



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

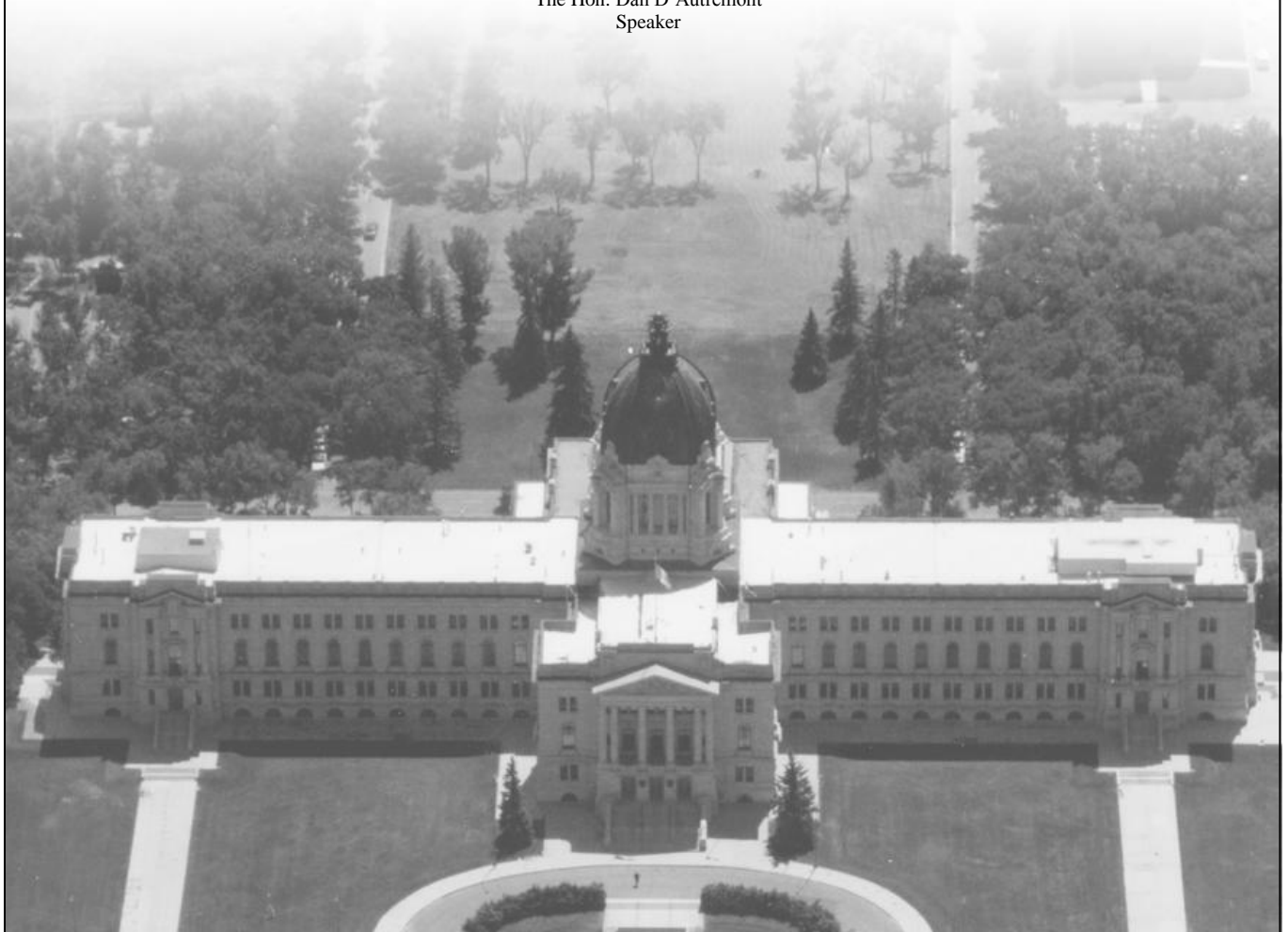
of the

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 |
| Brotan, 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, Hon. 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. It's an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members in this Assembly, some special guests that have joined us in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Today joining us is Norbert Steiner, the chairman of the board of executive directors of K+S Group, one of the world's leading fertilizer companies. And with him is Dr. Ulrich Lamp who is president and chief executive officer of K+S Potash Canada and a member of the parent company's board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, members in the House will know that about nine months ago, K+S broke ground on the Legacy Project located near Bethune, just north of Moose Jaw. Mr. Speaker, later this day, Minister McMillan and I will be meeting with these officials from K+S to get an update on the project.

This is the first greenfield potash project in the province since Elvis was still healthy, Mr. Speaker. It's been a very long time. They, I think, were the last company that built a greenfield project in Saskatchewan. This particular one will be about \$3.25 billion. It'll employ 1,500 workers in terms of construction and then 300 in the permanent workforce.

And members are welcoming them here. We do welcome this company back, Mr. Speaker. They were here before, but they were driven indirectly or directly driven out of this province for reasons members opposite will know well. We're grateful now though that they want to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming the representatives from K+S Potash. We're happy that they're here today in the Assembly, and we're happy that they're here in Saskatchewan. And we wish them all the best as they have discussions today with the Premier and the minister and wish them all the best with their project here in Saskatchewan. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these folks to the Assembly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to everyone in the House today, I would like to introduce 22 students from SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] Wascana Campus who are enrolled in the Aboriginal police preparation program this year.

Accompanying the students today are two instructors, Jim Pratt and Marlene Dormuth, both of who I worked with at the Regina

Police Service, and both bring a wealth of knowledge to the classroom. I would like all members to join me in welcoming these students and instructors to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming these students to their Legislative Assembly, from SIAST, the Aboriginal police preparation class. A big ride coming up, April 4th I understand. And I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, I'd had the pleasure of attending with the minister the Regina Police Service feast. They did a fine job serving, and they're ready to move on to serving and protecting, I would imagine, in terms of police work.

But I also want to say a special welcome to Marlene Dormuth and of course Jim Pratt. Jim did many years of good service for the people of Regina, heading up the cultural liaison unit with the Regina Police Service and taught a lot of good lessons to a lot of good moniyas. Anyway it's good to see these people here at their Legislative Assembly today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to join with my colleagues in welcoming Jim and Marlene to the Assembly. My contact with Marlene Dormuth of course is through the constituency of Regina Douglas Park but it goes back a long way, a lot farther than that. I had the opportunity and good fortune to work with Marlene as teacher and principal away back when, and I have to thank her for all the good work that she's done for all of the youth of the city of Regina.

And I also want to thank her for lending me Annie, her daughter, during the campaign. Annie was my rock star. So thanks, Marlene, and welcome to the Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am proud today to rise 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 cell service to the Canoe Lake First Nations, along with the adjoining communities of Cole Bay and Jans Bay; Buffalo River First Nations, also known as Dillon, and the neighbouring communities of Michel Village and St. George's Hill; English River First Nations, also known as Patuanak, and the hamlet of Patuanak; and of course Birch Narrows First Nation and the community of Turnor Lake, including all the neighbouring communities in each of those areas.

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed the petition that I am

signing today are primarily from Turnor Lake, but the great news is people have signed this petition all throughout Saskatchewan. And I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for the reconsideration of passing Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. And we know that the proposed Saskatchewan employment Act introduced in December 2012 is a sweeping rewrite of our labour laws, including but not limited to *The Labour Standards Act*, *The Occupational Health and Safety Act*, *The Health Labour Relations Reorganization Act*, and *The Trade Union Act*.

But since the employment Act has been introduced, literally hundreds of hours of studying comparisons have been carried out in the interests of due diligence. But we know, Mr. Speaker, there's no labour relations crisis to fix and no necessity to rush this omnibus bill through that will likely govern workplace relations for decades to come. I would like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the Government of Saskatchewan to not pass Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* in this current session before the end of May and to place it on a much longer legislative track to ensure greater understanding and support for the new labour law.

Mr. Speaker, I do so present. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Spring Free From Racism Family Day

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to speak about the 14th annual Spring Free From Racism family day celebration that took place at the Italian Club here in Regina yesterday.

Thousands of people attended this wonderful event which offered a great selection of food and entertainment to a full house. This event brings all cultures together in celebration and fun, making it easier to recognize the creativity of our diversity. As a multicultural province, it's important for us to take advantage of these opportunities to learn about other cultures and experience their uniqueness but also, Mr. Speaker, to experience the sameness.

The Spring Free From Racism committee was formed in 1995 to address the racial issues of our First Nations people, new immigrants, and visible minorities. Now 18 years later, this committee is still emphasizing the importance of respect in our community and recognizing the importance of diversity and celebrating our cultures.

I would like to ask all members to join with me recognizing the outstanding efforts of the Spring Free From Racism committee

for organizing this wonderful event, the sponsors who backed it, and the volunteers who provide wonderful cuisine, first-rate entertainment throughout the day. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Outstanding Principal Provides Leadership

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Principal Starla Grebinski of Sacred Heart Community School for being recognized by The Learning Partnership as one of Canada's outstanding principals. Her strong devotion to the community of North Central as well as the families of Sacred Heart Community School is tremendous, and the recognition entailed in this prestigious award is most certainly well-deserved.

Principal Grebinski and the teachers and staff of Sacred Heart have seized upon the importance of literacy and have fostered a fiercely proud reading culture that has caught students' imagination and enthusiasm. Last summer Sacred Heart achieved their goal of 200 students involved in the accelerated reading program. And once a month Sacred Heart hosts reading nights where families come together at the school to spend time reading with the kids, and the average amount of books read per night is over 300. In total Sacred Heart students have read over 20,000 books.

Principal Grebinski and her team have positioned Sacred Heart Community School as a literacy leader. To quote Regina Catholic School Division Director of Education Rob Currie, "That school, under her direction, has really, really worked with the philosophy that if you can read, the world is open to you."

Starla Grebinski truly deserves the award as one of Canada's outstanding principals for providing amazing leadership to an amazing team in a school of readers and learners, a school of which students, teachers, staff, and community are very proud.

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

Aboriginal Police Preparation Program

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the House today are 22 students and two instructors from the Aboriginal police preparation program at SIAST. This important program was developed by SIAST and the Saskatchewan police Aboriginal recruitment committee to assist potential Aboriginal recruits in gaining entrance into policing careers.

Mr. Speaker, the first course was offered in the fall of 2007 at the SIAST Woodland Campus. Today this program is offered to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students at five locations throughout the province. Highly trained instructors bring their own experiences with the policing system to the classroom and teach students the professional skills required to successfully gain entrance into policing careers. Graduates are able to find employment with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], municipal police, Border Services, private security, corrections, and a number of other agencies.

Mr. Speaker, these graduates will help keep Saskatchewan a safe place to live, work, and to raise our families. The Premier's growth plan calls for 60,000 new jobs. There's no better way to fill these projected jobs than by ensuring the people of Saskatchewan have the education to access these jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this class will be graduating on April the 4th. I'm looking forward to participating in their graduation, and I ask that all members join me in congratulating them and wishing them all the best in their future endeavours. Thank you.

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

Social Work Week

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week, March 17th to March 23rd, is Social Work Week. The Canadian Association of Social Workers and the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers have declared the theme for this year as Defending Social Programs for a Stronger Canada.

Dr. Carolyn Campbell, CASWE [Canadian Association for Social Work Education] president, explains that:

At their minimum, strong, equitable and accountable social programs are society's strongest security against crime and exploitation of others. At their best, they permit people and society opportunities to reach our potential.

One positive step we could take to ensure all people have the opportunity to reach their potential is by putting in place a real and meaningful poverty-reduction strategy. Shamefully Saskatchewan remains one of the only provinces who have failed to do so.

Mr. Speaker, social workers work across the spectrum of community involvement. They are present in policy work and in community development. They are working in our schools, our hospitals, in transition houses, in correctional services, and in child protection. Social workers are working with people in their communities and coming up with creative solutions to many of today's challenges. We need to listen to the voices of social workers and the individuals with whom they are working in order to address the poverty and inequality we see present in so many of our communities.

I would ask that members of the House join with me in thanking the more than 1,300 social workers across Saskatchewan who make a difference in the lives of people here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Army Reservists Receive Arctic Response Training

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in this Assembly today to share a recent event in my constituency. Last month, army reservists from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northwestern Ontario congregated at Candle Lake to train a new arctic response company group.

The camp set up in northern Saskatchewan was designed to facilitate the soldiers' arctic training. The blistering cold temperatures allowed soldiers to learn cold-weather survival skills in preparation for operations on the Canadian arctic tundra.

Mr. Speaker, the Candle Lake location offered numerous advantages for this training, as it's an ideal simulation of the sparsely populated arctic regions. The members were also trained to identify signs of hypothermia and maintain weapons in the cold. In addition to training, the three platoons spread over 250 kilometres to meet local civilians and participate in community events in Choiceland, Christopher Lake, and Smeaton.

Mr. Speaker, after the frigid temperatures we have endured this winter, I'm certain we can all appreciate the extraordinary efforts of these soldiers. I ask this Assembly to join me in praising all members of the new Arctic Response Company Group for advancing their expertise to help protect our country. Thank you to them, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Team Canada West Wins Gold at Special Olympics

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to rise today to recognize the Team Canada West floor hockey team winning gold at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, from January 29th to February 5th, 16 Saskatchewan floor hockey players competed in South Korea for the Special Olympics World Winter Games. Mr. Speaker, 13 of those players are from Saskatoon, two from Prince Albert, and one from Debden. They all made their communities and province proud. These determined players practised hard in Saskatoon and attended a training camp in Lake Placid, New York which obviously paid off for bringing home the gold.

Mr. Speaker, Team Canada West qualified to represent Canada last February at the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games. They did a spectacular job representing Canada and Saskatchewan in South Korea. The team played against Singapore and Monaco and beat out Mexico 4 to 2 in the gold medal game, and the Canada East team cheered them on from the stands.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating Team Canada West floor hockey team on their gold medal win in South Korea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

T.rex Discovery Centre Unveils Display

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday evening, I had the pleasure to host the Lieutenant Governor and the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport at the unveiling of the completed Scotty display at the T.rex Discovery Centre in

Eastend. This unveiling was a celebration of the many years of hard work invested in making this project a stunning success.

The 1991 discovery near Eastend of the first T. Rex skeleton found in Saskatchewan — and one of the most complete in the world, I might add — was the catalyst for the building of the centre to showcase the area's rich paleontological history. The centre is community owned, contributes to the economy of Eastend, and is an excellent expression of community pride. And it's also an important tourist draw to the area, indeed to all of southwest Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum has played a role in the T.rex Discovery Centre since its inception in 2000. And now because of a new arrangement, the RSM [Royal Saskatchewan Museum] is well positioned to operate the facility, capitalizing on its experience in paleontology, in exhibits, programming, and visitor experience. The T.rex Discovery Centre is also an excellent venue for the RSM's travelling exhibits and other outreach programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing the T.rex board of directors and the local staff of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum for all of their hard work and tireless dedication to the T.rex Discovery Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Courthouse Security

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll be hearing a lot this week about how the government is spending taxpayers' dollars on what projects, and we'll certainly be bringing a lot of scrutiny to those discussions.

It's also important, Mr. Speaker, to look at what investments the province has made and to see whether those investments are being neglected or wasted. The province has invested millions of dollars in making our provincial courts more secure. There are metal detectors installed in the Provincial Court House and the Queen's Bench buildings in both Regina and Saskatoon. We've been informed however that the metal detectors in these buildings sometimes sit idle. The buildings remain open, Mr. Speaker, proceedings go on, but the metal detecting machines are not always in operation.

My question to the Premier: can he please confirm for the House that the installed metal detectors at courthouses are sometimes not used?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of the particular concern that's been raised by the member opposite, but we're certainly prepared to look into it. We take courthouse security very seriously in our courthouses in this province, Mr. Speaker, not only for the protection of witnesses but for the protection of courthouse staff. So it's obviously a concern for us, and I will look into the matter, Mr.

Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we know that courthouse safety is hugely important for judges, lawyers, staff, and the general public. And we're reminded of an incident just a couple of weeks ago in Alberta where a sheriff was shot, Mr. Speaker, in a provincial courthouse. It's because of concerns like that that metal detectors were installed here in Saskatchewan courts. If the metal detectors are there, Mr. Speaker, the necessary dollars also need to be there to properly staff the machines and ensure that everyone is in fact safe.

My question to the minister — he sounded quite concerned about the possibility that machines were not being used — is it the government's position that metal detectors in provincial courthouses ought to be used every day around the year?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we do take courthouse security very, very seriously. I mentioned that. And those metal detectors are there for a reason. They're there to protect the staff. They're there to protect the witnesses. They're there to protect everyone that's coming to and in and out of those courthouses, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm prepared to look at it. I'm not aware of it, but we will certainly raise it. As I say, courthouse security is very serious. We take it very seriously. We do audits of the security of the courthouses from time to time, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we are protecting the people that use those facilities.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Provincial courts obviously deal with a wide variety of matters. And for issues where there's gangs involved or organized crime, of course there needs to be the highest level of security. But it's just as important, Mr. Speaker, to have adequate security at times for more routine proceedings. Family law matters, for example, can be very emotionally charged. And, Mr. Speaker, it's the same judges, the same lawyers, the same staff that are working in the facilities whether the case is deemed high risk or not.

My question to the Premier: in the upcoming budget, will the necessary resources be put in place in order to ensure that we have proper security in our provincial courthouses, including the full operation of metal detectors?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, we work with our courthouse staff; we work with people that use those facilities to ensure that we do have proper security in our courthouses, Mr. Speaker. As I've said, we take it very, very seriously. When issues of security are raised with our ministry, we look at them, we analyze them, and we'll make sure that there's resources available to deal with those things.

But, Mr. Speaker, as I've said, we take this issue very, very seriously, and we'll continue to look at the issue to make sure that we provide the adequate level of security, not only to staff and judges but everyone using those facilities.

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

Lawsuit Regarding Technology Contract

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been calling for straight answers and accountability from this government and its IPAC [International Performance Assessment Centre for geologic storage of CO₂] affair for the better part of a year. It's been like pulling teeth and we've received misleading statements. Conflicts of interest and waste have been exposed. Investigations are currently under way by the federal government while the Sask Party government sits on its hands, denying accountability.

Now today we've learned as a result of further investigations that the University of Regina is suing two companies over rights to carbon capture technology developed through partnership with the province as well as provincial, federal, and private dollars, taxpayers' dollars, Mr. Speaker. Question to the government: when did that government learn of the lawsuit that was filed in November of last year by the University of Regina?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — It's quite interesting, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite continue to try to spin this tale of government involvement when in fact all of the audits that were done on IPAC-CO₂ demonstrated quite frankly that it was under the management of the U of R [University of Regina], as is this lawsuit that he mentions, which by the way was a contract that was entered into when the NDP [New Democratic Party] were in government.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the Meyers Norris Penny forensic audit of IPAC-CO₂, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote some statements because perhaps the member opposite hasn't read it. And it states, Mr. Speaker, "The assets were purchased with funds that the University of Regina controlled on behalf of IPAC." "Financial oversight of IPAC was through the university industry liaison office."

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot of more quotes from the forensic audit that was done on IPAC-CO₂ that clearly identifies that the U of R was managing.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know, Mr. Speaker, the question was really straightforward. All we need is a direct answer from that minister. Did that minister and that government . . . When were they aware of the lawsuit that was brought forward in November by the University of Regina?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to

report to the House that in fact Energy and Resources, starting in 1999, gave some funds to the university to look at carbon capture, carbon sequestration. The university has become a world leader in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that in 2005 the university signed a contract with a private sector, Mr. Speaker, to commercialize this technology. The government has not been involved in this contract or in this relationship in any way, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that on the date put forward by the member opposite that the university entered a legal suit against the private sector, Mr. Speaker. We do not have any interest in this whatsoever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Again, not answering the question and suggesting that government has no interest with the millions of public dollars that are at play is awfully interesting. And this disturbing information that's exposed today involving taxpayers' money and some of the same players as the IPAC affair . . . In this case, though, it's not a question of a \$600,000 computer that was paid for with taxpayers' money and then claimed by a private company that was set up by the Sask Party with private money as part of the concern in the IPAC affair. But the concern is very similar.

In this case the U of R alleges that the carbon technology, the intellectual property, was taken inappropriately by two private companies, technology that was developed through partnerships and provincial dollars, taxpayers' dollars, public and private. When did that minister learn that the companies in question had claimed exclusive rights to the carbon capture technologies that were paid for in part with taxpayers' dollars?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, directly to the member opposite: the university, a stand-alone, autonomous agency that, Mr. Speaker, has entered into an agreement with the private sector . . . Just for interest, Mr. Speaker, that arrangement was entered into at a time that the NDP was in government. Mr. Speaker, it has transpired in a manner that leaves the two parties in court.

I again would confirm that the Government of Saskatchewan has no standing and is not in any way named in this suit. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that that is very clear for the members opposite.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Another question and another non-answer from that minister, this time relating to when he learned that two companies had claimed exclusive rights of the technology that had been built together in partnership and with taxpayers' dollars. I guess my question to the minister would be, does he share the university's concern that this technology that's been paid for with taxpayers' money, and other private companies, should not have been claimed exclusively by the two private companies in question?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, the member's questions are, as my understanding is, the nature of the lawsuit. And it will be the courts that decide the issues of what the university and the contract between the university and this private entity . . . I will again confirm for the member opposite that this contract was entered into and was, Mr. Speaker, was signed under a time when their party was the government. Mr. Speaker, the nature of that information was defined at that time.

As far as the nature of the lawsuit, there is no standing by the Government of Saskatchewan, no involvement by the Government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That is just the reality of this case.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — There's a lot of public money that's been involved in this file, and there's certainly provincial dollars. There's a role and responsibility of that government to investigate and make sure that those dollars are being utilized in the best interests of Saskatchewan people. In this case, a lot of the same players exist that exist in the IPAC affair.

To the minister: does the government have concerns over taxpayers' money that's public money that's on the line in this lawsuit, and if so what's he doing about it?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, we have gone through this a couple of times. If the member opposite is concerned about whether the university should commercialize technology, Mr. Speaker, that is a fair argument. But the reality is that they commercialized it under a contract in 2005 when those members, Mr. Speaker, were the party in government, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the simple fact is the university is an autonomous agency that enters into contracts on a regular basis and, Mr. Speaker, in this case it has found its way into the courts. The Government of Saskatchewan is not involved in this lawsuit, Mr. Speaker, with standing or with interest in any particular form. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Federal Rail Freight Service Bill

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government is finally considering Bill C-52, the fair rail rate service Act, a bill meant to strike a fair balance between shippers and the railways, but as drafted has potential to damage Western Canadian shippers.

Currently farmers, forestry, and mining companies are suffering because railway companies have a virtual monopoly when it

comes to the vital rail lines that Canadians need to get goods to market. There needs to be better power balance between the shippers and the railways because agricultural rail customers' needs are not met by the rail companies with the current status quo. But the proposed bill doesn't get to the heart of the problem.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Agriculture update the House on where this government stands on this bill and whether it is supporting the shippers and their concerns.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member for her question.

Truthfully, you know, these days we haven't heard a lot of feedback from producers on this particular point. But we are interested and working with the federal government to get the best deal that we can for Western Canadian producers. And we, while we don't always agree with the federal government, we do have a working relationship that's constructive. And I think some good news will come out of this.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At first glance, the bill looked like it would be positive for shippers because it recognized the market dominance that the railways have in the provinces. But the more shippers see what changes have been made to the bill, the more they see how the railways seem to be pulling the power strings to get the changes they want. Now indeed the railways themselves are arguing against the bill in general.

One of those big changes that will affect Saskatchewan producers and that will be detrimental is the introduction of a captivity test. The test is for shippers to prove they are stranded, away from options for shipping their goods. The shipper would have to go through an onerous process to get protection under this proposed legislation, which will lead to the shippers being worse off.

The shippers have proposed amendments to fix several of the problems in this bill. What is the Minister of Agriculture and the Government of Saskatchewan doing to persuade the federal government to support these amendments and take the proposed captivity test out of the proposed legislation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member. Our officials have certainly been in contact with the federal government on this matter. And you know, while the proposed bill may not be perfect, we think that it's generally an improvement over what has existed.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with the grain shippers, the Mining Association of Canada and the Forest

Products Association of Canada have also submitted amendments to the bill. And they represent the largest customers of the national railways: our producers and our miners and our foresters.

They see the bill needs amendment in the way it defines the service obligations the railways have. Mr. Speaker, these concerns echo those of the Coalition of Rail Shippers who want to see the railway companies fulfill their service obligations on time and transparently, which is costing producers millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the province needs to stand up for the interests of our shippers and our producers and the economic development of our mining industry. Even SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] has weighed in about fairness and, in the arbitration costs, the way the provisions are now written. The bill needs to have better protections for shippers against the duopoly that exists in Canada's rail system. What will the Sask Party government be doing to correct the shortcomings of the bill before it gets full-speed approval by the federal government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to continue to assure the member that our government and certainly, certainly officials from Agriculture are doing all that we can to influence Ottawa, to the federal government, to bring forward the best possible legislation in the interests of our producers. And you know, it's a negotiation and it's . . . We're dealing with the federal government and trying to get the best deal we can for our shippers. And we don't know how that's going to play out. There is proposed legislation but it may be plenty of time for changes yet.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know the bill has already received second reading and we know that the committee hearings are under way. In fact most of the hearings have already been completed, when they've heard from the shippers and the railways. But the problem is, is the key demands from the shipping community have quite simply not been addressed.

Bill C-52 creates loopholes because of its ambiguous language. The conservative language is weak. Its protective measures do not cover existing contracts between shippers and rail companies and offers only a narrow, costly arbitration process for failed negotiations for new contracts.

Does the minister support this legislation? Will he support the amendments being made? We want to see your support for the amendments being made at the committee stage to protect shippers from the abuse of market power through the right to comprehensive service agreements and conflict resolution processes.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — While the proposed legislation is not

perfect, Mr. Speaker, we believe that at least in the interests of agriculture and probably other shippers in the province, that it's an improvement over what has existed in the past. I can say that we have had no representations from agricultural groups made to me or my officials about the inadequacies of this bill.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Prince Albert Bridge

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This week the province brings down its budget, and the people of Prince Albert are looking for one specific commitment on Wednesday. They want to know if the province will build a second bridge for the city and the region.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, the P.A. [Prince Albert] Chamber of Commerce, the RMs [rural municipality], the city council, and the people who live in and around Prince Albert all know that a second bridge is the top priority for the infrastructure needs of the city. It's number one.

The Sask Party government has totally ignored the build a second bridge campaign from the people of P.A. On budget day will the Premier finally listen? Will he and they commit to a second bridge for Prince Albert in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I've answered this question a number of times, not only in this Assembly but also in the SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] gathering.

A study was done, a study that was commissioned by the RMs and the city of Prince Albert as well as the Ministry of Highways, Mr. Speaker. The city and the RMs put a total of \$40,000 into this study. The study came back and it was quite strong on saying that a second bridge is not needed in the Prince Albert area right now.

Mr. Speaker, it's very interesting because this is not an anomaly. This study also coincides with a study that was done under the NDP in 2008, Mr. Speaker. In 2008 a study was done by the NDP that said a bridge was not needed at that time — same as the study that's done right now.

Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting the members opposite are saying we need another bridge. Mr. Speaker, if we go through their campaign, if we go through their platform, if we go through their platform, Mr. Speaker, we'll see that they've got a tree, and it doesn't talk about forestry. Mr. Speaker, that same document should have a bridge because their platform didn't talk about a bridge either, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, with the province walking away from a second bridge, the P.A. City Council is looking at how much life is left in the Diefenbaker bridge. On Saturday the city staff requested \$45,000 from council to study how

much life is left in the bridge's piers. City Councillor Ring wants to have the province pay for that study. And the local paper quoted Councillor Cotterill saying, and I quote: "I like the idea of going back to the minister and saying, 'you told us it's a good bridge, prove it.'"

Mr. Speaker, what is the minister's response to the poor relationship that he's developed with the P.A. City Council? How has he let it come to this point, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I would say that over the last year or so this government has stepped forward and taken over responsibility for that bridge to the tune of about \$4.2 million. Mr. Speaker, we don't have to go too many years back when the NDP were in power and they simply washed their hands of responsibility. They wouldn't take responsibility, Mr. Speaker, not whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, there is a standard across Canada, Mr. Speaker, that we follow through on that kind of dictates as to whether the piers should be further inspected. We don't have those conditions on the P.A. bridge right now, Mr. Speaker. In fact there are two, really, areas that we have to see. The bridge has to settle. There has to be settlement on the bridge, Mr. Speaker, or excessive, extreme excessive water flow. Those conditions haven't presented themselves over the last two years.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting because one of the councillors in Prince Albert, Don Cody, was the mayor for many years, for nine years, Mr. Speaker. They felt the bridge was perfectly safe then. We believe the bridge is perfectly safe now because these conditions have not been met.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, we know that the Saskatchewan Party government wouldn't listen to its own members when it came to keeping the burn treatment chamber in the new Moose Jaw Hospital. And now the Minister of Highways once again turns his back on the two members from Prince Albert who once claimed they were lobbying to build a second bridge, Mr. Speaker.

The city of P.A. wants the province to pay for this new study because they want the Saskatchewan Party government to prove it's safe to the people in the region. If the minister won't listen to his own MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], he should listen to the business community, the city council, the RMs, and the citizens of Prince Albert when he tables his budget. Mr. Speaker, once again, to the minister: will he build a second bridge for Prince Albert?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we believe that bridge is safe. We go by the expertise of engineers in the area, Mr. Speaker, and we have no doubt that that bridge is safe well into the future. I would say that it could be questionable if the NDP ever got back in power. When there were repairs to be done,

they completely backed away from it, Mr. Speaker. That isn't what this government does. It has assumed responsibility, Mr. Speaker.

And I will tell you that the P.A. members have done a great job for the P.A. area — on revenue sharing alone, 149 per cent increase. That's what they delivered for the P.A. area, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those MLAs have delivered a new gym at the Carlton Comprehensive High, Mr. Speaker, something that those members never did. Mr. Speaker, these members have also contributed and lobbied hard for a water treatment plant in the P.A. area, an alcohol rehab facility in the P.A. area, Mr. Speaker. These MLAs have done more for the P.A. area than the members on the opposite side when they served in government.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, it's obvious that the Saskatchewan Party government is turning their backs to the region and the city of Prince Albert. Mr. Speaker, the two members of Prince Albert refuse to stand up for their community. Even after they campaigned on the need for a second bridge, they don't bring those concerns to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Yet the Saskatchewan Party campaigns on the bridge and takes donations and gives great speeches about the bridge, all to lead the city down the garden path.

Mr. Speaker, why can't the Saskatchewan Party get with the program, commit to a second bridge in this budget? Why can't they do that, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I have a long list of accomplishments by these MLAs, Mr. Speaker, over the last number of years. Mr. Speaker, whether it's the water treatment plant, whether it's capital funding for a family addiction centre, whether it's construction beginning on a youth addiction centre, whether it's affordable rental accommodations — 36 low-income families, Mr. Speaker — St. Ann's long-term care replacement facility: that's what these MLAs have been lobbying for over the last number of years, Mr. Speaker, and they have done a very good job for the P.A. area.

I find it really, really curious, though, that the new leader wrote a platform . . . This is a glowing platform of the direction and the vision of the NDP, but it forgot one thing, Mr. Speaker. It forgot a second bridge for P.A. In fact, as I said last week, Mr. Speaker, they couldn't build a second bridge because they couldn't even fix the one they had.

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to make a motion regarding attendance at a CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] convention.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to make a motion regarding the Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

MOTIONS

Leave of Absence

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That leave of absence be granted to the members for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley and Saskatchewan Rivers for Wednesday, March 20th and Thursday, March 21st, inclusive, to attend the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians outreach program in Quebec on behalf of this Assembly.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that by leave of the Assembly:

That leave of absence be granted to the members for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley and Saskatchewan Rivers for Wednesday, March 20th and Thursday, March 21st, inclusive, to attend the Commonwealth Women's Parliamentary outreach program in Quebec on behalf of this Assembly.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 85

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 85** — *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* 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 enter debate on a bill that's actually of significant importance, great importance to the people of this province: Bill No. 85, a bill that's been pushed forward with the heavy hand of government, with selective hearing being exercised by government opposite, with the interests of workers and families and communities denied, Mr. Speaker.

So I find it to be important to enter into debate and discussion for a short period of time in this Assembly. But the important work is going to continue across this province with our

opposition working with the workers of this province, with communities across this province, with the work of our critic leading that work. The points that our critic's going to be bringing to the floor of this Assembly, but also the questions and the points he'll be bringing to committee structures, are going to be the key aspects of this discussion. But it certainly is of value to me to enter this debate and discussion at this point in time.

What we're looking at here is a significant, a massive overhaul of labour legislation in this province, legislation that impacts the safety and rights of workers all through this province, Mr. Speaker, and an overhaul that was done without adequate consultation, without . . . It's improper to call what was done consultation at all, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to commend the many thousands of Saskatchewan people, workers, organizations, unions, businesses, communities that have come out and had their say, Mr. Speaker, through this process, and have done so using the official opposition as the vehicle to bring forward those concerns, those potential areas to strength.

And I commend our critic, the member for Saskatoon Centre, who set out a structure called your work, your say, Mr. Speaker, and who out of frustration that the voice of Saskatchewan people was being denied on something so important to him, that we as an opposition undertook a process to listen all across this entire province to the workers, to the families who were impacted by the legislative changes being proposed by this government.

It was an extensive tour that was held. I attended all but one of those sessions, Mr. Speaker, in all parts of Saskatchewan. And what I heard from Saskatchewan workers and in Saskatchewan communities, whether it be North Battleford or Humboldt or Yorkton or Regina or Saskatoon, was a common sense voice of workers who care deeply about their province and who care deeply about their employment terms — the conditions that will allow their families to prosper, the conditions that will allow the safety that they deserve, Mr. Speaker, the conditions that will ensure that workers have rights in Saskatchewan.

We see this massive overhaul taking 12 pieces of labour legislation, overhauling that, fitting it into one massive bill, over a 1,000-page piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. We see this all coming on the heels of legislation that was rammed forward by this government earlier, that's now been proven to be unconstitutional by the courts here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And this is sort of a very sad circumstance for our province that once had a proud record of being a leader in setting terms, in setting workers' rights, Mr. Speaker, setting rights for labour organizations and roles, and that balance that we know is so important in a society where you can build out a strong economy but also the protections and rights for workers.

Here we see a government that pushed forward with legislation, as I say, in their first term that's still on the books as unconstitutional, Mr. Speaker. And if you can imagine in this massive overhaul, Mr. Speaker, that government didn't even address the fact that we have unconstitutional legislation on our books. It makes an international embarrassment for our province, but certainly, more importantly, it has walked

backwards workers' rights here in this province.

Now Saskatchewan people are starting to wake up to what's going on under this government and the agenda they have that doesn't include the working men and women of this province and the approach that has disrupted a balanced labour environment in this province. When we're looking at the upsetting of that balance, I guess we don't need to look far beyond the actual 12 pieces of legislation rolled into one in this massive overhaul without any listening to Saskatchewan people, with selective hearing to a few friends and insiders, I suspect, Mr. Speaker.

But we also know that it reflects the approach of this government on so many fronts — no consultation. We see that through this process where, I think, last summer, in the heart of summer they opened up a little tab on a website and said they're taking submissions electronically from people of this province as it relates to labour laws. And now that's being sold as this government has a sufficient consultation with the working men and women of this province. And of course, Mr. Speaker, that's utter nonsense.

When we look as well at all of the opportunities to make changes or to address this, this government hasn't slowed down. And it seems crystal clear now that this government's bulldozing ahead with this piece of legislation just as they did, Mr. Speaker, when they pushed forward legislation that was found to be unconstitutional, that took away workers' rights, that certainly cost Saskatchewan people many public dollars, taxpayers' dollars, Mr. Speaker, to deal with the rushed environment, the poor legislative structure that was pushed forward by that government.

And we see even when the minister brings in a few advisors and sets up a committee, Mr. Speaker, he pretends he's going to listen to them, Mr. Speaker. Then we see when those committee members have actually said, members of his own committee, Mr. Speaker, have said, you're pushing this ahead too fast. The changes are too sweeping and too significant. You need to slow down. You need to rethink this. You need to pull this legislation back and do this the way that you need to, which is in concert with Saskatchewan people, listening to Saskatchewan people, all of the province Mr. Speaker. This government continues to ram forward with their own agenda, listening to few.

We also see a government that's intent on creating divisions and upsetting labour relations in this province. We saw that when they rammed forward Bill 80, Mr. Speaker — something that hasn't been addressed in this piece of legislation — rammed forward Bill 80 that has significant risk to upsetting the construction industry itself, the important aspects of our economy, but also undermining the skills within that industry, the protection, the safety in that industry, Mr. Speaker.

And we see that all again here, where we see provisions, Mr. Speaker, that are put forward in a very deliberate way to simply hive out members of a union or a bargaining unit and to create division and separateness between workplaces, when what we should be doing is working together to find better solutions about how we address these challenges. It is creating a fractious environment in workplaces.

And there's so many questions that exist as it relates to provisions around supervisory responsibilities that have been put forward by this government in what that actually, what that actually means in practicality once this bill is pushed forward and implemented, and how this government will, in essence, give significant control to itself as an employer and to other employers to peel out or hive out union members from their environment.

And certainly as I say, this legislation doesn't do anything to fix the gaping hole that is the unconstitutional legislation that's on our books, that legislation that was pushed forward in the first term by that government, Mr. Speaker.

So as I say, a massive, a massive overhaul — something that once this government pretended was going to be a simplification, Mr. Speaker. That has pretty much been debunked by all that have analyzed it as nothing more than a more complex environment and an environment that's pushed forward that creates division in our workplaces, Mr. Speaker, that has a direct impact on the ability of workers to organize and workers to ensure that rights are protected and a government that's intent on certainly driving an agenda that's not in the best interests of the families all across this province, the working men and women in communities across Saskatchewan.

What we know is, and when I went out and we had the chance to listen where our critic held the your work, your say consultations, Mr. Speaker, something that was interesting to note was the constructive approach that workers and families were willing to take to consultation. And had government been sincere in any interest of consultation, there would have been a tremendous opportunity to speak with the workers and families all across this province and to seek circumstances that could have been improved. Instead we see, as I say, a government with selective hearing that's done nothing more than advancing its own agenda.

But I will say to the hundreds of workers that did connect, with putting forward their ideas about how to strengthen workers' rights, about how to protect their livelihoods or abilities to seek a livelihood, Mr. Speaker, I say thank you to those individuals. And whether it was a health care worker up in North Battleford or a construction worker here in Regina or a potash worker up in Humboldt that took time out of their busy lives on a weekday evening to come out and participate in the your work, your say consultation, I say thank you to those individuals. And they need to know that their contributions have been valued by the official opposition, that their voices will be carried forward by the official opposition, and that those voices, those inputs certainly form the positions that we'll be bringing forward, both in the Assembly here by way of our critic but also in the committee structures where we're looking for opportunities to improve workers' rights.

And you know, I guess it's very problematic to even look at how do we potentially strengthen or amend this legislation. I've sat down with legal experts who have dissected this information who have said really this is quite impossible to amend this legislation because there's so many changes, sweeping changes where there's words and clauses that have been completely removed, Mr. Speaker, that had in the past established

jurisprudence and allowed individuals and employers to have a clear understanding of case law. All of that has now changed; so much of it removed. So to be able to go and amend something that has omissions, that has subtractions, that has changes, is awfully difficult, and something that, as I say, is pushed forward with this 1,000-page bill, Mr. Speaker, with no consultation with Saskatchewan people and with little understanding of the legal impacts as well.

And that's one of the concerns of taxpayers as well. It's not just that rights have been walked backwards under this government — that certainly is a large concern — but also the fact that this government seems to be willing to go to no end to push forward legislation that hasn't been derived in a fashion that allows it to have the scrutiny that it allows to understand both its intended consequences and its unintended consequences and cost, not just on people but then on taxpayers. And we've seen that with the expensive, expensive process caused by the ramming forward of Bill 5, of, as I say, a piece of legislation that still sits on our books in this province as unconstitutional and a piece of legislation that wasn't addressed in this major overhaul that has been brought forward by this government.

We see a government that is sort of taking . . . We have a lot of good economic activity going on in our province, and in fact many workers in certain sectors are quite busy. And it seems that this government is almost taking advantage of that circumstance to walk backwards the rights that have been hard won, hard fought, hard-earned by working men and women all across this province. And it's something that's important for us to take a strong stand and for us to be able to represent all of Saskatchewan and certainly all of Saskatchewan families.

We see a government that's certainly intent on this idea of the right to work for less, Mr. Speaker: the right to work for less, the right to less protection, the right to less security, Mr. Speaker, for themselves by way of safety for themselves and their families by way of their livelihood and their earnings, Mr. Speaker, and that instead of simple, basic terms of fairness that would be the right to collective bargaining, Mr. Speaker, something that creates strength in our province, that creates a stronger position for families, allows circumstances of workplace safety but also the earnings of a family to be addressed.

[14:30]

And certainly I'm a believer that in a prosperous province, Saskatchewan families and the workers deserve to share in that prosperity. And I find it wrong that this government is actively intervening at a time of opportunity within this province and denying Saskatchewan families, Saskatchewan workers, Saskatchewan people the opportunity to share in that prosperity, Mr. Speaker, which is, in the end, the intent of this legislation, creating an unsettled environment between workers in the job place and colleagues, creating an unsettled environment between business and labour when what we need to be finding is a more constructive, more balanced, more co-operative way forward in working with the challenges that exist.

So it's fair to say that in Bill 85 there's going to be a lot of scrutiny that's brought forward by our critic, and certainly our critic's been asking questions and listening to people all through

the province. You're going to hear those on the floor of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. You're also going to hear those through the committee structure. We're going to be looking for — finally, Mr. Speaker — some straight answers from that government, a government that certainly hasn't been forthcoming with the answers that have been brought forward by our critic and brought forward by working men and women, brought forward by labour organizations and unions, brought forward by businesses, Mr. Speaker. And we'll be seeking those sorts of answers to their questions, Mr. Speaker, along with our own.

I know that in this 1,000-page piece of legislation that's been rammed forward without consultation, it's fair to say that the devil is certainly in the details. And it seems that the more analysis by legal experts, by workers, Mr. Speaker, continue to expose other aspects of this legislation that's of great concern to the people of our province, Mr. Speaker, and of great concern to this opposition.

We see, we believe in taking a strong, balanced, common sense approach to deriving legislation. We believe in building labour laws that are fair and necessary and built through consultation, Mr. Speaker, not ones that have been built, as I say, through a one-sided process, a one-sided agenda from a government with selective hearing and really listening to the very few, Mr. Speaker, and those few being insiders of this government, Mr. Speaker.

We have concern around the shifts of rights that have tilted this balance in an unfair way to that of the employer, Mr. Speaker. We believe in a balanced labour environment where workers have rights, where workers have levers and tools as well to make sure their interests are heard.

Have significant concerns over what's occurred by way of supervisors, where there's deliberate actions of this government to hive out members from bargaining units to weaken the union or weaken the bargaining unit, Mr. Speaker. And certainly an environment that's brought forward by this government that is more than subject to manipulation and games by the employer, and that employer in this case being the provincial government, Mr. Speaker, for many in this province.

I know I've chatted with many firefighters across this province and communities across this province that are hugely concerned with the complete scrapping of the historic platoon Act, Mr. Speaker, and something that has provided rights to those, to our firefighters for many years, Mr. Speaker. It's provided them tools of fairness in the workplace and certainly workers, not unlike all other workers, Mr. Speaker, that fulfill a very important good to the people of this province.

And when I sit down and I chat with the firefighters across this province who are telling me that that there was absolutely no consultation, Mr. Speaker, as this bill was pushed forward, as their piece of legislation was scrapped, that dismissive approach, disrespectful approach of government is something that those firefighters are certainly calling out that government on, Mr. Speaker.

And I know and I think in the Regina Fire Department is just one example. It's about 25 per cent of the firefighters who in

fact have supervisory responsibilities, Mr. Speaker. So out of 200, as example, of firefighters, 25 per cent or a whole 50 of those would have supervisory responsibilities, including captains, Mr. Speaker. And these firefighters have described to me that peeling out these individuals with some additional duties or those of the captains from the role that they were as an equal member, as a firefighter, Mr. Speaker, is very destructive for their workplace, a workplace that requires a sense of unity and equality in dealing with circumstances that place themselves and their lives at risk, and are there in response to the lives of others, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly this isn't in the best interest of Saskatchewan people, whether you look at it from a perspective of community safety and the public safety that's provided by firefighters, Mr. Speaker, or whether it's the firefighters themselves. Those are hard-working individuals that put their lives on the line every day for the good of the public. And having that undermined by way of creating a more divisive workplace, one that has less unity, and one with . . . where a government is making changes that impacts their safety, their livelihood, their ability to collective bargain, the rights that they have, Mr. Speaker, the protections that they have, and doing so with no consultation.

Now I know I can identify as well in the field of education the value of equal membership within the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] for example. And I understand this government's not making that change right now. It's one of the only changes they're not making, where a principal or a vice-principal is an equal member of the STF. That is something of value that, within education, of that level of equality, that level of unity, that sense of cohesion, that level of understanding, that sense of sameness by way of an equal member. And I wonder why this government thinks, why it should be different for other workers, particular firefighters, and also all the civil servants and workers through this province.

And I think of the health care sector, Mr. Speaker, where I'm hearing from health care workers that you might have a simple, additional responsibility that would then put you into a supervisory category that this government can then peel somebody out of that bargaining unit, weaken the worker's organization, weaken the environment for workers to represent their best interests. So fair to say, I've got many, many concerns, and that is just one aspect that we've identified.

There's also concerns to overtime and the days, the statutory holidays, and concerns around regulations that are now in place where this legislation goes and shifts a lot of what was enshrined in legislation and shifts it into regulation, Mr. Speaker. And this is really, really undemocratic. Not only is it not democratic to not consult, it's also not democratic to be peeling out important protections, important rights of workers that have been enshrined in legislation, to be sticking them into regulations that can be changed at the whim and whimsy of government and without the direct discussion and debate on the floor of this Assembly. And a government that has been unwilling to consult with workers when they've even brought legislation forward, you can understand why so many workers are concerned with this shift to regulations.

I know there's many that are concerned about how the new shift structures occur and what the impact may be on the elimination

of overtime. And I know many workers and organizations are doing analysis on this front. I know that I hear from some workers and organizations that are very concerned about the undemocratic nature of voluntary recognition and the new changes that have been brought forward. And these are all concerns that should've been heard through a consultative process before legislation was ever derived or built. And certainly it's disappointing that this government continues to thumb their nose at the workers of this province and push forward this legislative environment or this agenda.

As I say, this is 12 pieces of legislation that have been overhauled, everything from *The Assignment of Wages Act* to *The Fire Departments Platoon Act*, as I've mentioned, to *The Labour Standards Act* to *The Trade Union Act*. Mr. Speaker, something that was a first in this province, something that we were so proud of, Mr. Speaker, and something that in its language itself, the very language, *The Trade Union Act* was all about rights, Mr. Speaker. And now we see that shift, and we see those changes.

And you know, when we're talking about the changes, the changes in many cases are change in language, in many cases omissions of language, simple removal of language, and reframing our labour legislative environment which, as I've said, really confuses the case law environment. Mr. Speaker, that removes the ability to work effectively with jurisprudence, Mr. Speaker, with precedents that have been set through the courts, and creates a very unmanageable environment for workers, for employers, a more complex environment, one that certainly takes away workers' rights.

As I've mentioned, I'm pleased that we've been able to give the chance to give voice to workers. What's disappointing though is that, you know, we've had a government that's been unwilling to listen to that voice. They're unwilling to listen to workers in the first place. But even when our critic went across this province along with his caucus colleagues and, as I say, attended all but one of those consultations and the productive, constructive approach that was brought forward by workers, that voice has been denied, has never been listened to by this government.

And there's a very important role to protect workers, to protect vulnerable workers. That's something that could have been strengthened through this legislation, something that never occurred. In fact this rolls back measures, rolls back protections. And I think of an example being young workers that are out there working in, many cases, precarious environments with their full futures before them, Mr. Speaker. We need to make sure we're doing all we can to protect those young workers, not walking back the protections that they have, making sure that they can earn the living they need to for training or for raising a family or getting started in life and able to be safe and secure, to be able to have that full, bright future ahead of them that we speak about.

It also doesn't address non-standard work situations, circumstances such as artists, Mr. Speaker, and a real missed opportunity to show great value to some of those non-traditional workers in this province, some of those non-traditional careers in this province. And that's disappointing. And you know, we think of the Sask Arts Alliance, Mr. Speaker, and this is

something where there was an opportunity to show some leadership and make some improvements, something that government didn't have any interest in.

We see the ability to work towards making sure that we have increased participation of low-income mothers in the workplace and making sure the supports are in place to really support that balance of being able to raise that family, earn that living through the hard work that Saskatchewan people certainly know how to do, and make sure that they have some support and protections while doing so.

So these are really big changes with little consultation. It reminds me a bit of the federal cousins of this government, the Harper Conservatives, Mr. Speaker, who continue to push forward omnibus legislation, Mr. Speaker, that has massive changes and overhauls to all sorts of Acts and provisions without consultation with the people of Canada. In this case, massive overhaul, massive impacts for the workers of this province, impact on our economy, Mr. Speaker, in a negative way with little to no consultation with those throughout the province, Mr. Speaker.

And when I think of some of the other areas that we had the opportunity to strengthen through this, or the government does on a day in, day out basis, where I think of that labour force here in Saskatchewan and the ability to make sure we're strengthening circumstances for apprenticeship and for the entry of workers into the trades for example, Mr. Speaker, and the headway we should be able to be making, and making sure that we're unlocking the human potential in this province and able to serve the needs of our full economy as well while doing so, Mr. Speaker. And I think of good, new projects like K+S Potash, Mr. Speaker, for which we need to make sure that we're supportive of making sure we have the workers in place to address those circumstances.

And I get, you know, and I get heckled by government opposite and on an issue that's important, Mr. Speaker. When you look at the circumstance of addressing the skilled labour force challenge that is faced in this province, we should be taking steps to be addressing that, understanding that for our potash companies, for our construction industry, we need to do a better job of preparing the next generation to be entering into those careers and fulfilling the roles needed in those companies but also being able to build out a livelihood for themselves and their families, Mr. Speaker, deriving a quality of life that's second to none, something we've been so proud of in Saskatchewan. And we need to do frankly a better job, a much better job of preparing skilled trades in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Many changes that we see here . . . As I say, this shift to . . . Maybe the Premier wants to keep heckling, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to have him back in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

[14:45]

There's many, there's many shifts from, many shifts from which were in legislation to regulations, Mr. Speaker. And that's a concern to Saskatchewan people because they can be changed, as I say, on the whim of government as opposed to through thoughtful consultation.

And we are going to continue to work toward making sure we're bringing forward balanced working environments that respect workers' rights, that protects important provisions such as overtime, Mr. Speaker, making sure that families have the balance that they require and to make sure that overtime is something that is earned, accrued, and maintained by workers.

We see an approach that's one of a divisive way of going about building an economy, a divisive way of dealing with labour force needs. We see a fragmentation of bargaining units, Mr. Speaker, and that's all disappointing. And we see a government that's failed to fix the mess they created with the unconstitutional legislation that they had brought forward. We believe there's a chance to bring forward common sense changes. We believe there's a chance to support work such as indexation of minimum wage and making sure decency of payment for workers.

We need to make sure that we're making these steps. And I know that the member from Saskatoon Centre has made some solid points that I think need to be heard. And some of those points are simply that this government . . . We shouldn't be caught up in a circumstance now where we're forcing Saskatchewan people to try to amend legislation that, legislation that's been rammed forward by this government, Mr. Speaker, legislation that really can't be fixed. We should be able to start over this process. We should have a government withdrawing this legislation, legislation that has a direct impact on Saskatchewan people and making sure that those workers are there from the get-go and that all of Saskatchewan's engaged in those discussions.

We also believe that we should have a new value placed on balance, Mr. Speaker. A government that's pushed forward changes that are slanted and tilted away from the interests of workers, Mr. Speaker, and that's in no one's interest to deny Saskatchewan people the accountability that they deserve.

We'd suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this government shouldn't change the eight-hour workday or the 40-hour workweek, Mr. Speaker, that we believe this is something that's built the kind of quality of life that we've come to appreciate and value in Saskatchewan. And we don't want to walk that quality of life back either, Mr. Speaker.

We believe that sick time for all employees is something that's important, making sure basic provisions of fairness exist, and that we should be leaving the rules of overtime the same, not pushing forward changes, Mr. Speaker and as I say, not pushing forward changes that cause the ability or create the ability for government to make significant changes to the rights of workers, not through legislation, but simply by quick change, stroke of a pen, Mr. Speaker, by way of regulation. We believe workers' rights are something that, if they're going to be changed, should be given full scrutiny and debate of this Assembly, and it's of concern to see a shift away from that approach.

We continue to support, in this province, an economy that's built, a strong economy that's built out of middle-class families doing well, Mr. Speaker, where you have a thriving private and Crown sector, Mr. Speaker, but where workers have rights as well and where, at a time of tremendous opportunity in this

province, we allow families as well to realize that potential to see meaningful improvements in their lives as well. And certainly the kinds of, the type of legislation and agenda of this government is denying families that here today, but certainly well into the future, and walking backwards at a time of good economic activity in this province where many workers are busy, walking backwards the rights that have been hard won.

We certainly believe in making sure that keeping the mandatory collection of union dues is something that's important and really making sure that members themselves of a respective union have the democratic rights that they should have.

And certainly applying the principles of the Rand formula, Mr. Speaker, that is . . . It's a concern by many that this government was going to challenge the Rand formula, Mr. Speaker. Now they haven't in essence done that in this legislation. But the concern is that possibly their federal cousins are going to do that work for them, Mr. Speaker, and working together really in a hand-in-hand way that's not there for Saskatchewan families, not there for workers. And certainly I can understand why Saskatchewan people are calling out this government for its heavy-handed approach to the rights and safeties they've been afforded.

So we believe in an important discussion with workers and with all within our communities and all within that environment, whether it be workers, whether it be employers, to derive legislation. We believe that legislation should be built in a fair manner, in a consultative fashion, and necessary, Mr. Speaker, not unnecessary changes pushed forward by this government at the taxpayers' expense, and then in the circumstance of Bill 5, as an example, pushed forward in a reckless way — a piece of legislation that's now been ruled unconstitutional here in this province, Mr. Speaker, denying Saskatchewan people the rights, the fair rights to collective bargaining, something that's so important to workers and important to our economy, Mr. Speaker.

And as I said before, we need to do a better job of prioritizing skills training in this province, supporting apprenticeship, unlocking the potential of all workers, certainly our Aboriginal population, our First Nations and Métis in this province, but all workers, Mr. Speaker, and making sure that that next generation is able to take those steps into meaningful employment and careers and that our economy certainly will be stronger for it, Mr. Speaker.

I know Eric Howe, out of the University of Saskatchewan, has put forward some important work on this front that talks about closing the unacceptable educational gap between non-First Nations and First Nations students, Mr. Speaker. And what that's worth to the province just from an economic perspective has been suggested to be 90 . . . or quantified to be \$80 billion to the people of this province, Mr. Speaker, something that's massive by way of economic opportunity for all, something that we need to be addressing, and something that he's also suggested would save the province of Saskatchewan \$90 billion of expenditure into areas where we pay for poor health or where we pay for incarceration or where we pay for addictions or where we pay for court costs, Mr. Speaker. So an \$80 billion boon to the economy, a \$90 billion reduction in expenditure of government able to allocate those resources in other places, not

to mention it's simply the right thing to do, providing that level of fairness and extending opportunity to young people and to families all across this province regardless of ethnicity, regardless of race, regardless of where they come from, Mr. Speaker. And these are the kinds of provisions we're going to continue to call for.

I'd like to thank at this point the thousands of people and workers and organizations and businesses that have connected with the official opposition to share their thoughts as it relates to this piece of legislation, whether it was someone who came out to make a presentation in North Battleford, whether there was an organization that put together an analysis and put that into our hands to provide a legal understanding of the rights and how they're impacted as to their specific members or workers or employees, Mr. Speaker, or whether it's some of the discussions that we're going to continue to count on.

And I know we'll be counting on the strength of all Saskatchewan people and workers to bring forward the voice that we must on this file. I know, I look forward to the speech from our critic on the floor of this Assembly. And I look forward to the questions that we're going to be able to bring forward on behalf of Saskatchewan people through the committee structure as it relates to this piece of legislation that represents a massive overhaul of rights, protections, fairness that's been hard won, hard earned by Saskatchewan people. And we'll certainly do all we can to be that voice of fairness for all through this process.

At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I certainly have a lot more to say on this legislation, and certainly I look forward to seeking many more questions through this legislative process. Certainly the right thing to do for government is simply to withdraw this legislation, to start over, to get it right, and to make sure that they're doing so in a fair way. If they continue to push forward this legislation that was built with the listening to the very few, Mr. Speaker, well then we'll be here to challenge that government, to ask the questions that are important, and to make sure we're bringing that voice of all communities to the floor of this Assembly. And certainly I look forward to being able to do that through the committee structure.

But at this point in time, I'll adjourn debate as it relates to Bill 85. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To get in on debate and discuss Bill No. 61, *The Railway Amendment Act, 2012*. Looking at the minister's comments, and he did have his comments, it's interesting. And I know the idea was to give certain provisions in here for the Highway Traffic Board to find some I guess solutions to some of the problems that apparently, when rail companies are going to shut down or they want to abandon the railway line that they've been using into certain communities, there's been obviously, by what I'm getting, there has been some issues and maybe . . .

And the wording in here . . . And I'm going to go through some of the wording, use examples and . . . [inaudible] . . . and using some of the wording the minister used and just show some comparisons with the Sask Party government handling of some of the items. And I'm going to use some of the words from the minister and some of the comments he's made when he talked, you know, in this.

And you know, it's very interesting. You talk about abandonment. And that's how a lot of people feel right now with the Sask Party government — abandonment, in the words in here. People feel abandoned by this government. The government, they abandon the people. So whether it's working families, middle class, whether Aboriginal, whether northern, a lot of rural, members are feeling abandoned by this government.

So the government can sit there and talk about all the issues and brag. But at the end of the day here's another word — remedy. Find a remedy for Prince Albert. Maybe they could build a second bridge. There's a remedy city council would really enjoy, and the people in the Prince Albert area would really enjoy that, clearly.

So they've got some provisions that they would like to address and that would give the Highway Traffic Board the opportunity to I guess have the authority. And we'll get into that, more of the authority, the power to evaluate disputes — interesting.

We should be having somebody who would evaluate the Sask Party when the dealing of constituents, when there's disputes, instead of the way people are bullied and treated by the government of the day. They're not being treated with respect. If you have a dispute with them, look out. Don't raise it in the media. Don't bring it to this Assembly because they may just have some bullying on you, you know, bulldozer mode. You know, go ahead with whatever they want without consulting. So that's just some of the things that are in these opening comments. I just want to share with that.

But the Highway Traffic Board is going to have — and this is what this bill — provisions to remedy when they're going to abandon a certain line or the municipality would be taking over. And then sometimes they talk about, you know, negotiating in bad faith is one of the other comments that he refers to. Well we've seen that right now how some of the negotiation is in bad faith, whatever it means, at the end of the day. We've seen some of that, and that's how people feel when they express their frustrations with some of the government. They figure they're at the table and negotiating in good faith. Well think about the northern trappers. You sit around a table and you discuss your issues. And you hope that the minister and the department, the ministry, are going to, you know, in good faith negotiate and

come up with some of the answers to the problems. And unfortunately we find out later, well that isn't the case after a time.

And the people who negotiate in good faith are hoping the government will do the right thing, and unfortunately we see that. So that's just another area where we see northern trappers negotiate in good faith but don't feel like they're getting I guess at the end of the day, in negotiating in good faith, they don't get the respect they deserve and don't get the response to that. So that's interesting to see.

Now everybody . . . In here it also talks about this bill would give provisions for the Highway Traffic Board to actually help those groups — whether it's the seller, the buyer — to come up with a fair agreement, a fair agreement. And sometimes the people of this good province would just like a fair agreement from the Sask Party government, but we see unfortunately that doesn't happen too often.

[15:00]

Now let's give them credit. Once in a while they do. Insiders do get a fair agreement that they say they're happy with. That's fine, depending where you're hanging out. If you're an insider, if you're friends of the current Sask Party, then yes you might get a fair agreement. But if you're somebody that's not in the loop, you know, that inner circle having the ear of certain government officials, certain ministers, you may not get a fair deal.

So having said that, this agreement talks about that. So Highway Traffic would work out a fair agreement. So this provision in here again that would allow the Highway Traffic Board to come up with solutions when there is I guess the seller and a buyer cannot come up with a . . . and doesn't hold the municipality, for instance, if it's a municipality.

And they talk about, you know, salvage of the line, whether they're going to buy that and salvage the line or if it's going to be the municipality or an individual — whether it's a company, private, whoever — to buy the line and maybe they want to continue to operate that line or whatever, hauling grain. Maybe they want to use it in that way. And that's a good thing, continue to operate because there's provisions in here to operate things.

It's just like some of the cuts that individuals, organizations are going to feel and have felt — feel like they're getting cut, so they can't continue to operate. Like this line, the same thing. And I want to use those examples, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to show that. Some individuals and organizations out there currently dealing with the current government feel the same way. They feel abandoned. They don't have the resources to continue doing the good work they're doing because of the government has its own priorities. It doesn't care about some of the community issues, some of the people that are out there.

So those are some of the challenges that people are being faced with. So I can use these examples to show a relation to some of the situations, the way people in this province are being treated by the current government. And again that word, abandonment, abandoned, you know.

So having said that, there are some provisions in here, in this document. And I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there will be more questions in committee. But I just wanted to . . . Just looking through this document, they're going to give some provisions to the Highway Traffic Board to give them some strength, to find some remedies, solutions to some of the . . . when they were negotiating maybe in not good faith, to make sure that it's a fair agreement. So it's trying to help the partners, whether it's the buyer or seller, come to an agreement that's fair for everyone.

And whether it's a municipality, and like I said, they want to continue to run. Whether it's farming, you know, you're hauling grain on a rail line. Depending what communities are being . . . that the rail line is deciding, and those companies I guess get the decision to look at . . . But there is provisions in there that they have to, before they abandon a line, they must make sure they've done an advertising. Is there anyone, interested party wanting to take over that line? So that allows some of the provisions in here to do that. And clearly, it's said.

But I just wanted to use some of the wording. And it was interesting, you know, some of the comments and just the wording. It's amazing how, if you compare that to how Saskatchewan people are feeling abandoned . . . They want a fair deal. They want remedies. You know, I guess when they don't agree with the current government, like I have said that, they want a remedy to that. So there's been a lot of . . . You can use a lot of the wording in here to use some examples. That's all I was trying to do, to use the comparison to find answers. But at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 61.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 61, the railroad amendment Act, 2012. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy 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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A pleasure to rise this afternoon in debate on Bill No. 62, *The Parks Amendment Act*.

An Hon. Member: — What are you talking about?

Mr. McCall: — I hear my colleague from Moose Jaw North already, quick off the mark, chiming in with a “What are you talking about?” — classic Moose Jaw North, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But I guess my request back would be, you know, give me a minute. Let me tell you what I'm talking about, if you would. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we'll get into my remarks. And

I don't know if that'll satisfy the member from Moose Jaw North, but we'll do our level best in any event, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But the bill before the House, of course, Bill No. 62, *An Act to amend The Parks Act*, four or five main sort of components of the bill being brought to force. Before I get into that too far, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should state in the interests of full disclosure, as a kid being brought up, there were many great excursions in the McCall family station wagon out to many of the fine provincial parks in this province, and certainly that has continued into my adulthood. And this past summer I was able to spend some quality time out at Buffalo Pound, out at Lac La Ronge Provincial Park up at Missinipe, and certainly memories of heading out as a family to Echo Valley where we spent a fair amount of the summer commuting back and forth into the city. Or you know, pick your provincial parks, be it Meadow Lake or Rowan's Ravine, Wood Mountain, Greenwater, Good Spirit, Duck Mountain.

We are blessed with an abundance of beautiful terrain and environments and ecosystems in this province. And certainly I am very thankful, having had the opportunity as a child and growing up to have had the chance to experience the wonders of sitting around the campfire while the stars shine brightly and just the great opportunity that is for a family. And again as is the case, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think different of the things that we seek to do in this legislature. Having had those wonderful opportunities, we seek to give something back. We seek to make sure that those tremendous opportunities are there for those yet to come and those coming along.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I'm very interested in the legislation that is before us today in terms of *The Parks Act*. Of course *The Parks Act* is the governing legislation for the provincial park system. Certainly there are different policy changes made from time to time.

Not too long ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I remember an argument made just out in the rotunda in defence of the admission fee, that if you raised the price of admission to the different provincial parks, people would appreciate them more — an argument advanced by the member of that government across the way, Mr. Speaker. And it's again pretty interesting logic on display.

Or the different work that's gone on over the past couple of years in terms of the digital or the computer, the electronic register-a-site system which I had the opportunity to use, registering a site up at Missinipe this summer. Again we understand that there are often challenges that come with any new system, Mr. Speaker, any new electronic system such as this in particular. But it was interesting being in attendance at SARM and hearing the concerns that were raised about the different problems with the rollout and the shakeout and the notion that Telus users were somehow able to get access to the system ahead of those in the queue already from this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And again, we'll be sure to follow that up in committee with the minister to make sure that this program is rolling out as it should.

It was also interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to hear that referenced not a few days ago by the member from Regina

South who, as we all know in this Chamber, is quite fond of things that are all teched up. And again one of the sure signs that you've got to take a closer look is to hear that member talk about how great things are. So it was interesting to hear one thing in the House on the one day in terms of that member reading off the prepared statement, and then at the bear-pit in SARM, hearing something a little bit different in terms of how the rollout of the electronic registry is going for the parks. But we'll certainly, you know, follow that up and continue to take it with a grain of salt.

As for the legislation itself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are a number of components to it, but there's one dealing with Steele Narrows Provincial Park — again Steele Narrows dating back to some pretty historic events, the 1885 North-West Resistance.

The second main component of the legislation is the creation of a new park in Anglin and Emma Lake's provincial park. And I have some specific questions about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I'll be raising in my comments and following up later in committee.

A bit of a land swap that winds up 34 hectares to the good for Danielson Provincial Park, again on the face of it, seemingly a decent thing. But we have some questions in the opposition about the land being utilized to make up the sum total in that regard and who is affected.

And then more of a policy change as regards the authorities of enforcement officers as regards problems with wildlife and the like, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So as regards to the explanatory notes that accompanied the legislation, the first item deals with what I'd mentioned last in terms of the new 27(j.1) wherein:

... the existing section that will provide authority for an enforcement officer to remove to a secure storage location any wildlife attractant or container in which it is found when the officer feels it presents an unsafe situation for park visitors and when the owner cannot be located.

The explanatory notes go on to state that:

In 2011, there were nearly a thousand calls regarding nuisance bears, with about 850 occurring on park lands. In most instances bears ... [were returned] to the wild but ... many instances where bears must be trapped and/or dispatched to ensure the safety of park users and staff.

Again this summer, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to be out at Ness Creek for the traditional music festival and workshops, tried to get to rosin up the bow a bit — and again not in a provincial park but certainly in a beautiful portion of the boreal forest. And that was something that the folks that do such a great job with Ness Creek — one of which is our colleague from Saskatoon Nutana — where they had to deal with a bear that was on site and the different sort of steps that were undertaken with a bear.

But of course, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's important to have the appropriate regulations in place, and it's important to have the tools in the kit for enforcement officers to make sure that what is a potentially dangerous situation doesn't evolve into what can be a tragic, fatal, and the kind of situation that no one wants to

encounter.

So again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as regards to the new section, on the face of it that would seem to be a fairly straightforward measure and worthy of support. And we'll look to see how this is further explained by the minister come the committee.

I guess moving along in the legislation, Mr. Speaker, something else of interest is of course the Steele Narrows Provincial Park wherein the existing description is to be repealed for Steele Narrows Provincial Park and wherein they substitute an amendment to accurately map the area of the park, confirming the lands lying between the waters of Makwa Lake and the current park boundary being identified as parkland.

[15:15]

The explanatory notes reference an orphaned piece of land that lies south of Highway 699 and west of the waters of Makwa Lake that will be removed from park status, the land holding no value to Steele Narrows Provincial Park. But it does, again by the account in the explanatory notes, have value with the federal-provincial initiative to exchange lands to accurately map the Makwa Sahgaiehcan Indian reserve to the high water mark of Makwa Lake.

Again, Mr. Speaker, in the explanatory notes, currently the reserve and lake are mapped using square township gridlines resulting in square edges and not following the curvilinear nature of Makwa Lake's shoreline. Once deregulated, this portion of land can be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture for exchanging with the federal government, the amendment itself resulting in a small net gain to the park of .03 hectares of land.

Again, Mr. Speaker, as regards particular concerns on the part of the official opposition and certainly the people who've used the park, people of Saskatchewan, people in that immediate region, we would be very interested to know what the impact is in specific terms as seen by the members of the Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation, and what sort of impact it has on land concerns for the members of that First Nation.

Carrying on, again a new provision in the legislation wherein the amendment designating a new provincial park in the Anglin—Emma lakes area — again, a beautiful part of the province, Mr. Speaker. Again, being a guy born and raised down here on the plains, it doesn't take me too far north where I'm not just sort of astounded by all the rocks and the trees and lakes and all the water. It's a really, really amazing part of creation and certainly this is something that is well-known by the many people that have used the Anglin and Emma Lake recreation areas over the years. So to see this being upgraded into a full provincial park, we're very interested to see how this works out.

But this of course, it's ... you know, in the explanatory notes there are discussions that are ongoing with local jurisdictions as regards the name, local jurisdictions and Aboriginal communities looking to finalize a name before the third reading of the bill; the recreation sites being folded in along with adjacent Crown land to form one new provincial park of 16,010 hectares; that the park protects additional watersheds and

natural resources of the mid-boreal upland ecoregion of Saskatchewan.

And again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, something that we'll be particularly interested in as regards this, what is the impact of, what were the concerns around the existing Crown land being folded into that park? What were the implications for not just the immediate sort of municipal jurisdictions but also other special interest groups, users' groups, the general public, and in particular First Nations and Métis groups, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

Again in the explanatory notes, and this begs further explanation, it states that:

First Nations have voiced concern regarding continuance of treaty rights and traditional uses. PCS continues to work with First Nations to alleviate these concerns and will be engaged with all groups to determine future management planning for the park including ensuring the continuance of treaty rights and traditional uses.

Close the quote from the explanatory notes.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how this specifically impacts, we'll be interested to see. We know there have been some things done in the history of the province as regards the assembly of land for different of the parks in this province, be it provincial or national. And you know, one of the hopes is, in terms of history, Mr. Speaker, is that we learn the lessons of history and see if there isn't a way to pursue initiatives like this so that those concerns are addressed and that they're done in a good way that brings people together, as opposed to continuing to divide people in this province. And we'll be very interested to see if that is in fact the case so that the First Nations immediately impacted by this have their concerns not just alleviated but addressed, and that, again, so that mistakes of the past are not repeated.

Another thing I'd add parenthetically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the world-famous Kenderdine Campus at the University of Saskatchewan, which is located at Emma Lake, and the fact that that is being liquidated, I guess is one way to put it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again the University of Saskatchewan is put in a tough circumstance where they've got some very hard decisions to make in terms of covering shortfalls and making up with budget allocations that are not there, as have been undertaken by members opposite in the lead up to the last election.

And again there are some very tough decisions that will need to be made to make up for those budget shortfalls, but to think that Kenderdine Campus — which has decades of good work done, and the way that that has served as such a tremendous platform for many artists and educational students and scientists, and the way it has worked in conjunction with the University of Saskatchewan campus — I can full well imagine how tough that decision was to make.

And you think for all we hear about the new Saskatchewan and what a bold, new era the province has entered into, and at the same time see something like this which has been such a lodestone for innovation and creativity for people through the University of Saskatchewan and affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan at Emma Lake, and that it's being brought to a

close and that no more exciting chapters will usher forth from that tremendously beautiful setting is, you know, cognitive dissonance is one way to describe the hype about the new Saskatchewan. But when you see decisions, tough decisions, hard decisions being made like that, you scratch your head and you think, how the heck does this work? If things have never been better, if things are so great, why is something that has been such a valuable institution for this province over decades now being done in?

So again, how the land is assembled for the proposed Anglin-Emma Lakes Provincial Park, we'll see how that works. We'll see how that, in terms of the land being assembled, what other sort of impacts that may have, what sort of . . . You know again, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't too long ago we had the debate about *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* and the removal of lands therefrom, and undertakings that were made in committee and in this House about consultation that had been supposedly undertaken but that, it turned out, was not the case, Mr. Speaker.

So when it comes to doing the homework on where they're getting the land to do things like this, that on the face of them seem good and proper, we're not just going to be taking their word for it in terms of, you know, everything's fine, nothing to see here. Because quite frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've seen that movie before.

So we'll want to have some very detailed questions answered in terms of where the land comes from, what other sort of encumbrances might accompany those lands, and what the impact those lands have for things like the amount of land available for wildlife habitat protection, or lands that should more properly be going or should be attached to the treaty land entitlement process. What is the impact there? And then on top of it, Mr. Speaker, again, that this action accompanies the end of something like the Kenderdine Campus is, in a word, sad.

Moving on through the legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the provisions regarding the Danielson Provincial Park. Again it's sort of an interesting bit of history as regards to the province. For many years there'd been many different proponents for the dam at Gardiner Park and the possibilities that would arise from the irrigation possibilities. And again in a way that . . . There's been a pretty good book written on this about the negotiations that went back and forth between Diefenbaker and Jimmy Gardiner and Tommy Douglas, and of course the way that Jimmy Gardiner had, you know, long sort of promised, but whether or not he delivered is a matter of some historical question.

But certainly the Gardiner dam took the name as the Douglas camp area was given its name earlier. Diefenbaker of course got the lake and Danielson sort of came in as part of the package. But the Gardiner, Diefenbaker, Douglas work that was done, the interprovincial, interjurisdictional wranglings that took place to make this happen was a pretty interesting part of our province's history.

But as regards the legislation itself, wherein (c)(iii) is struck out and then substituted with an amendment to add an additional 65 hectares of land containing native prairie ecosystem to Danielson Provincial Park, quoting from the explanatory notes,

again I know this is something that a lot of people have a definite concern about, is how this relates to the whole question of community pastures. And again, referencing in an earlier discussion that was had inside this legislature around *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, again we'll be looking to gain better insight into this. Where is this land being assembled from? What are the impacts? What the divestiture of the assemblage process that was undertaken, what's all involved there?

And again if you've got 65 hectares on the one hand and the removal of 31 hectares on the other with a net of 34 hectares gained for the park, again that would seem to be a fairly interesting proposition, a worthy proposition, but how that plays out on the ground and in terms of other actions that had been taken by this government, we will be looking for more detail, more information from this government.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's been a pleasure to join in the debate on Bill No. 62, the amendments to *The Parks Act*. These parks we hold not just in trust for today, but for tomorrow and the day after that and decades down the line, we hold them for your grandchildren, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and for those to come. And we should make sure that we're doing right by them so that that protection isn't just theoretical, but that years from now we'll look back and say there was some good work done in terms of making sure this was here to share for us and for those to follow.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know other of my colleagues are looking to participate in the debate, and as such I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 62, *An Act to amend The Parks Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn 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 Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[15:30]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to weigh into the debate on Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012*.

I think I'm going to start, Mr. Deputy Speaker, by talking a little bit about regional parks here in Saskatchewan and my own experiences as a child growing up here. I don't know if you knew this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but there are almost 100 regional parks here in Saskatchewan. They've all been

designed, developed, and built by local communities, so they really are the strength of local communities. The local regional park is the hub of recreational activities in many communities in the summer, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

They provide great affordable holiday options for local people but as well attracting tourists who are travelling across the province. I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, myself, growing up, I'm the youngest of seven kids, and there's a bit of a gap between the six other siblings and I, so I don't have strong memories of all the locations we visited, but we would pile into our red station wagon, the seven of us and my parents, and we would tour Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. With an at-home mom and a father who was a police officer, touring provincial and regional parks was an affordable option for my family, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And sort of more recent memories actually, I had an opportunity . . . Well growing up, we would always be heading to P.A., actually to a national park. We had friends who had a cabin at Prince Albert National Park. But on the way up to Prince Albert National Park, we would hound my parents — it was always my mother actually who was the driver; my dad would join us when he wasn't at work — but we would hound my parents to stop at Valley Regional Park. My mom was always a woman with a mission and always wanted to get to the destination. But the kids in the family, we always wanted them to stop. That hill and that zipline, Mr. Deputy Speaker, held so much appeal.

And finally one year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we got my mother to stop, and the goal was to have a picnic and for us to get to try out the zipline. And I actually used some of my allowance money to pay for the regional park admission. That was the deal, that we could go if I coughed up the money for the pass. And the most disappointing thing, it was a great highlight to get to stop, but it was one of the few times, I'm sure, in the park's history that the zipline wasn't working. There was a problem with the zipline.

So you know, I've had an opportunity as an adult to fulfill that fantasy with that zipline, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with my own kids just a couple of years ago. We made a trip to Valley Rosthern Regional Park just for part of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but my kids had an opportunity . . . We had a picnic and my kids had an opportunity to try out the zipline at Valley Rosthern Regional Park, and I have to say it was a hit. So I was living vicariously through my children just a few short years ago when I didn't get a chance to try the zipline. And heaven help the zipline if I tried today, but my kids got to. So the regional parks are an important part of our recreational aspects or recreational opportunities here in Saskatchewan.

Just a few years ago too, actually shortly after I was elected, I had an opportunity to do some outreach and some touring and headed up to the Carrot River and Tisdale, that neck of the woods, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I had a visit to Pasquia Regional Park and was amazed by the facilities there. There's a brand new Olympic-sized swimming pool, a new playground. I had lunch in the restaurant, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and saw Big Bert actually.

And I don't know if I'm describing Big Bert correctly. But Big

Bert was a life-sized replica of a fossil that was found in the area. I would describe him kind of as a crocodile or an alligator-like fossil, but I'm sure, I'm sure the member from Carrot River Valley could maybe correct me on that. But it's just a wonderful little jewel of a park here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And there's so many of these that are, like I said, community developed and community run and really are a wonderful, a wonderful addition to our tourism opportunities and recreational opportunities here in Saskatchewan.

So Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act*, sets out several different goals, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And just looking at the minister's second reading comments, he talks about one of the changes as providing "... a much clearer description of the minister's powers with regards to the regional parks program." And he goes on to, the minister goes on to describe, "The existing legislation describes powers of the department versus [the power of] the minister and does not specifically describe the types of powers required to carry out the minister's responsibilities."

So that's one of the changes that is being proposed here, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The second area is the minister is establishing "... the authority to delegate certain minister's powers to the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association via a formal administration agreement approved by ... [executive council.]" And I know the minister goes on to praise the Regional Parks Association. And it is true. They play "... a pivotal role in the administration of the regional parks program across the entire province" and they serve as the voice for both regional parks in the province but they provide "... services like accreditation, marketing, and provision of advice to regional parks boards as well as adjudication of provincial capital grant funding."

Another area that's being addressed in this particular bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the "... formal recognition of community and non-profit organizations in the establishment and operation of regional park authorities, where previously [in the legislation] only municipalities had this formal recognition."

So the reality is, "The ... role of municipalities in the establishment and operation of regional parks is also reinforced [and the minister goes on to say] as the connection between regional parks and municipal government is critical."

And we'd agree with that.

A fourth component of the legislation is overall improved clarity throughout the legislation, including the removal of many out-of-date and redundant references. The existing Act, which was written in 1960 — or the original Act — is detailed and many of the sections in the Act have been moved to regulations, policy, or simply deleted altogether. So that obviously over the course of time ... 1960 was some time ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and there are changes in language, changes that do have to occur.

The one piece that I find interesting and I think I'd like to talk a little bit more about is it clarifies the processes, this legislation, for regional park boundary adjustments and dissolution, or adds

rigour and public accountability, says the minister, with regard to park dissolution and also with regard to financial and annual operating. The minister talks about park dissolutions and says the proposed legislation allows the minister to set certain conditions such as the completion of the public consultation process.

And we saw last summer actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where this would come into play. Last August actually there was a story that hit the news about the sale of the LeRoy Leisureland Regional Park which is located just a few kilometres from the BHP Billiton's proposed Jansen potash mine. There were some serious concerns in the community about this sale, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I said, regional parks are the lifeblood, in many cases, of communities, and people felt that. I'd like to quote actually the park manager, Maggie Hamilton, who was quoted in an August 21st, 2012 *StarPhoenix* story. She says, "This stinks. A lot of this has been a secret but the public should have known about this."

So there was a public meeting on the subject taking place after the fact, after the sale had become local knowledge, and people were very concerned about this. The people in the community were hoping ... And the manager again, Maggie Hamilton, says, "We're hoping there'll be enough people there making enough of a stink that they'll have to take another look at this."

So this park actually, the LeRoy Leisureland Park had opened in the late '60s. Just a few details about it. It's an 80-acre park and offers a nine-hole golf course, camping, a swimming pool, and other amenities. The park manager had argued that this park was both a very busy park and a valuable community asset. One of the big concerns is that the community was not informed or asked for input on the months-long negotiations of the sale of the park.

And the minister, as I had said, in his second reading comments talks about the bill making changes to ... He says here again, "Regarding park dissolutions, the proposed legislation allows me, as minister, to set certain conditions such as the completion of a public consultation process."

So I think one of my questions is it says it allows the minister to set those conditions, but I don't think it mandates or requires the public consultation piece. And I think that that would be something to flag, that perhaps the legislation should be a little bit stronger when this is a community asset. And when a community asset is set to dissolve or be sold, perhaps there should be mandatory consultation with the people in the community.

Again speaking about consultation, the minister in his remarks talked about that these are changes that the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association has been asking for with respect to this legislation, and has been asking for them for about 10 years, which ... Consultation is absolutely critical, and again I commend the work that the Regional Parks Association does, so I think that on balance the Regional Parks Association knows what they need to ensure that the environment is right for the support of regional parks. But I think again this is a piece of legislation that perhaps the government has done the proper consultation on, but this is a rarity in this government's track record, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where this government doesn't do

very well when it comes to consultation.

We have many Acts that have come before us and many occurrences where the government has not done due diligence when it comes to consultation, like *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, where we're amending 100 years of labour legislation and all rolling it into one 184-page bill, I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it took 90 days to consult on that piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And who did they consult? They consulted people perhaps of like mind rather than casting the net wide and making sure that they hear from all kinds of people.

So with Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act*, the minister has commented that he has done thorough and diligent consultation with the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association. But I again just want to flag the one piece here where the minister says the proposed legislation allows him to set certain conditions on the public consultation process, but again it doesn't say that's mandated. And looking to the regional park sale of LeRoy Leisureland Regional Park, where there was no public input on that sale, that should probably be something that we could consider mandating when we're going to do something with a major public asset like that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But I do know I have other colleagues who are interested in wading into the debate on Bill 63, *The Regional Parks Amendment Act*, and with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — 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 Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Bill No. 64, *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012* is basically a companion bill to Bill No. 63, the Act that I just spoke to. This makes consequential amendments to *The Regional Parks Act, 2012*. *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012* updates references to *The Regional Parks Act, 1979* which are contained within *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*. And the minister goes on to point out again that this is a companion Act and it's a result of the proposed enactment of *The Regional Parks Act, 2012*, and is proposed to come into force on the day in which section 1 of *The Regional Parks Act* comes into force. So with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on *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: — Carried.

[15:45]

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 Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I am pleased to rise today to speak to this bill. This is the Bill No. 65, *An Act to amend The Securities Act, 1988 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*.

And the mysterious world of securities is one, I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that can baffle the brightest amongst us. And it's a complicated area where I think we've seen over the years necessary intervention on the part of the government to protect the consumer in the situation where securities are being offered to the public, when people want to trade in the stock market, I guess basically, although there's other ways to do that.

So I think it appears that the original securities Act was passed in 1988. It's been around for a while, 25 or is it 35 years. And I think a number of changes and developments have occurred in the area of securities since then. Obviously the one that sticks with most people recently was the financial crisis in 2008. And there we saw through sleight of hand and basically a shell game some financial institutions being able to subprime mortgage their way to a complete sort of financial disaster in the United States, and it still has reverberations throughout the world. So that was a lesson learned at the time.

And one of the things that became suspect or became open to abuse, shall we say, was something called an over-the-counter derivative. And I certainly am not going to attempt to explain what that is because it's a very complicated vehicle for financing and for investing. But it appears, based on the minister's comments when he introduced the bill on November 13th when he gave it second reading, that there was some pressure on the G20 [Group of 20] to adopt stiffer rules in relation to over-the-counter derivatives in order to ensure that those who understand these things and see the advantages for their clients weren't able to shop around, basically, to find a G20 government where the banking institutions were able to carry on these sorts of transactions.

The minister describes an over-the-counter derivative in his comment as "an agreement where the price, value, delivery, or payment obligation is derived from an underlying interest." And I would challenge the ordinary smart person to even sort of

describe exactly what that is, but it's something that has had a serious impact in the securities world. And so in this case our government is responding to the challenges of the crisis of 2008, and they're making it more difficult now for the OTC [over-the-counter] market because there was a complete lack of transparency at the time. And it was very challenging. Because of the lack of transparency, it was very challenging for the regulators to even identify what was going on and what the risk was. And I think that was part of the problem with the crisis in 2008.

So I think the first thing I wanted to point out was the actual definition of derivative, and I'm going to read it into the record, but it is . . . I think when you hear this definition you realize how incredibly complex this area is and how it could be easy for people to sort of not really understand what it means. So I'll read this and then maybe we could discuss afterwards whether or not it makes any sense. But here's the definition, the new definition of derivative that's being added to the Act through this bill. And it says here, clause 2(1):

“(o.1) ‘**derivative**’ means:

(i) an option, swap, futures contract, forward contract or other financial or commodity contract or instrument whose market price, value or delivery, payment or settlement obligations are derived from, referenced to or based on an underlying interest of a derivative, including a value, price, index, event, probability or thing; or

(ii) a contract or instrument that is designated pursuant to section 11.1 to be a derivative or that is within a class of contracts or instruments that is designated to be derivatives pursuant to section 11.1 or the regulations;

but does not include:

(iii) a contract or instrument that would be a derivative under subclause (i) if the contract or instrument is an interest in or to a security and a trade in the security pursuant to the contract or instrument would constitute a distribution; or

(iv) a contract or instrument that is designated pursuant to section 11.1 not to be a derivative or that is within a class of contracts or instruments that is designated not to be derivatives pursuant to section 11.1 or the regulations.

Now I would challenge the ordinary reader to maybe be able to come up with a quick definition of exactly what it is I just read. But you can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the complexity in these definitions. And certainly I think that's one of the reasons why our government saw fit to pass *The Securities Act* back in 1988. And it's to protect investors, people who are putting their hard-earned savings and their retirement funds into these types of investments.

So I think that's just one of the challenges we see in this bill is actually being able to understand the nature of the market. And I know that's why, with the lack of transparency in 2008, that's why there was such a complete and total disruption in the

financial market when these things were going on sort of, and particularly the sub-prime mortgage trade was going on sort of beneath the scope of the regulators at the time. And we see what happened.

Indeed the minister pointed out in his comments back in November that these derivative markets were really complex and that the transparency wasn't there, and that's why it wasn't foreseen and the risks accumulated until the point where it became a crisis. And he indicated that what happened there is in contrast to the trading of derivatives on regulated exchanges, which didn't experience any failures during the financial crisis of 2008.

So I think the point here is that these over-the-counter derivatives are the risk. And certainly I think what happened once the United States started tightening up their rules, we saw banks and their supporters looking for other opportunities to continue this type of behaviour. And ultimately I think the response from the G20 was that pretty much everyone is now looking at these types of regulations.

So that was the first change, the major change that the minister's introducing into this amendment or this bill to amend *The Securities Act, 1988*. He goes on to say that the second portion that's being amended . . . or the second main change was a change to the confidential records and information gathered by officials with the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority and mainly that those things, those records cannot be publicly disclosed.

So the first big change that we see in relation to this is a new section 14.1. And this is where the director can make an order requiring companies to provide information, and there's a whole list of things there where the director can compel information be provided. And the types of people or companies that can receive the order would be “a registrant; an issuer; a reporting issuer; a transfer agent or registrar for securities of a reporting issuer; a director, officer, promoter or a control person of a reporting issuer; a custodian of assets of an investment fund; a self-regulatory organization; an exchange; a derivatives trading facility; a quotation and trade reporting system; a clearing agency; a trade repository; and a credit rating organization.” So again I think you get the sense, based on that list, of the extreme complexity of this area of finances and how having regulators keep a close eye on that is extremely important.

These changes in section 14 are further supported by changes in section 152 which is also amended. And in that case, the section 152(3) is being repealed and there's a new clause being substituted. And the big change there is where the commission itself, how it determines whether things need to be held in confidence.

So in the first part . . . In the previous or the existing version of the section, I can just read that to you, the current 152(3) which reads . . . I'll just find the section here. Right now 152(3) reads:

Where this Act or the regulations require that material be filed, the filing shall be effected by depositing the material, or causing it to be deposited, with the Commission.

Subject to subsection (3), the Commission shall make available all material filed pursuant to subsection (1) for public inspection during the normal business hours of the Commission.

So on those two subclauses, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you see where normally the material that is filed is available for public inspection. But the key clause is sub (3) where it reads:

Notwithstanding subsection (2), the Commission may hold material or any class of material required to be filed by this Act in confidence as long as the Commission is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to do so.

So the key words there is the public interest. And what happens now, the new clause reads as follows:

Notwithstanding subsection (2) and *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the Commission may hold in confidence all or part of a record required to be filed pursuant to this Act or the regulations if the Commission is of the opinion that:

And here's the key part:

(a) the person to whom or company to which the information in the record relates would be unduly prejudiced by disclosure of the information, and the person or company's privacy interests outweigh the public's interest with respect to disclosure of the information; or

the Commission is subject to a requirement to maintain the information in the record in confidence as a condition of receiving the record.

So it's quite a different scenario now when we're looking at what can be released or what the commission has to consider when considering releasing this type of information. And rather than just having the test that it's in the public interest to do so, we now have a different test and that would be if the private interests outweigh the public interest, which is probably a more difficult determination for the commission, or whether there was conditions placed on receiving the record.

Now if I was a company releasing information to the commission, I would just make that a condition right off the hop. And in that case, the commission wouldn't be able to release any of this information to the public. Whether that's good or bad, I don't know, Mr. Speaker. I think civil libertarians again would maybe view this as a positive thing.

However, public interest is always to have as much information available as possible. And I think a good example of that would be something like a lobbying registry where people who are actively lobbying the government, and that in itself is not a bad thing, but that that information be made available to the public so they are aware who's conducting themselves in that fashion. So that's just a comment I wanted to make on the second aim of this bill as indicated by the minister in his comments.

The third point I want to speak to is the one the minister referred to, and that would be for the collection branch. He said the fine collection branch of the Ministry of Justice — and I

have no doubt that they are a fine collection branch indeed — to allow them to enforce and collect financial compensation orders. So that change is found in some new sections that are being added after 135.6. And there's about four more or five more sections that are being added after that section.

Now 135, I'll just go back to the original bill and give the context for this change. Section 135 relates to . . . It's a fairly long section. It starts on page . . . 135 starts on page 77 of the original Act, and then 135.6 is found on page 83 and it deals with financial compensation. So what's added now after 135.6 is a whole series of sections on how the director can basically collect on orders where orders have been issued for a person to pay money.

So I won't go into all the details of 135.61 as it now exists. But the new changes are found on page 15 of the bill and basically there's five more sections that are being added here. I guess the key point of the changes is found in 135.62 and when it says:

When a claimant files a financial compensation order made pursuant to section 135.6 with the director [it says under]:

(a) the director may commence proceedings, including any means of enforcement mentioned in 135.6, with any necessary modification to enforce the financial compensation order as a debt due to the claimant.

[16:00]

So it gives the director a fairly broad authority now to go forward and collect monies that were owing under these orders.

The other changes there are just in relation to that substantive change, but I guess that's the third goal. And as the minister pointed out in his introductory comments to the bill, that these orders are being made by the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority against companies that have contravened securities legislation through activities such as fraud. So there'll be a formal hearing and the order is made. And now this is just an additional tool for the folks at the Ministry of Justice to go forward and collect that amount. And he says, normally the amount of the order is to be paid to an individual who suffered financial loss on account of the illegal activity. So it's being described as an enforcement tool.

So really what we see in this bill is those three changes that the minister's proposing, and one is a definition of an over-the-counter or OTC derivative. And these are different than the derivatives that are traded on an exchange. I think that's the main point here. And that they are fairly opaque, which means difficult to understand, if you're asking me. And I think the definition itself is very difficult to understand. So this is something where you require a certain amount of expertise and knowledge in order to provide the legislative background for these bills.

And then as I said, the second change is the way confidential records are being maintained, and finally the third change is the ability for the director to enforce the collection orders.

There is a number of other changes in this bill. It's a fairly

lengthy bill with lots of changes, but the bulk of them are merely using derivatives instead of exchange contract, which was the former definition. So there's pages and pages of changes to different clauses in the existing securities Act, 1988 dealing with those proper changes to reflect the intent of the new bill.

Further to that though, I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we will want to ask a number of questions in committee in relation to this bill, and certainly my colleagues will be able to ask those questions there. They're of fairly technical nature, and at that point we'll have an opportunity to comment further. So at this point that's the extent of my comments on *The Securities Act, 1988*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 65, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Bill No. 67

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 67** — *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A pleasure to rise this afternoon in *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012*. Interesting bit of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and certainly the . . . I don't know if there's an echo in here, but when I'm trying to tell you what I'm talking about, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hear a distinct ringing from the benches opposite from the direction of Moose Jaw North.

But again I'd counsel him, as I'd counselled him earlier, you know, maybe I could get past the preamble and then I could tell you what I'm talking about. But we'll see what we can do in that regard, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But it's always nice to hear some classic Moose Jaw North interjected into the debate. I don't know if I'd be all that happy if that was my hallmark as a legislator in this place but, you know, certainly the member's well-known for that and he does it well. So if he could give us a chance, we'll get into the remarks and we'll see if he has any questions after that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But certainly Bill No. 67, modernizing legislation that has essentially been in place since 1963, trying to keep up with the way that Acts have changed across the country. The different pieces of legislation that are consequentially amended out of this including *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*; *The Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*; *The Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Act*, again changing the references in the professional community planner to registered professional planner.

So to tell you what I'm talking about and then I'll talk about it a bit and then I'll tell you again what I've talked about, Mr. Deputy Speaker. What I'm talking about is a lot of housekeeping in this piece of legislation. It's not exactly setting the world on fire. It's a necessary piece of business that the government should attend to, and it would seem from the minister's remarks at second reading that they've attended to that housekeeping diligently. But again, Mr. Speaker, one of the surest ways to raise the suspicion of this opposition is to hear members opposite saying that all the homework has been done and things are fine. That's when we like to check our wallets, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of the assurances of members opposite.

But again on the other hand, this would seem to be a pretty straightforward piece of legislation wherein key changes requested by the Association of Professional Community Planners of Saskatchewan have been reflected in the legislation, including changing the name of the association to the Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute; replacing the term professional community planner with registered professional planner, a term adopted by all relevant professional planning organizations across Canada; clarifying the composition and role of the association's professional conduct and discipline committees, and also including a requirement that the majority of the members of the professional conduct and discipline committees are licensed members; and enhance disciplinary authority by allowing the committee to inform the employer of a member found guilty of a professional misconduct or incompetence.

Again, Mr. Speaker, earlier I was saying that this wasn't necessarily a barnburner of a piece of legislation but I'm starting to warm up to it. Again, that legislation comes forward in conjunction with professional associations and that these are largely self-regulating bodies in that their bylaws and means of self-governance need to be kept current and kept abreast with developments across the country is not exactly earth-shattering. So again we're glad to see these changes brought forward here today, but the world has not stopped spinning on its axis.

Moving further through the analysis of the minister's second reading speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker, wherein:

. . . the ministry and association have identified some amendments to ensure the Act fully complies with labour mobility obligations under the Agreement on Internal Trade and the New West Partnership agreement. This includes placing the administration of examinations for members with the association, and through them the national association, the Canadian Institute of Planners or the CIP instead of with the University of Saskatchewan.

And the minister allows in his remarks that “The University of Saskatchewan fully supports this change and has provided a letter to that effect.”

Again, you know, glad to hear it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Work that can be done to ensure labour mobility throughout various jurisdictions, of not just the West but throughout Canada, indeed is an admirable pursuit. And if this legislation is in compliance with those aims, we’re glad to hear it.

It states further on in the minister’s second reading speech that:

[The] Professional planning associations across Canada, including the association, have been working towards unfettered labour mobility in conjunction with their national association, the CIP. The provisions in the new Act represent fine tuning in terms of labour mobility as opposed to removing barriers.

So what that means, Mr. Deputy Speaker, may warrant further questioning in committee, but fine tuning, as opposed to removing barriers, again we’ll see how that plays out in the black and white and we’ll be interested in the minister’s answer to the related questions. But again, coming forward from the planners themselves, and being in compliance with the evolving national standards, again it would seem to be a fair enough proposition.

Further, Mr. Speaker, wherein the:

... Act does not establish the scope of practice of planners or restrict persons from calling themselves planners or require that only members can do planning. It simply recognizes the association or institute, once the new Act is proclaimed, as the professional association that regulates professional planners in the province and provides for the protection of the title of registered professional planner.

Again, Mr. Speaker, these things are important. If you’re going to be calling yourself a registered professional planner, you should meet up to the standards required. These are titles not lightly thrown around. I know that different people, you know, be it doctors or lawyers, geoscientists — these are credentials that are worked hard to secure and that people should indeed be quite jealous of their usage and make sure that the appropriate credentialing body is in place. And again, as covered in the legislation here, to ensure that the body is there to not just ensure that authority, that credibility of the credential and the credentialing process but also that disciplinary steps are there in place.

And so it is there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I draw your attention to a passage further on in the minister’s second reading speech wherein he states, and I quote:

The remainder of the provisions generally follow the province’s current template for professions Acts and include a number of significant updates. They are: providing for public appointees to the association’s council; standardizing administrative and regulatory bylaw powers of the institute; providing for ministerial bylaws if necessary; and standardizing provisions related to professional conduct and discipline committees’

investigations, hearings, and consequences. The ministry has worked out any outstanding issues with the association regarding these provisions.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the powers of self-regulating professions and the way that the template is applied more broadly across the piece, again if that indeed has been followed in this regard, it would seem to be a fairly straightforward proposition — something that the opposition will be watching with interest, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the government sets out to implement the new Act and making sure that this government does indeed consult with the regulated professions to refine and update the legislation, making sure that the expressed intent is met up with the resources and practice in the field.

And again, the Ministry of Government Relations states its intent “. . . to continue working with the association to ensure that in the near future, clear and appropriate bylaws for the community planning profession are established.” Again, Mr. Speaker, it seems to be a fairly straightforward proposition and we will be following up with the minister and with the related bodies to ensure that that is in fact the case.

I know that other members will be very interested to get into this debate, Mr. Speaker. So we’re not quite ready to move it on to committee just yet but there’ll be some more scrutiny coming forward in terms of second reading speeches. But for the time being, I would move to adjourn debate of Bill No. 67, *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 67, *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[16:15]

Bill No. 68

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 68** — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1988 sur les juges de paix* 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. Again it’s my pleasure to rise to speak to this bill, Bill No. 68, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1988 sur les juges de paix*. Had to throw in a little bit of French there because in fact this bill is, I believe, in bilingual format. No, it’s not just the name unfortunately.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have an explanation by the minister introducing the bill and basically the purpose of this bill is just to get a new process in place for determining salaries and benefits for Saskatchewan justices of the peace. And this is a role within our judiciary that I think has a very long and honourable history.

In fact I think I'd like to share with you a little bit about how this came about in Canada. But before I do, I just want to describe the original existence of justices of the peace. And believe it or not, it goes back to the year 1195 when Richard I, the Lion-Heart. Richard the Lion-Heart commissioned certain knights to preserve the peace in unruly areas. So these guys were responsible to the king for ensuring that the law was upheld and preserved the "king's peace" and were known as "keepers of the peace."

By a couple hundred years later, an Act referred to good and lawful men to be appointed in every county in the land to guard the peace, and they were first referred to as conservators of the peace or wardens of the peace. But the word, the phrase, Justice of the Peace, came about in 1361 during the reign of King Edward III Plantagenet. So the peace to be guarded is the king's peace or in this case of course the Queen's peace, which is the duty of the Crown under the royal prerogative.

And there's an extensive history of the role of the JPs [Justice of the Peace] as they go through time. Often they were a member of the gentry because it was an unpaid office back in the day, and it was just more for the sake of renown or to confirm the justice's standing within the community. So it's sort of a status symbol I guess for the JPs and something that people were happy to do I guess, that had nothing else to do during their days.

The other interesting note is that women were not allowed to become JPs in the United Kingdom until 1919. And the first woman was Ada Summers, the mayor of Stalybridge, who was a JP by virtue of her office. And in Canada we had Emily Murphy of Edmonton, Canada who preceded her by about three and a half years. And according to this article in the Wikipedia, now in the UK [United Kingdom] 50 per cent of JPs are women. So things have . . . We certainly have gender parity in the UK when it comes to JPs.

Now in terms of Canada's JP history, the Justice of the Peace in Canada, they play a key role in the administration of justice at the provincial level. So normally justices of the peace are appointed by lieutenant governors, the lieutenant governors of Canada's provinces, and by the commissioners of Canada's territories on the advice of their premier or attorney general.

As the article notes, Canada, as we know, is a very vast country, and often the JPs or the justices are the only magistrates in some regions. And sometimes in the Northwest Territories they're assigned to hear federal crimes, or in more populated provinces like here in Saskatchewan, they would usually preside over bail hearings and provincial offences courts, so provincial courts. In addition to their work in a court and when court is not sitting, they can perform other judicial functions, like most JPs would issue search warrants now if the police needed a search warrant.

So back to the bill itself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we see here is an attempt to assure the independence of these justices of the peace and particularly the problem being is that currently it's set through regulations on a fee-for-service basis for most tasks, and then there's an hourly wage for the more complex matters.

So as the minister pointed out, these JPs perform all kinds of

duties that are essential to the functioning of our judicial system. And certainly I know when I was an articling student and was required to go to court on a daily basis, it was always . . . Everything seemed to start with the JPs in the morning. And they were looking after certain matters that ensured the function of the court was running smoothly, and they were setting down processes, paperwork. They were doing oaths and affirmations, affidavits, and then even dealing with remand and release hearings and issuance of search warrants. So the JPs perform a very critical role in our legal system and in our court system now.

And the minister has indicated that what's inadequate here is that now that courts have ruled that principles of judicial independence applies not only to judges but to JPs, then there's the question of how their independence is being treated, their judicial independence, if their remuneration is tied to the current system of regulations and fee-for-service. So the attempt in this bill is to ensure that there is actually financial security to ensure the judicial independence of these justices of the peace.

The minister indicated that there's three requirements for financial security, first of all that there should be an independent process for establishing salaries or maintaining them or changing them. And secondly — and this is probably the most important one — no direct negotiations are to be permitted between judicial officers and the government. So obviously if you're going to retain your independence as an officer of the court, you must not be seen or must not be required to negotiate with the government in terms of remuneration. And then the final point the minister indicated was that salaries should not fall below a certain minimum level.

So the minister goes on to say that in his view this new bill achieves that independence because what they've done is they've set it up so that an independent commission will have the authority to review and make recommendations regarding salaries and pension benefits for JPs. So once that review is done, then they'll be locked in. Their salaries will be locked in, and then any raises or annual increases would be a percentage of the annual salary, a percentage of what the Provincial Court judges get, and then adjusted accordingly at the same level that the Provincial Court judges are adjusted.

Another important part I think especially for the senior justices of the peace is that they will actually be entered into the public employees pension plan, which is also an important role. And I think as we look at the role of independent officers within not only our judicial system but within our whole government system, certainly the security of a pension plan is something that should be made available to all of them in the most fair fashion.

So what this bill provides is that this commission will be established, and then they'll do a review. And then they will review again in 2018, so basically five years from now, and then following that, every six years. So as the minister points out, it's important for these matters to be reviewed. And that would meet the constitutional guarantee of independence.

So the minister is indicating that the remuneration process in the bill will not impact on the independent process that's currently in place for Provincial Court judges. And as we know,

that did receive some attention in the media a few years ago. And there's always I think public concern when judges' salaries are being established, but this process will not affect the public court, Provincial Court judges' process for remuneration.

And finally he said, the last point is that there's a transitional portion in this bill that will ensure that they're continued to be paid until the first commission regulation comes into force. So they'll be remunerated at the new salary level back to April 1st, 2013 minus any amounts earned in the transitional period. So that's basically the minister's comments on the bill.

If you look at the changes themselves, there's a fair number of them. Oh yes, it actually is published in a bilingual fashion, so there is the French version as well, which I won't go into.

But there's a new heading being added after section 10, and that is the determination of salary and benefits. So the first clause 10.1 just has some definitions that are relevant to the section. And secondly the salary and pension benefits are defined in 10.2 where — this is once the commission is established, the initial salaries — then it would say:

... the annual salary of a justice of the peace ... [will be a] percentage of the annual salary of a judge of the Provincial Court ... that is prescribed in the regulations made by the commission.

And then there's an adjustment clause following that. So that's the first change under section 10.

Then 10.3 allows the commission to make the questions and do the enquiry it needs to in order to establish the correct percentage. So this is basically what the commission's work will be, is to look at the work that's required and what percentage it should be in relation to what the Provincial Court judges make. And so it would be a percentage of their annual salary.

There's reports required by the commission within six months after the day this section comes into force. So they'll have six months to do their work and make recommendations.

And then finally, on or before December 31, 2018, a commission has to prepare and submit a report to the minister and the association containing all its recommendations and proposed regulations to implement those recommendations. So that sets up the work of the commission.

10.5 describes the procedures that the commission needs to follow. They shall consider written submissions from the association and the minister. They can submit written questions to the association and the minister after it's reviewed the written submissions. And then they can convene a hearing if they feel it necessary.

The new section 10.6 says that notwithstanding *The Provincial Court Act*, the minister, the association and any justice of the peace shall not be granted standing to make submissions to a Provincial Court commission with respect to the matters in 10.3. So there's no standing to make submissions.

And finally 10.7 is how the recommendations will be

implemented. And there's a process there that's set out to implement the recommendations that are made.

The final main clause is being changed. It's clause — an additional clause — 10.8. And that is the transition period that I referred to earlier when I was describing the minister's comments, where the transition period will start on April 1st, 2013 and then continue on until the new regulations as prepared by the commission are in force. So there's definitely some time, and then there'll be a calculation made as to the proper salary to pay during the transition period.

So I think these changes in and of themselves are fairly responsible, Mr. Speaker. There's probably more questions that we'll be needing to ask when we get to committee.

I think again the role of Justice of the Peace is a very historical role throughout the Commonwealth. And as I indicated earlier, it's been around for almost 1,000 years now, so it's a role that has evolved.

But I remember in my brief appearances as an articling student, dealing with justices of the peace. I think they serve a vital function and vital role in the administration of justice. And as the minister indicated, they certainly have facilitated the work of courts, and they do make sure that all the things that show up on the courthouse doorstep basically are handled well and appropriately and facilitate the work of the judges of the Provincial Court and enable them to do their job as well.

So at this point, our critic is going to have some comments for this in committee, and we look forward to the opportunity to raising any of the technical questions that we feel are going to be necessary once this bill is heard at the committee level. So that would conclude my remarks on this bill, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 68, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 70

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marchuk that **Bill No. 70** — *The Education Amendment Act, 2012* (No. 2)/*Loi n° 2 de 2012*

modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to be able to enter into debate on Bill 70, *The Education Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker. Obviously any education Acts that are being proposed by the Saskatchewan Party government you want to pay very close attention to. And I really want to commend the Education critic because obviously having to follow all the different changes and of course all the different challenges that the school boards and the teachers and the students have and the parents have certainly is a task that one has to be vigilant in and certainly in trying to make sure that the Saskatchewan Party government is held to account to all the parties that I mentioned.

[16:30]

And Bill 70 is no different, Mr. Speaker. We think that Bill 70 certainly deserves a lot of discussion and deserves a lot of consultation. It deserves a lot of understanding the different players and the effect that it has on the different players. So we really have to make sure we examine the proposal of Bill 70 very carefully and very clearly.

Because, Mr. Speaker, at the outset I look at some of the points that the minister made as to the intent of the bill. And Bill 70 talks about a number of different categories and different things that he wishes to change including: the compulsory school age, going from seven to six, including pre-kindergarten in definition of schools, looking at the school day and how that really affects education amongst our young ones, highlighting pre-K [pre-kindergarten], talking about fines in terms of bringing them up to date.

They talk about provincial residence in terms of how we can certainly support the families that are moving here. Whether those families are from different countries or whether they're temporary workers, they obviously have children, and some of the bill wants to talk about that. We're also certainly talking about a boundary adjustment for some of the students, capital grants, the return to the government's information bank, property clauses, and additional board members for the La Ronge area as it relates to Northern Lights School Division.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's 11 different categories that the minister wanted to bring forward through this bill, and of course as the opposition, we want to be able to speak directly about some of the challenges and some of the perspectives of Bill 70.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we looked at is the whole notion of changing the compulsory kindergarten attendance for young children in Saskatchewan, to reduce that from the age of seven down to the age of six. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I look at that as probably a step in the right direction. Obviously as times change, people certainly want to be able to have their kids access education at a younger age, and this bill, or the amendment would really bring the category of the mandatory age of seven and reducing it down to the age of six in which they must be attending school. And I think overall, I think that people in general really wouldn't want to ...

wouldn't make a fuss about that particular challenge, because the earlier you get the kids into school, certainly you want to undertake that effort.

The other point I think is also important to raise, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that, you know, as you look at the pre-kindergarten kids and some of the programs that are available to them now, it's actually amazing the stuff that they learn at that young age. So I think moving the age from seven to the age of six I think is probably not something that the opposition would want to hold the bill up on. We think that's probably, in the long run, something that many of the organizations would probably support such as the school board association, such as the teachers and such as the parents. So I think it's really important that we look at that, and we look at the good things that might be deserving of our support, and we certainly want to offer that kind of comment.

I would also point out, Mr. Speaker, that if you look at the discussion paper, the bill itself, I understood from the minister's comments that he did have consultation with a number of organizations. And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really, really important that we, you know, we identified in fact that the minister has said, and I quote, "We have consulted the Saskatchewan School Boards Association; the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation; the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents; and the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials." It just goes on and on as to the amount of consultation that the minister has spoken about in this particular bill.

And one must never forget, Mr. Speaker, that when you do consultation with different groups and organizations, on a serious bill of this sort, that you can't just simply say we consulted, because people out there know there's a difference. Because you give the impression when you say that we have consulted, you give the impression that all the organizations that you've consulted with agree with all the changes.

And you've got to be very careful there, because obviously all those groups may not agree with certain aspects of this particular bill and then when you make that assumption, you make that statement, people out in Saskatchewanland will probably just simply point out, well it appears that the government has all the consensus and support of all these organizations that the minister's speaking about in his bill. When the fact of the matter is, and I would certainly want to make sure people understood that, when the government says consultation, it doesn't necessarily mean agreement by those organizations that they supposedly consulted with.

So on that notion, and given that particular reference and a point that I want to start off with, is that the minister has consulted with these groups. We don't know if he's got their support and blessing for some of these changes. But obviously from, on the outset, changing the mandatory age from seven to six is really not a major challenge and a major problem from our perspective, Mr. Speaker.

Now the other point that's important as you look at some of the issues of the pre-kindergarten programs, Mr. Speaker, I look at some of the programs in my home community and some of the communities and a lot of our northern communities and you

look at the pre-kindergarten programs, the pre-school activities, and some of the programs that are out there now, I think a lot of parents really, really appreciate the effort of the pre-kindergarten programs.

We think that the early leaning process for the young children, if they're three, four years old, we think that it's an excellent example of how we assert through the bill and through some of our comments that education at a very young age, if children are exposed to it even as young as two or three, that they quickly learn and that they're much better students by the time they hit the kindergarten age group. And as they enter the kindergarten school class, that they're much better prepared.

So I think certainly as you look at the connection between early learning such as pre-kindergarten, to having a good solid opportunity to enter into kindergarten, then go on to the middle years and to the grade 12 area, and then of course on to university or to a trade school, it just shows that there's very, very good planning and a very good matrix of educational support. And pre-kindergarten is a very, very good model or a big part of that matrix to ensure we have success amongst the students that attend our various schools.

Now, Mr. Speaker, again when you look at the definition of schools, pre-kindergarten, and some of the points that the minister wanted to speak about with this particular bill, we think — and I certainly think as well — that pre-kindergarten should be protected. We should make sure that we're not putting too many stringent rules and regulations on the pre-kindergarten program. Because obviously if you look at what the intent is, it's to expose young children to an educational setting as early as two or three without having them have the rigors of attending, like as an example, a kindergarten program where sometimes the kindergarten children are kept all day long.

Now we look at some of the examples. People talk about Japan. They talk about Brazil. They talk about China, in which they've seen this kind of exposure where young kids, as young as two or three, are exposed to an educational opportunity or an education environment. And by the time they hit the kindergarten age they're much, much further advanced. And, Mr. Speaker, I think given the resources and the opportunity and the advancements that we have made as Canadians, and certainly as Saskatchewan people, that I think it's a good investment that we continue the pre-K programs to make sure that the young kids have as much exposure to education as possible.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of different evidence and a lot of different examples and a lot of different compelling tales and stories about how young kids, as young as one and a half, two years old, are so ready and so adept at soaking in information. And many people believe that the learning process begins when the mother carries a child. And the child is really, certainly getting a lot of information and different signals and different communication means, you know, between mother and child. It really begins to, certainly from our perspective, lend credence to the argument that if the child can learn within the mother's womb, then imagine having a child exposed to education right off the bat. And obviously there are some parents that may do that, to educate their children as soon as they're born and

continuing to do that through the pre-K programs and on to kindergarten. I'm sure that as we talk more about those issues that you will find that having kids, children, exposed to education, interaction, and communication at a very young age will certainly benefit them for years to come.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that I do a lot of communicating with my grandchildren when they're very, very young. And some of the things that I try and do with them, I try and speak to them in very precise language. I do have what they call baby songs, but I also speak to them when they're only about one, maybe two years old and we have . . . When I talk to them, you know, as an adult, and you learn and you watch how the kids are trying to pick up some of the words that you use. And to me I think speaking to them in an adult-like way even though they're one or two years of age, I think that really prepares them and really educates them in some small way. So I am certainly contributing in a very, very small manner when it comes to your own grandchildren when they're young.

So the pre-K program itself I think is an excellent program, and we need to do all we can to advance that cause — as long as we don't see the Saskatchewan Party try and put in some of their, like, standardized testing processes when it comes to pre-kindergarten programs or pre-kindergarten classes, because one must not forget that these are still children. Like they're very young children, and generally they're very adept at learning, but as long as we don't see the Saskatchewan Party government, like what they're trying to do with the standardized testing perspective, start putting in some of those notions that we go to have standardized testing for pre-K programs.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we look at some of the silly notions that they've undertaken on other parts of the bills and some of the educational programs that they have. And that's one of the things that kind of worries me when we talk about part of the portion of this bill when they say that the pre-kindergarten program is included in the definition of schools. Well, Mr. Speaker, what we don't hope happens is that the Saskatchewan Party starts putting in standardized testing for the pre-K programs throughout the school, because quite frankly these are children as young as two or three and I think we should let them . . . allow them to learn but all of a sudden, you know, make sure that you realize that they're still children and that they're allowed to be children for a long, long time. And I think that's important that we note that as well.

The other thing that's important, Mr. Speaker, is that we're talking about the school day in terms of what kind of school day, in terms of time. How long are you going to ensure that there is the allotted time for educating our students? Is it a longer school year? Is it longer hours per day? Is it less time for gym or time for artwork, that kind of thing? And if the Saskatchewan Party's trying to force the school system to a place where school is no longer enjoyable for a number of children, then you've got to be careful on that front as well. There's no question that, from our perspective, having a good, solid interaction on the educational perspective, on the social perspective, and certainly being physically active within the school time whether you're within your school day, I think those are really, really strong components as well. I think they complement the learning ability and the capacity of our

students. So I think it's important that we really assess what is being meant in this particular bill when they talk about lengthening the school time that the students will spend in school and how that's going to look in the future.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think the other notion that they talk about are fines. I'm not sure of the details of the fines because obviously there are fines attached to areas in which either a school board or a superintendent or somebody within the education system may have done something to deserve a fine. They're obviously updating these fines, and they're indicating that the fines will be increased and that the government is no longer able to use the whole threat of fines seriously because the fine level is so low as a result of the outdated Act that we're trying to improve on here through Bill 70.

But the whole notion, Mr. Speaker, is people need to know what the fine structure is, like what are the fines for? Like who gets these fines? What kind of fines are they? What kind of violations? What exactly are we talking about? Because at the outset we should point out that it's something that we find, basically not something that you see every day where there's fines being assessed when it comes to the education of our children, because generally — and I notice this across the whole province — generally teachers and people that take care of the children do an excellent job. But the whole notion of bringing fines to this particular Act, we need to know what kinds of fines these are, what the amounts are, examples of how these fines may have applied or may not have applied.

[16:45]

These are some of the things I think we really have to pay close attention to. And that's why I go back to my earlier point about consultation with the Saskatchewan School Board Association, because obviously they would be part of the process to determining how these fines work and are they in full consultation and have they got their agreement. And that's one of the points that I would make, that we need to make sure that is the case.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think the other point that I would raise is the provincial residents. You look at some of the people that have moved to Saskatchewan. We want to continue being a province where we accommodate growth and accommodate population increase. And you see some of our schools being stressed to the maximum in terms of number of pupils per classroom. It's a great credit to our teaching profession that's out there on how they're able to cope, not just with local children that are joining their classroom, but children from other countries and children from other parts of the world that join Saskatchewan and move to the province. And the teacher certainly has to make as best she can of the situation — or he — of the situation in the event that they have overcrowding in their classroom. And that's a very apparent problem, Mr. Speaker.

One of the challenges, I think, when we talk about this particular bill in terms of the provincial residency to ensure that we have affording education to some of the people that moved to the province, whether they moved from a different province or from a different country, is that when you see that the educational assistants that are being terminated and have been fired. They're a very valuable resource and a very valuable

support person to the teacher, and now you see a lot of these educational assistants gone. And you see the challenge of having immigrants and people moving from different countries into an overcrowded classroom. Well this obviously stresses the whole system. It certainly stretches the ability of the teacher to teach each of the students with the quality time and quality instruction. So we must not forget those particular challenges that are encountered on a daily basis by our teaching staff.

The other point that was part of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is the boundary adjustment for students. The minister proposed to make a buffer zone. Obviously there is some overlapping rules and regulations on how the school zones and divisions are drawn up. And there are probably a lot of examples of how one child may be one block off a certain school division is forced to go to the school division that he or she lives in. And yet it's very complicated for the parents. It's very complicated for the school, very complicated for the child. Of course that's the most important thing to remember.

And I think this particular bill adjusts that. It talks about buffer zones. It allows the process to assess how this is going to impact that particular student. So the buffer zone concept, as long as it's not abused . . . And I believe that the point that they raise here is that there is only a handful of occasions in which this was a major problem, where a student was just at the edge of a certain school division and couldn't attend school at the school division that they should be for a variety of reasons. So this obviously offers that concession.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we consult with the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], we consult with the teachers. And if it's only a handful of occasions where this buffer zone would be able to address those disparities, Mr. Speaker, we don't suspect that this is another major challenge with this particular bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we look at the capital grants and agreements. We look at the property classes. We look at the returns to Government Relations in terms of the assessment of properties. And it always amazes us on this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, when you look at all the demands and the challenges that this particular Sask Party government places on our educational institutions, whether it's the universities or whether it's the schools or whether it's the pre-K programs, you're starting to wonder where all this challenge is coming from.

And teachers across the board, Mr. Speaker, they're certainly trying to figure out where this government is going with some of these strategies. As an example, with standardized testing, they obviously want to be able to see what's the government's overall objective, and many times that information is not shared in a respectful manner with the teachers. And part of this bill talks about the whole notion of property classes, and it talks about two tiers of an education system and some of the challenges that certainly would provide to the Saskatchewan people overall. Mr. Speaker, these are very important, fundamental questions that have to be asked on this particular bill.

And of course, the last part of the bill, where we spoke about an additional board member for La Ronge, obviously this minister

and his government were lobbied to increase the number of board members for the Northern Lights School Division. And certainly La Ronge, given its size, there was compelling arguments that La Ronge should have an additional board member. And I think, from our perspective again and having a quick chat with the member from Cumberland, who's got a lot of extensive experience being on the board for the Northern Lights School Division, and he was a very good school board Chair, Mr. Speaker, obviously his perspective is that La Ronge certainly is advocating for a second board position. It keeps the integrity of Northern Lights School Division solid. And that's what the region wants, then certainly he's supportive of that. And from our perspective it's always nice to have that input and that advice from the member from Cumberland.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's kind of a mishmash of a lot of things that is being proposed in this particular bill, Bill 70. And we look at some of them, that we don't think there's a major, major challenge with them. But on the flip side, if you look at some of the other issues that they're making reference to like capital grants, other returns to Government Relations, the property classes, and the different tiers of school systems, you really have to be careful how you approach those issues. You have to be very careful to pay attention to what they're doing.

And that's one of the points that we would raise in opposition, is that we would encourage people, whether it's LEADS [League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents] or whether it's school board members, whether it is the parents or whether it's the SSBA, these are different organizations out there that have the knowledge, have the information, have the ability, and certainly have the capacity to really assess what this all means to their school board, and more importantly, what it means to the students that are in these various schools.

So, Mr. Speaker, in a nutshell that's basically what Bill 70 is proposing to do. It talks about compulsory age from seven years of age and moving it down to six. It talks about pre-kindergarten, including that in the definition of schools. It talks about the school day, what that might look like. It's highlighting the pre to K opportunities. It talks about the fines that are out of date and a lot . . . [inaudible] . . . that they need to adjust that as well.

It talks about the provincial residency clause, the boundary adjustments in relation to a buffer zone, the capital grants and agreement return to Government Relations, the property classes and different tiers regarding the school system, and the final point about the additional board members in La Ronge.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot to digest here. And we're certainly going to take our time to look at the bill, work with valuable opposition members such as the member from Cumberland because obviously he's got great experience with Northern Lights School Division and has a vast amount of knowledge as to how the taxation system works and, you know, what the challenges are, and to work very closely with the Education critic as well. Because, you know, if that's the value of having a good, solid opposition is that the experience and the history they have, whether it'd be in government or different boards or agencies, that they have that knowledge first-hand. And they're able to certainly hold this government to account.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of different issues that we're going to raise with this bill. We are going to take our time assessing the bill. We will make the contact and at the same time we'll encourage people to contact us, whether it's the SSBA or a parent or a teacher or a student, you know, if they have any concerns on this bill, whether it'd be the buffer zone or the fines or the compulsory school age or the pre-K programs.

We need to hear from you as well because, as opposition, it gives us great ammunition, it gives us great opportunity to hold this government to account. And a very strong, effective opposition that has a good network of people that know these issues and know these issues very, very clearly and have some great ideas in how to improve these systems, then obviously they have the doors open to you when it comes to the opposition. We need to communicate more. We need to communicate effectively. And once that is achieved, Mr. Speaker, then this government cannot pull the wool over Saskatchewan people's eyes and try and sneak in some of their right wing agenda to our school system. And there will be nobody there to hold them to account if we don't have that collaboration and if we don't have that partnership with the different agencies that are involved with education.

So, Mr. Speaker, this bill was introduced in November, and this is our third, fourth month we've had the bill. We are having the communication. The critic is certainly doing his or her part to engage different groups and different organizations. And so there's a critic and then there's people that, within the opposition, that help the critic. So there's a number of people that are certainly looking at the educational challenges that this bill may provide, but we're also looking at the educational opportunities to enhance a lot of possibilities for our students. And that's something that I want to stress, that our role is to oppose and to hold the government to account, but on a few occasions if we think some of these bills and some of these parts of this bill are positive for the people of Saskatchewan, then we're not going to hold it up. We're going to continue moving forward because that's exactly what good governance is about.

And, Mr. Speaker, while there are certain parts of this particular bill that we would support and we like, there are many others that we want to have clear questions answered. We want to have a clear agenda as to what the Sask Party is trying to undertake. And once we have that understanding through our partnership consultation and blessing — that's one of the things we want to make sure we point out; we want to consult with the impacted groups and organizations — but we want their blessing on some of the things that we may counter propose when it comes to this bill as an official opposition.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of issues we want to continue to assess in this bill. We have a bit of a way to go yet before the bill is passed. We want to make sure that we give as many of our opposition critics the opportunity to go through this bill and connect with the stakeholders. And, Mr. Speaker, we will take the time necessary to study this bill to ensure that people out there are fully aware of what the implications are and to determine if there's any part of the action of the Sask Party government . . . That this bill is not hurting any particular group, program, or partner within our educational institution.

So, Mr. Speaker, overall the Saskatchewan education system is a great system. We have a number of teachers that commit to their job, and despite all the Sask Party bungling on the educational front, Mr. Speaker, our education programs and our teachers and our staff and our school boards and our students are doing an excellent job making our province proud. There's always work to do. There's always improvements to be made. We're not denying that fact, but I can tell you today that we're very, very committed to education. And part of that commitment is to make sure that we study these bills thoroughly and we hold this government to account.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we again reiterate the requests from the different players to join us, share the information with us because that makes an effective, well-informed opposition a good, solid threat to the Sask Party's agenda to try and push forward a right wing agenda. And, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't compliment the people of Saskatchewan. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 70.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 70, *The Education Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. It now being near the time of recess, this House stands adjourned to 7 p.m. . . . recessed to 7 p.m.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Wall | 2727 |
| Brotten | 2727 |
| Tell | 2727 |
| McCall | 2727 |
| Marchuk | 2727 |

PRESENTING PETITIONS

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Belanger | 2727 |
| Forbes | 2728 |

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

| | |
|---|------|
| Spring Free From Racism Family Day | |
| Ross | 2728 |
| Outstanding Principal Provides Leadership | |
| McCall | 2728 |
| Aboriginal Police Preparation Program | |
| Docherty | 2728 |
| Social Work Week | |
| Chartier | 2729 |
| Army Reservists Receive Arctic Response Training | |
| Wilson | 2729 |
| Team Canada West Wins Gold at Special Olympics | |
| Jurgens | 2729 |
| T.rex Discovery Centre Unveils Display | |
| Elhard | 2729 |

QUESTION PERIOD

| | |
|--|------|
| Courthouse Security | |
| Brotten | 2730 |
| Wyant | 2730 |
| Lawsuit Regarding Technology Contract | |
| Wotherspoon | 2731 |
| Harpauer | 2731 |
| McMillan | 2731 |
| Federal Rail Freight Service Bill | |
| Sproule | 2732 |
| Stewart | 2732 |
| Prince Albert Bridge | |
| Belanger | 2733 |
| McMorris | 2733 |

MOTIONS

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Leave of Absence | |
| Harrison | 2735 |

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

| | |
|--|------|
| Bill No. 85 — <i>The Saskatchewan Employment Act</i> | |
| Wotherspoon | 2735 |
| Bill No. 61 — <i>The Railway Amendment Act, 2012</i> | |
| Vermette | 2741 |
| Bill No. 62 — <i>The Parks Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)</i> | |
| McCall | 2742 |
| Bill No. 63 — <i>The Regional Parks Act, 2012</i> | |
| Chartier | 2745 |
| Bill No. 64 — <i>The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012</i> | |
| <i>Loi de 2012 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée <i>The Regional Parks Act, 2012</i></i> | |
| Chartier | 2747 |
| Bill No. 65 — <i>The Securities Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)</i> | |
| Sproule | 2747 |
| Harrison (referral to committee) | 2750 |
| Bill No. 67 — <i>The Community Planning Profession Act, 2012</i> | |
| McCall | 2750 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Bill No. 68 — <i>The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2012</i> | |
| <i>Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1988 sur les juges de paix</i> | |
| Sproule | 2751 |
| Harrison (referral to committee) | 2753 |
| Bill No. 70 — <i>The Education Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)</i> | |
| <i>Loi n° 2 de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation</i> | |
| Belanger | 2754 |

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

Minister of the Economy
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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority

Hon. Nancy Heppner

Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Russ Marchuk

Minister of Education

Hon. Tim McMillan

Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Trade
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Don McMorris

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Advanced Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General