who are not properly trained or properly registered that attempt to hoodwink the authorities and go into practice, but practically there are fewer and fewer incidents of that.

But anyway what happens in this particular registration is that this moving of the registries and the control of the registers into the college administration itself can work, provided that it is as open and transparent as possible and that strict rules apply. So we have that whole section that is an area of concern.

Now one of the things that ends up in this particular legislation is section 5, and section 5 where it amends subsection 6(2). And so effectively subsections 6(2)(f) and (g) are changed. And one of them is establishing the registers that I was just talking about, and then (g) talks about how you maintain and inspect the registers and make sure certificates can be issued as to the status of those doctors that are there.

Then it goes on and talks about, under the what would I guess be subsection 6(2)(j.1), a whole issue around"

authorizing the duly qualified medical practitioners to delegate the performance of acts in the practice of medicine specified in the bylaws to other health professionals specified in the bylaws in accordance with section 82.1.

And if we look at section 26 of this Bill No. 50, I think it is, you will see that there is a new section after section 82, and basically it's section 82.1. The title of it is "Act not to prevent members delegating to other health professionals." And I think it's important to actually read it here so we can try to figure out what is happening.

82.1(1) Subject to subsection (2), nothing in this Act prevents or limits a duly qualified medical practitioner from delegating, in accordance with the bylaws, acts in the practice of medicine that are specified in the bylaws to health professionals specified in the bylaws.

And then subsection (2) of that:

A delegation mentioned in subsection (1) may be made only if the health professional has the requisite knowledge, education, training and skill to perform the specified act".

Now I think what's being intended here is that doctors can delegate to physiotherapists, to nurses, to other health professionals, certain acts which have traditionally only been performed by medical professionals. But the way this particular clause is worded, I think there may be some problems. And let me explain what my concern is. Subsection (2) says:

A delegation mentioned in subsection (1) may be made only if the health professional has the [health] requisite knowledge . . .

Now is the health professional in that subsection (2), are they referring to the health professional that the work is being delegated to, or are they referring to the health professional who is the medical practitioner? Now I think they're . . . Because the

question becomes who decides whether that health professional has the requisite knowledge? Does the medical doctor do it? Does their health profession legislation do it? And I think the intention is that there will somewhere be a list of the kinds of things that a health professional can do that then the medical professional can transfer it to. But there may need to be some adjustment of the wording to make sure that's absolutely clear in this particular section.

Now what we're talking about here is the team practice, the family health centre model that was part of the health plan of 2001, which was still the one that's being implemented in the province, where you would maybe have two or three doctors working and covering a whole section of the province, working together with a team of other health professionals. And it would be possible to have certain of those health professionals designated to do different things, whether it's admit patients into the health facilities or declare death or a whole number of activities which can be quite difficult if you don't have enough medical professionals.

We know in the province of Saskatchewan that we have just under 120 medical professional vacancies, many of them in rural areas or in smaller communities. And there are a whole number of issues that arise when people don't have access to medical professionals. And this particular section in *The Medical Profession Act*, we hope will provide some assistance in making sure that there's no medico-legal problems in that delegation. So I think it's absolutely crucial that the wording be very, very clear and that it does what is intended.

So let's continue to take a look at this. And I think it may be that we will be asking some more questions about that section 26 of Bill 50, which is this new section 82.1 of *The Medical Profession Act*.

Now getting back to the beginnings of section 6, and this is subsection 6(2), which is section 5 of Bill 50, has a third subsection (c) which basically is adding the following clauses after clause (u) and now clause (u.1) in *The Medical Profession Act*:

“(u.1) requiring members to provide the college with their home addresses and any other information that may be specified in the bylaws, including information about themselves, the places where they practice and the services they provide at the places where they practice;

And then under subsection (u.2), which is a new one:

“(u.2) establishing restrictions on the disclosure and use of information obtained pursuant to clause (u.1)”.

So what does that mean? Well basically this is a response to the Privacy Commissioner's recommendation for the medical profession or the College of Physicians and Surgeons to get a better sense and control of medical records and what happens to them. This allows the College of Physicians and Surgeons, I think on my reading of it and looking at the explanatory notes, to make sure that members provide information about all the places that they've practised and where they've practised and gives the college the ability to keep track of where and what happens if they end up leaving the practice.

Now we know that there was a whole report by the Privacy Commissioner after the medical files were found in the dumpster down by the Golden Mile and that there are a number of processes that need to be reviewed to make sure that there is an appropriate place for old medical files or that there's a proper process of disposal of these particular items. And so I think this may be a piece of trying to fix that particular problem or at least take some steps towards fixing that particular problem. But I'm not sure it's entirely clear from the legislation or from the explanation given by the minister.

And so we will be asking some more questions about this and whether there actually should be some stronger powers for the college to make sure that there is someone within the system that has responsibility for these important documents for Saskatchewan people.

So, Mr. Speaker, that particular clause looks like it's going in the right direction but whether or not it actually does the things that we all expect, or especially that the Privacy Commissioner recommends, I'm not totally certain we can tell from this legislation.

[16:45]

When we look at changes that are made in that area, we'll be looking very carefully because there appears to be a gap around the responsibility for those records and who pays the costs and whether or not there's some role for government in doing that. We know that the previous minister had a lot of difficulty answering questions in that area and we are hoping that we'll get a proposal that will resolve some of that.

Now there are a number of other clauses here. I'm going to concentrate my effort on one more clause before I sit down and that's section 32. And section 32 of the legislation “is repealed and the following substituted.” So this is actually section 11 of Bill 50, but basically the heading is “Section 32 is repealed and the following substituted.” And when you actually look at what this particular clause does, it's quite interesting because what's happening here is that the wording is very close to what was in the previous legislation.

But let me show you what the difference is and we'll probably need to have some explanation for this. Under the existing legislation it says the title is, “Vesting of certain powers in event of emergency.” And then the new version says, “Vesting of powers in case of emergencies.” Event, case, I'm not sure what the difference is.

But then you go to the existing legislation we have right now. First line says, “The Lieutenant Governor in Council may declare an emergency to exist and may order . . .” and then the rest of the clause is exactly the same. The new one basically says, “The Lieutenant Governor in Council may order that the powers vested . . .” So it goes right into what the other legislation says and effectively says that the minister can take over the role of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and in the condition where members have withdrawn their services, the safety of Saskatchewan residents is being threatened, and the council is not adequately discharging the responsibilities.

So the difference is, under our existing legislation the

Lieutenant Governor in Council has to declare an emergency. Under the new legislation there's no such declaration necessary. It can just order that it's taking over the council when the same three conditions apply. I'm not quite certain why that change is there, but clearly this is legislation on the 50th anniversary of the doctors' strike, 1962, that relates to a situation like a strike by the doctors.

Now this . . . Is this a hint of the kind of legislation we're going to be getting under the new labour code? I'm not sure. It may be that this wording is being drafted to give the Lieutenant Governor in Council power even without declaring emergency or without declaring some kind of special situation to have arisen before they actually do something.

So I would very much appreciate an explanation of this. I know others and my colleagues will look at this because when power of the bodies that regulate the medical profession can be taken over by Lieutenant Governor in Council, basically at their will, in a situation where it looks like it's like a strike, I think that that's a very serious situation and we probably should have some declaration of an emergency before those special powers are granted to the minister by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

So there's a change here. We don't know why. There really doesn't appear to be any description of this, and we need to know why this is happening.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are some other areas in this particular legislation that I know I or my colleagues will want to comment on, but at this point I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 50.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 50, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 51

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 51** — *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 sur les enquêtes publiques* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to speak to the proposed Bill No. 51, *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*. And this appears to be an Act that's coming out of a long series of work through the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, and I think it's a good example of how the machinery of government ticks along while we as politicians do our thing. But this is certainly a piece of work that's been in the works for a long, long time and in fact probably at least 10 years before it's come to fruition.

We already have a public inquiries Act, Mr. Speaker, that is in place, but according to the comments of the minister and

certainly the recommendations that have come out of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, it was antiquated and needed replacing, and so that's what the minister has attempted to do in this bill.

It's a bilingual Act, which I think is appropriate for something like this type of inquiry, and I think there's a long history of public inquiries in Canada that inform this type of legislation. And indeed the Uniform Law Conference of Canada civil law section released a paper in 2003 called *A Public Inquiries Act Issues Paper*. It was authored by Professor Alastair Lucas from the University of Calgary. And in there, there's a nice introduction of lessons learned and why public inquiries have arisen in Canada and other jurisdictions and sort of how they serve a unique function within the Canadian legal system.

And there's been much written about the public inquiries, and what is known for sure is that the mechanism of a public inquiry has been used extensively by all levels of government. And certainly, I think, if you put your mind to it, you can think of a number of inquiries that have happened here in Saskatchewan or indeed in Canada — the blood inquiry, the Gomery Inquiry, and there's ones related to criminal law as well, like the Milgaard Inquiry. These are often complex: the Walkerton Inquiry. I mean, you could just think of any of number of public inquiries that have happened that are fairly public and certainly receive a lot of attention from the press.

So it appears that public inquiries and the way they've evolved in Canada have been the subject of much discussion, and *The Public Inquiries Act* paper sort of reviews a lot of that. I understand that there was a working group that got together to put this paper together, and Saskatchewan was represented by Mr. Darcy McGovern who is currently the director of legislative services for the Ministry of Justice. And we know he does fine work for that ministry, and certainly again it's another example of hard-working public servants putting these things, going through, patiently through the process required to get these kinds of bills actually drafted in accordance with the recommendations of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and ensuring that we're up to speed with other provinces as well. So good for Mr. McGovern for representing Saskatchewan in this discussion on the working team, and I think his work has come to fruition now with the tabling of this bill.

There's many criticisms on inquiries as an institution, and I think some of that is addressed in this paper. There's several topics that they addressed and there's a number of recommendations that the Uniform Law Conference of Canada made. If I understand correctly, there was actually a uniform bill that was proposed but I don't have that in front of me today. What we know is that public inquiries are very unique. They're very flexible. They're easily created. Often they're independent or, as the paper indicates, they're perceived to be independent. So a lot of that depends on, I guess, the choice of the commissioners and how the inquiry is instructed by the government of the day.

There are other forms of inquiries, as I said, like criminal justice ones or inquiries by government officials into conduct of public business. But by and large, inquiries are more general than that — public inquiries — and for certain they are political

instruments. The paper indicates, and I'll quote this:

Governments use them for policy advice, but also to insulate themselves from difficult or unpleasant issues or to seek vindication where government credibility has been attacked.

And I'll close the quote there. That's on page 3 of this paper. And certainly I think the Gomery inquiry was a very notorious example of that type of need for government to insulate itself from the actual wrongdoings that were alleged in that instance.

So what the minister has indicated is that there's two types of inquiries that this bill outlines. Part two is what we would call the commission of inquiry, which is a standard type of inquiry that I think we're familiar with as the public and the public would be familiar with. But the second piece of this bill is in part III, and in that part the ministry is suggesting a new type of inquiry called a study inquiry. And the minister indicates that's a smaller scale type of inquiry, would have different terms of reference, and would be a more appropriate way to look into certain matters.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure I understand what types of matters the minister is contemplating with this type of "study inquiry." That's not something I'm familiar with. I don't think it's something you see in other jurisdictions, but I could be wrong on that. It seems to be like a mini-inquiry, or maybe a paper inquiry with less investigation and more research. Rather than having witnesses come in, perhaps research papers would be written and presented. Unfortunately there isn't a lot in the minister's comments in terms of what this inquiry would look like.

And I think this is something that we will have questions throughout the debate period that we're in and also when this bill is referred to committee. I think those types of specific questions are something that I would have, and I'm sure my colleagues will as well in terms of what does he mean by study inquiry? What is it? What will it look like?

So we know that part II is the part that deals with the commissions of inquiry, which is the full-blown inquiry, and that part III is some sort of mini-inquiry that the ministry is calling a study inquiry. So again, when those would be appropriate, what kind of expenses we're talking about, what kind of costs that they will incur on the public purse, how often they will be used — we certainly will have a number of questions for that as we go through the debate on this Bill.

It seems like the Act deals with most of the recommendations of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. I haven't had an opportunity to fully parse that to see if all the recommendations are incorporated into this particular piece of legislation. I'm sure the good folks over at Justice will have made every effort to do that and if there are differences, there would be reasons for it. The minister hasn't indicated in his comments whether or not they have deviated from the recommendations that came out of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, so we will have to explore that a little further, and perhaps the minister will give us some edification on that at some point as he speaks to this bill.

The things that you will find in the bill — certainly I said there's the part II and part III; there's five sections in the bill altogether — and there's things that you will find, including the ability to establish joint commissions that certainly is one of the recommendations of the Law Conference. There will be also different reporting requirements, so the reporting that you see in the previous bill is now modernized. So there's things like electronic dissemination of documents and live reporting that can happen at the inquiry, and also that there has to be a public report released, you know, by the minister within a certain period of time.

There are other things. The Lieutenant Governor in Council will maintain, as they have in the current bill, the ability to appoint, or flexibility to appoint commissioners who are qualified and impartial. And the commissioners will continue to have powers to determine their own procedures.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that's very important in this type of inquiry because every inquiry is so unique. So you can imagine that as we go through each inquiry the needs of the commissioners are going to be different. Certainly the reporting requirements are going to be quite different for the witnesses, and the type of report that is generated is all going to be driven by what's happening in terms of the type of inquiry that's being struck.

Funding for the participants is another power of the committee. And they can also compel attendance for witnesses. So there's new powers for the commission, there's old powers. But I think at this point, Mr. Speaker, I think my colleagues are going to have a lot to say about this bill as well. We're interested in the studies of an inquiry, but at this point I'm going to adjourn debate on the bill. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 51, *The Public Inquiries Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — It now being 5 o'clock, this House stands adjourned to 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

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Capital Commission

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