



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

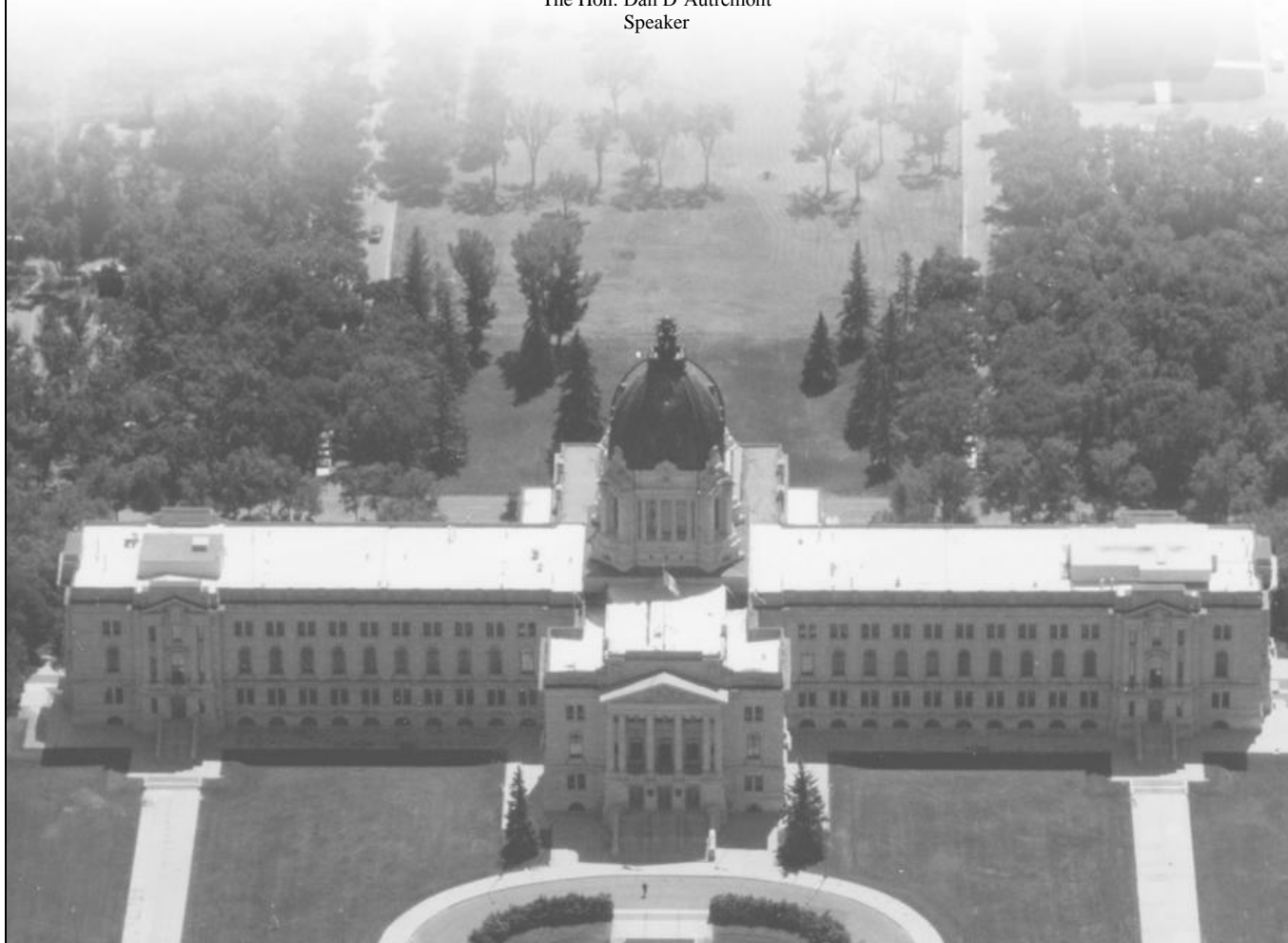
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The 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 — Cam Broten

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, 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 Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, someone seated in the west gallery. I'm pleased to introduce Dr. Ty Josdal, the chief medical consultant for the Ministry of Health. Dr. Josdal has previously worked a number of years as the senior medical officer in this province and most recently was the associate chief medical officer for the Alberta Health Services.

He is now back in Saskatchewan playing a key role in the health system transformation and providing a strong clinical perspective and clinical liaison as we focus on our key priorities. We're very fortunate to have his expertise with us in this province, back in this province, his home province. And I would ask all members to welcome the doctor to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Dr. Josdal to the legislature. He's a person who has many interests in Saskatchewan as well as medicine. And I know that some of us know him as one of the best fly-in fishing operators in Saskatchewan in addition to everything else, and so he will be happy to accommodate any of us that would like that. But most importantly, he has a strong zeal for making sure that Saskatchewan people are happy and healthy. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce two gentlemen sitting in the Speaker's gallery today. I'd ask that they give a wave. They are Chad Fischl and Dan Robinson, U of S [University of Saskatchewan] graduates who have developed an innovative athletic cleaning product called Shutout.

Mr. Speaker, as part of their entrepreneurship class at the U of S Edwards School of Business, the pair was asked to identify an

underserved market niche, conceive a hypothetical product for that niche, and develop a business plan to bring it to market. They both shared a passion for hockey, Mr. Speaker, and were well aware of the sometimes eye-watering odour that emanates from equipment bags. This product is of particular interest to the member from Regina Walsh Acres, who I understand has had issues in his hockey career.

Mr. Speaker, they developed a product called Shutout, which is a line of powerful and eco-friendly athletic cleaning products. It cleans equipment and defends against odour. Since graduating from the U of S in 2007, Dan and Chad have created a successful company with Shutout. Shutout is embedded with SilverSync+ technology, which uses the antimicrobial properties of silver. They also partnered with Canadian Light Source synchrotron for the quality control of their product.

Their product has been used by NHL [National Hockey League] players; retired Canadian UFC [Ultimate Fighting Championship] fighter Jason MacDonald; and Matt Mazurik, former captain of the U of S Huskies cross-country running team. Outside the world of athletics, several Saskatchewan potash mines now use Shutout products to treat boots and wash coveralls. The partners are also pursuing clients in the oil and gas industry in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Chad and Dean, congratulations on the great success of Shutout. Thank you for your hard work for bringing such an innovative idea to Saskatchewan. Particularly, the member from Regina Walsh Acres thanks you. Thank you for bringing it to Canada, the world. And I would ask that all members welcome them to their Assembly today.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the minister in giving a shout-out to Shutout, to Chad Fischl and Dan Robinson for a great new product line. Interested to know it's got the athletic applications but also industrial as well. Again, two individuals, Saskatchewan proud, Saskatchewan educated, and doing that, returning not just to the province but all the world over, Mr. Speaker. So again, I join with the minister in giving a great shout-out to Shutout.

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

**Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sitting in the west gallery, it gives me great pleasure, to you and through you, to introduce Max Priebe. Max and I met at the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living fundraiser a few weeks back. Max, he's the communication and public relations coordinator for the North Central Community Association. And previously Max was a freelance integrated marketing and communications director in Queensland, Australia and completed his post-secondary studies while there.

He moved to Canada, February this year, and he says he came for Queen and country. And I think that's code for girlfriend. And he's taken an active interest in the Canadian way of life and is eager to learn as much as he can about Saskatchewan

culture. So I wanted to have the opportunity for Max to be here today, and I'd like all members to join me in welcoming Max to his legislature.

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

**Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to offer a couple of introductions. Mr. Speaker, in your gallery we have Mr. John Hopkins, the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Regina and District Chamber of Commerce. And we're delighted to have him back in the Assembly today. We know what a significant role that he plays, as does his organization, regarding First Nation and Métis employment here within the province of Saskatchewan.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to introduce Mr. John Lagimodiere. He's the proprietor of *Eagle Feather News*. He offers great insights into our First Nations and Métis communities and helps to provide a greater connection between communities right across the province. And so to he and his family, we'd like to have all members join in welcoming John and his family to their Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery, I'd like to join with the member opposite to welcome Mr. John Hopkins, CEO of the Regina and District Chamber of Commerce to his Assembly. He's also the Chair of the Regina Skills and Trades Centre, and he certainly offers significant contributions in the life of this community and the health and well-being of our economy, and always has a focus on labour market development for future generations. So I certainly join with the member opposite in welcoming John Hopkins to his Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I know you're likely to make this introduction in a moment, but I had the opportunity just a short time ago to meet with the teachers who are here with the social studies institute, and it was a great meeting. We talked a little bit about the institute. We talked more about other issues with respect to the teaching profession and had a very candid and, frankly, helpful and constructive discussion. And so I know you're going to welcome them. I do want to extend a welcome as well, Mr. Speaker.

And I also would like to say hello to Chad and Dan who are sitting in your gallery. I met with them when they were first conceiving of this idea. And well, it was already well under way, and they were looking for ways to see it expand. They wanted very much to do it here in the province. And, Mr. Speaker, what a testimony it is to the provincial economy today — not to the government but to our provincial economy, to the environment here — that they were able to make that success right here in the province. And how very proud we are that these two young entrepreneurs have chosen to do that in Saskatchewan. We wish them every success and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with members opposite in welcoming a number of individuals. But I do want to say hello to John Lagimodiere and Deirdre Ness. It's good to see them around the neighbourhood, and it's good to see them here in the Assembly today. And I hope they have a good day visiting the legislature. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And before you get to make the introduction, I would like to welcome our teachers as well. And I'd like to . . . And I look forward to meeting with you later on during the program. I've had the opportunity over the last number of years to be able to work with the group, and I look forward to that. A special recognition to Brent Toles who's worked long and hard on this project for many, many years. And I'd like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I guess we're all getting a bit ahead of you, but while people are introducing the teachers and the educators who are here for the teachers' institute, I too want to join in on behalf of the opposition in saying what a great thing it is that they've come down to the legislature and see the work that we do and take that back to your students and talk about democracy and how important that is. So welcome. We look forward to meeting with you over the next couple of days. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly, I notice in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, we've just been joined by George Lafond from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. I had the opportunity to meet with him this morning, and I'm glad to see he stayed around to watch the proceedings today. And I would ask all members to please give him a warm welcome to our Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I will join with the minister in welcoming Mr. Lafond as well and thank him for the important work he does and thank him for being here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It's my honour today to introduce to you a group of teachers who are here in the legislature to attend the 15th annual Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. The institute began on Saturday, April 13th and will conclude on Wednesday, April 17th.

This group has already met with a number of people, including members of the judiciary and the acting chief electoral . . . the Chief Electoral Officer — not acting; somebody pasted here — and the Clerk. Earlier today they met with caucus staff from both sides of the House, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the House

leaders. Although they didn't actually get a chance to meet with the House leaders; they're hoping to do that later because the Premier occupied them. They are scheduled to meet with caucus Chairs, caucus whips, several MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], cabinet ministers including the Minister of Education.

I would ask as I introduce these teachers that they wave as I mention their name: Mr. Devin Bernatchez from the Senator Myles Venne School in Air Ronge; Ms. Sandra Brookman from Pope John Paul II, Saskatoon; Ms. Kirsten Cavanaugh, École College Park School in Saskatoon; Mr. Michael Gowan, Rocanville School; Ms. Jubilee Jackson, education outreach program, Library of Parliament, Ottawa; Ms. Lisa Hermiston, Dr. Brass Community School, Yorkton; Mr. Aaron Hiske, Lampman School; Mr. Charles Jedlicka, Hartley Clark Elementary School, Spiritwood; Mr. Jonas Kiedrowski, youth and schools coordinator, Public Legal Education Association, Saskatoon; Ms. Kelsey Kuntz, Vibank Regional School; Ms. Laurel LaBar-Ahmed, École Massey, Regina; Ms. Val Lees, Arcola School; Ms. Susan Legault, Val Marie School; Ms. Rebecca McLeod, university student from the U of R [University of Regina]; Ms. Kim Nicholls, Kelvington High School; Mr. Troy Parenteau, Riverside Community School, Prince Albert; Ms. Holly Stasiuk, Aberdeen School; Ms. Wendy Vaughn, university student, University of Regina; and Mr. Taylor Gunn from student votes, CIVIX in Toronto.

[13:45]

I would like to make special mention of our steering committee composed of three teachers who attend past institutes and officials from the Ministry of Education. From the Ministry of Education, Mr. Brent Toles, Ms. Anna Grumbly. The steering committee is Miss Corinne Harcourt from the Englefeld School, Mr. Pat Orobko, Unity Composite High School; Mr. Doug Panko, Vanier Collegiate, Moose Jaw.

I would ask all members to welcome this group to the Saskatchewan legislature.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to stand today to present a petition in reference to cellphone coverage for northern Saskatchewan. 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 Nation, along with the adjoining communities of Cole Bay and Jans Bay; Buffalo River First Nation, also known as Dillon, and the neighbouring communities of Michel Village and St. George's Hill; English River First Nations, also known as Patuanak, and the hamlet of Patuanak; and Birch Narrows First Nation along with the community of Turnor Lake, including all the neighbouring communities in each of these areas, Mr. Speaker.

And the people that have signed the petition come from all throughout Saskatchewan. And on this particular page, Mr.

Speaker, they are primarily from Cole Bay, including a dear friend of mine named Mr. Leonard Daigneault. And if Leonard signs a petition, Mr. Speaker, he really means it. So this is a great petition, and I so present.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for the reconsideration of passing Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. We know that this Act was introduced in December 2012, and it's a sweeping rewrite of our labour laws including *The Labour Standards Act*, *The Occupational Health and Safety Act*, *The Labour Relations Reorganization Act*, and *The Trade Union Act*. If it becomes a new consolidation of labour laws in our province, working people, particularly young workers, immigrant workers, and other vulnerable workers will suffer from a hasty watering down of our current labour standards which set the mandatory minimums for all Saskatchewan workers. 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Saskatoon, Nipawin, Langham, Humboldt, and Ituna. I do so present. Thank you.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society Fundraisers

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to recognize two great fundraising events for the STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] organization.

Last Thursday I had the honour of attending along with my colleagues from Estevan, Regina South, Wascana Plains, Dewdney, and Wood River the first annual STARS Jewels n' Jeans gala in Regina. This sold-out event included dinner, live and silent auction, prizes, and a private performance by Canadian country music artist, Gord Bamford. We also heard an amazing story from a STARS VIP, which stands for very important patient, regarding her life-saving experience with STARS.

Mr. Speaker, \$165,000 was raised for STARS and this total included the live auctioning off of a \$50 bill, similar to Melfort. This bill was auctioned off by world-renowned auctioneer Jason LeBlanc from Ritchie Brothers outside of Estevan, and it raised \$2,500. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the event organizers, attendees, and sponsors of the first Jewels n' Jeans gala in Regina, and a special thanks go to Rod and Carol Gantfoer who have been passionate advocates for the STARS

program since it began.

Mr. Speaker, the other event was held during the annual Herbert Select Genetics Bull Sale this past Tuesday. Forsyth Ranch of Herbert donated a heifer and local producers contributed money for a chance to win. Mr. Speaker, approximately \$10,000 was raised for this event in the small town of Herbert, Saskatchewan. I'd like to thank the Forsyth Ranch and all of the producers at the sale for choosing to support STARS.

Mr. Speaker, these two events show that people across Saskatchewan recognize the value that STARS brings to our province and to acknowledge that each successful fundraiser contributes to helping save lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Saskatoon Entrepreneurs Launch Mobile App

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 5th I had the opportunity to attend the launch of OneStory, a company created by two young entrepreneurs from Saskatoon Centre. The young entrepreneurs Dale Zak and Katrina German were joined by the mayor of Saskatoon, business leaders, tech company executives, community supporters, and friends in the collective work space at Two-Twenty to share their new mobile app concept. Mr. Speaker, everyone has a story — a love story, an inspirational story, a story about loss.

OneStory is a video storytelling platform that empowers ordinary people to capture personal stories about love, war, travelling, beating cancer, or any other life topic. The app has an easy-to-navigate interview process that collects individual clips and assembles them into beautiful compilation videos to make it easy to share online. Dale Zak and Katrina German believe that this app will not only be a vehicle to share stories from around Saskatchewan, it will also be an opportunity to gather stories from people around the world. The app will be available to the public in the very near future.

Mr. Speaker, when I spoke to the creators of the app, they were incredibly appreciative of those who contributed to creation of their business through funding, professional services, and mentorship. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to watching their progress and utilizing the app and sharing a few stories from my own experience.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my fellow members of the House join with me in congratulating Dale Zak and Katrina German on their launch of OneStory and wish them continued success. Thank you.

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

#### Grand Opening of Fitness Centre at Elmwood Residences

**Mr. Tochor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy to rise in the House today to recognize an event I attended last week in Saskatoon Eastview. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday was the grand opening of the impressive McNeil Fitness Centre at Elmwood Residences. Elmwood Residences provides long-term care for people with intellectual disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada for people with a disability to live. Our budget has invested record dollars to help achieve this goal.

My wife and I volunteered at Elmwood long before getting involved in politics, and last Wednesday was one of my proudest moments as an MLA. Elmwood has a great recreational program which helps residents engage in the community but did not have a dedicated gym or fitness centre. This new 5,000 square foot fitness centre will be invaluable in helping the residents live healthy lives, Mr. Speaker. This \$700,000 fitness centre was funded by three foundations: from families with members living at Elmwood, corporations, and private individual donations. One of the key fundraisers, Howard Stensrud, commented that "It is the best time ever to be living in Saskatchewan."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing Elmwood Residences' brand new McNeil Fitness Centre and all the people and the organizations that contributed to make this important project a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Juno Week in Saskatchewan

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, April 15th, is the beginning of Juno Week in Saskatchewan. Juno Week will be a celebration of Canadian arts and culture and will represent the diversity and range of talent that we have present in this country.

There will be events for every fan, with activities ranging from a celebrity hockey game to concerts in small venues around Regina to the Juno Awards themselves, which will be on Sunday, April 21st. CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] is hosting a live stream of Juno host Michael Bubl 's new album, *To Be Loved*, and that, Mr. Speaker, would make for some good listening as many of us work away in our offices this week.

JunoFest provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the strength of arts in Saskatchewan. Local Regina bands Rah Rah and Jack Semple will be playing as well as bands and artists from across the province. Even the MacKenzie Art Gallery will be hosting an event. This is an opportunity to explore the art and art choices of past Juno Award winners and nominees. It's always fascinating to hear how art impacts individuals and inspires other artists. Mr. Speaker, I know my daughter Ophelia would enjoy the event that is taking place on Saturday at the Regina Public Library and Dunlop Gallery where nominees from the Children's Album of the Year category will be offering a free concert.

I would ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the organizers of the Juno Awards for creating a dynamic and diverse schedule and for showcasing the creativity of our province. Thank you.

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

### Café Success Story

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to tell you about another Moose Jaw success story that was told to the rest of Canada. On Friday, April 5th, Déjà Vu Café was featured on the Food Network's *You Gotta Eat Here*. As many know, this particular television show has a large following, and it was quite a coup for the owners, Brandon and Tammy Richardson, to be chosen for this widely watched program.

Taking ownership of Déjà Vu in 2009, the Richardsons have created a destination in the friendly city that is constantly chock full of regulars and new visitors alike. Located in the heart of the city, their menu also includes a variety of items such as pickle chips, perogy poutine, along with the new favourite, deep-fried banana. The Richardson's old-school approach and energetic attitude have created quite a buzz in the community.

They currently have over 670 followers on Facebook and are working on a possible second location, Déjà Tu. I'd like to congratulate Brandon and Tammy on this exciting opportunity and wish them continued success in the future.

So remember when you're planning your next trip to Moose Jaw, I recommend you stop in to the Déjà Vu Café because just as the host, John Cattuci says, "You gotta eat here."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Hockey Goes On

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month a constituent of mine, Mr. Grant Berger of Central Butte, was named the Western Canadian grand prize winner in the Kraft Hockey Goes On competition.

Close to 680,000 votes were cast over two days as Western Canadians rallied to support their local hockey volunteers and provide them with a way to give back to their communities. Grant received the most votes, making him the recipient of \$100,000 to go towards Central Butte Minor Hockey Association.

He has served as coach, board member, and association president for many years. Grant is described as someone who is always available, whether it's opening the rink, keeping it open after hours for someone wanting to skate, filling pop machines, or picking up equipment and maintenance supplies. He always ensures the job gets done. Grant's motivation for his hard work and dedication is to have a community place that will enhance children's lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing my friend Grant Berger for his countless hours of love for hockey and pride in his community meeting place and also to congratulate him, along with the Central Butte Minor Hockey Association, on being the grand prize recipient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Robust Economy in The Battlefords

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. \$81,816,889 — that is the increase in building permits in The Battlefords in our first five years compared to the last five years of that NDP [New Democratic Party] government. But, Mr. Speaker, it is indeed sad to see that the Maple Leaf plant has closed, and my heart goes out to those families that have been affected by this closure.

But the ongoing efforts of so many people to resolve this situation, including those of our ministries, is certainly hampered when someone like the member from Regina Rosemont stands and makes disparaging and negative comments about The Battlefords. That member, Mr. Speaker, that member whose own constituency is 400 kilometres from The Battlefords, references a closure of the Vanguard plant. It's not even called the Vanguard plant by those of us who live and work in The Battlefords. That plant now closed, guess when? During their time in government. The plant is now home to Grit Industries, which was opened under our watch, Mr. Speaker.

Last Thursday that member from Rosemont cited the closing of Mifab welding as another in the string of job losses. Well, Mr. Speaker, Mifab building is now home to Advantage Powder Coating.

Our economy is very robust in The Battlefords, with three new farm implement dealers in or soon to be in new facilities, and site work has begun for a new tank manufacturing plant. That's the kind of confidence business has in our government and in The Battlefords.

Mr. Speaker, before that member for Regina Rosemont tries to score political points by making disparaging and negative comments about The Battlefords, he had better do a little research and gets his facts straight.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Care for Children With Cancer

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is currently looking at closing the pediatric oncology ward at the Pasqua Hospital. This has raised huge concerns for parents and grandparents, Mr. Speaker, who want the best in cancer care for their children. The pediatric oncology ward is an infection-free zone, which is exactly what children who are being treated for cancer need. But if the plan goes ahead, parents and grandparents are worried about the implications of moving children with cancer, children with very compromised immune systems, into the General Hospital's pediatric ward where upper respiratory and gastrointestinal infections are common.

My question to the Premier: does he share these concerns with the parents and grandparents of these children?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the

Leader of the Opposition for the question. I note the Minister of Health met with parents on this very issue here earlier today. I think the Leader of the Opposition also met with them.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, we know that the region has been looking at this kind of a model now for some time, years actually, dating back to even under the previous administration. It's never been approved. We do know that other facilities, institutions, for example children's hospitals like Stollery, have actually headed in this direction. But, Mr. Speaker, let me just say this: the Minister of Health was clear with parents today that unless the region can demonstrate to him that this provides at least the same or better care for those patients, we're simply not going to allow the health region to go in this direction.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, we've received many emails on this issue on the government and opposition side. An email from one parent says:

At the Pasqua, the entire unit is a safe zone and children have a large play area that is for their use. There are also sleeping nooks in the rooms for family members to sleep during their children's hospitalization. This wonderful unit and staff make this incredibly hard journey safe, comfortable, less stressful, and at times it even feels like our second home.

Another email to the Premier said:

You should be proud of such a facility and trying to showcase it. It's wonderful and the staff is amazing. I don't understand you wanting to ruin a perfectly good thing.

My question to the Premier: this discussion that has come forward from the health region has obviously caused a great amount of concern for families, families that are already dealing with an incredible burden. What is the timeline that these families can expect that a decision from the health region through the ministry will be provided?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I cannot, as a parent, imagine what those parents are going through, obviously, let alone the kids, the patients. Mr. Speaker, we want to make sure that we're providing the very best cancer care in this province from a pediatric perspective, cancer care for everyone in Saskatchewan. It's why we've significantly increased funding to the Cancer Agency during our term, over 90 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker. It's why we're actually moving beyond talking about a children's hospital; we're going to build a children's hospital. It's funded and under way now for the city of Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat my first answer to the Leader of the Opposition, which is this: the Minister of Health has informed parents that unless the health region can demonstrate to him that this will provide a better, same or better care for those patients, we're simply not going to be moving in this

direction.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're joined in the gallery today by Nikki Wagner whose daughter was diagnosed with cancer when she was 10 months old. She is currently receiving her treatments at the Pasqua pediatric oncology ward. In an email that was sent last week, Nikki said: "It breaks my heart that anyone would even consider endangering the lives of these already fragile children that have done nothing to deserve the battle set out before them."

Nikki is here today, Mr. Speaker, because she knows the good care that her child has been receiving in the current pediatric oncology ward and she's greatly concerned about its closure.

So my question to the Premier . . . And I appreciate the fact that the minister has met with the families and that they're concerned about the concerns of the families, Mr. Speaker. My question was specifically on the timeline. This has caused a lot of turmoil in the lives of these families. When can these families expect an answer as to the future of the pediatric oncology ward?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd expect that the Minister of Health is going to be receiving reports back from the region very, very quickly, Mr. Speaker. I'll let the Minister of Health talk about specific timelines. But I want to be very clear to the Leader of the Opposition, who's obviously got a set of questions that he's going to continue to ask. Fair enough.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear. The Minister of Health has said that unless the region can demonstrate that the changes that are being considered by the region, changes that have been considered, by the way, by the region and institutions, rightly or wrongly now for some number of years and actually adopted at some institutions like the children's hospital, but until the minister can be satisfied that those would provide equal to or better care for the patients, we don't see a reason to change.

We appreciate the work of the unit as it exists today. We appreciate the work of those on the front line and, Mr. Speaker, we understand and very much appreciate what families are going through, Mr. Speaker, without any . . . the need for unnecessary change if it's not about putting the patient first.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — It is important, Mr. Speaker, to listen to the current concerns from the family. They expressed to me and I'm sure they expressed to government members, Mr. Speaker, the type of care that's provided now allows the families to have the highest degree of a normal life as possible given the reality of the situation, Mr. Speaker. Also the fact that the cancer care lodge and the Ronald McDonald House are right across the street, this simply makes life better for the families who are going through something that no one should have to go through, Mr. Speaker.

So my question to the Health minister regarding the timeline



then: when can these families expect a definitive answer about the future of this oncology pediatric care unit for children?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you to the member for his question. Certainly in this regards for both this government and the health region, the patient comes first in this process, Mr. Speaker. That's why the health region is embarking on a plan to engage not just providers and caregivers and health providers at the existing units both at the General and the Pasqua, but most especially families and patients, Mr. Speaker, who access pediatric services in this province. In fact, my understanding is that the CEO personally has reached out to parents to invite them to be a part of this process.

That engagement and that consultation period will take a number of months and I would expect that the administration will make recommendations back to the board later this summer.

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

#### Land Acquisition for Highways

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party government should be working with people and communities and implement the plan of smart growth, but that's clearly not happening. Just outside the city, Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Highways plan a bypass which expropriates land and proposing a route going right through people's property. In one case, the plan for the new bypass goes through one person's kitchen table.

Mr. Speaker, the people east of the city support development wholeheartedly for the city and for the region, but they deserve fairness in the process. This is especially important because the Saskatchewan Party government is expropriating their land. Mr. Speaker, why is the Sask Party government expropriating land without a fair process and fair compensation for these people who love Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not quite sure on what the member opposite was asking as far as . . . He started kind of with the Regina east bypass and then he got talking about expropriation. Well there is no expropriation at this present time. There is no negotiations, very few negotiations going on as far as property on the east side. But he finished up by saying about expropriation and why don't we follow a fair process.

Mr. Speaker, I would probably ask the member opposite who was the minister of Highways, who at that time expropriated land, and we're using the same process as what was covered under their government, Mr. Speaker. Now perhaps he's not aware of that. We haven't changed the process.

Expropriation is the very, very last option when it comes to purchasing land. We as a government especially do not want to get to that point but there are times, Mr. Speaker, where a

consensus cannot be found. I want to assure the people of Saskatchewan that every process up until that point is taken to make sure we can come up with a fair value price. Expropriation is the very, very last option, Mr. Speaker, not unlike when the NDP were in government.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister's plan for the bypass doesn't include fairness for the people living in the way. James Ripplinger joins us here in the gallery, and he's lived on his property since 1972. The Sask Party government expropriated his land to build a bypass, but he says they refused to offer fair compensation. They cut a cheque for the amount Mr. Ripplinger paid for the land in the 1970s value rather than today's fair market value, Mr. Speaker.

These people are in favour of smart growth for the region and for the city, but they deserve and demand fair treatment when their land is expropriated. Why did the Sask government fail to offer fair market value rates for this valuable land when the government expropriated it?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said, there is a process that governments go through, that our government and the former government went through, Mr. Speaker, when there is development. I would say that our government is certainly facing more of those challenges as there's much more growth in the province than there certainly was under the NDP.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, I know the process that was used under the former government. We, Mr. Speaker, try and come up with a fair market value. There is quite a long process and negotiation. Mediation is offered up. There are a number of steps to go through, Mr. Speaker, before we get to the final option, I guess I'd say, such as expropriation.

What I would say, Mr. Speaker, that roughly about 95 per cent of all the land purchased through the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, about 95 per cent is reached on an agreement by the seller and the buyer. Only about 5 per cent . . . And that's up a little bit, Mr. Speaker, certainly because of a hot economy. It was at 97 before; it's to about 95. So in other words about 5 per cent of all the transactions that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure have to go through to get to property deals with expropriation.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, the issue here is a transparent process and fair treatment. That's the issue, Mr. Speaker. The people who may lose access to their homes demand fair treatment. These residents once again want to say very loud and clear that they support development in the entire region. And for that support the Sask Party government should treat them fairly. That's all they're asking, Mr. Speaker.

Today we're also joined by the Kerr family, Mr. Speaker. And Ms. Kerr's property has been in the family home for over 50 years, has been their family home for over 50 years. The plan

for the bypass goes right through her living room.

When someone is told that their living room, their living room will be carved up unless the house is moved, it's shocking, to say the least, Mr. Speaker. Why are families being told to accept the bypass through their living room without fair compensation and above all else without fair treatment by the Sask Party government?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure, quite sure if he's meaning the west bypass out by the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] or the east bypass, Mr. Speaker. I think he's actually asking for some clarification.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, the question regarding expropriation and fair market value is a difficult one at times and especially in a growing economy, Mr. Speaker. I realize that for the vast majority, we can come up with an agreement. But there are cases where that agreement isn't reached, Mr. Speaker, and the last resort may be expropriation — only about 5 per cent of the cases in the province, Mr. Speaker, but not unlike the members opposite.

It's quite interesting how the member can stand and bluster on about fair treatment when I've asked him on a personal basis if he signed expropriation papers. And when he was a minister of Highways, he did, Mr. Speaker. How can it be one way when he's in opposition and a completely different way when he was in government?

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, the blustering's happening over there, Mr. Speaker. The minister's plan for the bypass should involve a transparent process. It should be transparent and above all else it should be fair treatment to the families affected by that development. And it's clear today that isn't the case. These people and others, Mr. Speaker, deserve better. They deserve better, Mr. Speaker. And it starts at the top with an apology from the minister for the mishandling of this file.

Will the minister today apologize to these people for the unfair treatment that they have received? And will he finally commit today to truly work with these families so that they can receive fair market value for their land that's being expropriated, and to respect them? So, Mr. Speaker, will the minister do that?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to get into individual cases on the floor of the Assembly, but what I will do is talk about the process from start to finish. These decisions for expansion of roadways, whether it's a bypass or twinning, Mr. Speaker, do not come within a month or two. These are worked on for many, many years. Landowners are usually notified well in advance; then negotiations go on.

It is a difficult time to try and determine exactly what the land value is. I know that there are appraisals done, Mr. Speaker,

independent appraisals, Mr. Speaker, and those are looked at as well as negotiations with the individual landowner, not unlike it was done in the past, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully we can get to an agreement.

If that agreement isn't met, there is mediation offered up, Mr. Speaker. And if that does not settle the agreement, then there is expropriation. There is also the avenue for parties that are dissatisfied to exercise further processes such as the court system, Mr. Speaker. That is not very common, Mr. Speaker, but I will say that the process is the same as what was used under the former government.

[14:15]

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

### IPAC-CO2

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, as it relates to that government's IPAC [International Performance Assessment Centre for geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub>] affair, that minister has referenced many times an IT [information technology] services review completed by Mr. Gerry Wolfe in July of 2010, when answering questions about whether value for money was achieved with the millions of taxpayers' dollars sent from IPAC to CVI [Climate Ventures Inc.] — that government's costly start-up — with nothing more than a handshake agreement and full of conflicts of interest.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to that report, has the minister herself read the review in entirety? The one that she's referenced multiple times, the IT services review that was completed by Mr. Gerry Wolfe.

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have read that. It was a report by Perform-X management report. I would reference page 5, Mr. Speaker, where it says, and I quote, "Nearly 1 million of the to date 2.5 million CVI expenditures was for hardware and software licences which have been paid and vouched by IPAC." Also from page 5, and I quote, ". . . the supplier appears to have materially delivered what was promised." Also from page 5, and I quote, "From our cursory review the CVI technical skills and knowledge appear sound. Value has been exchanged for services, albeit in some cases, at an apparent premium, but within the IPAC schedule."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, let's remember that millions of taxpayers' dollars have flowed from IPAC to CVI on a handshake with conflicts of interest, millions of dollars that have been called mostly waste by the CEO of IPAC. The IT review itself that's referenced by the minister raises alarming concerns, yet seems to be held up by that minister again here today as somehow an example of accountability, Mr. Speaker.

So the minister said she's read that report in entirety. I guess I

would ask her to go a little deeper than the surface information that was provided here today. What concerns does it raise and why hasn't she shared those concerns sooner?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the concerns that we have had has been that it was a sole-sourced contract. It was a contract where the individuals from the U of R that entered the contract had a conflict of interest and it was a contract that a very high price was paid, that was identified by myself. It was identified by the previous minister who had this file, Mr. Speaker. We have not denied any of those.

I would also like to refer to the Meyers Norris Penny report, Mr. Speaker, which identifies over and over again, and I can do a number of quotes from that report, that the management and the money control at the time that the CVI contract was entered into was while it was under the management and control of the U of R, Mr. Speaker. There has been statements by the minister of the U of R, Dr. Vianne Timmons, that acknowledges that there was issues when they had the control of IPAC.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, these are public dollars for which that minister, that government have been responsible from the get-go. And that IT review conducted by Mr. Gerry Wolfe was hamstrung. He makes clear that he was not provided the access to information required to properly assess value for money. It states, I quote, and actually also from page 5, "In the absence of executed contracts and documentation evidencing IPAC . . . governance, it is difficult to provide well-founded value-for-money assessment." Not only could he not assess value for money; he was also denied access to the information and people he needed. He states clearly he didn't have access to the people he needed by way of the IPAC and CVI founders, of course CVI being the costly start-up of that government.

It's clear that the IT review that the minister has often referenced here, today once again, was hamstrung, and that the review raises far more concerns than it provides answers over concerns over millions of dollars being wasted. Mr. Speaker, when will that minister stand up, start to fulfill her ministerial responsibility, and get to the bottom of her government's IPAC affair?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, there was a forensic audit done. There was an audit done by the Provincial Auditor as well. We know that the money went to Climate Ventures Inc., Mr. Speaker. We know that's where the money went. We know that there was an evaluation, as the member opposite is pointing out, by Perform-X management, Mr. Speaker. We do not deny that a high price was paid. We have never denied that it was sole-sourced. We have never denied that there was a conflict of interest. Mr. Speaker, we have not denied any of those things. We know where the money went. The board took action. They severed the relationship with the U of R. They severed the contract with CVI, Mr. Speaker. They had these

audits done. They moved forward. Since that time they have had clean audits by KPMG year over year, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not sure what steps that this . . . the NDP want us to do other than no longer work with the U of R. I think that's the only other step that we could take is no longer have that type of management arrangement.

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

### Education and Employment for First Nations and Métis People

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today the final report of the joint task force on improving education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people was released. As I've said all along, Mr. Speaker, we've been looking forward to these recommendations, and I want to thank the task force members for their work.

My concern and our concern, Mr. Speaker, has always been what the Sask Party government will do with the recommendations and the outcomes of the report. We've seen in past actions from their track record, especially as it relates to the Aboriginal employment development program, Mr. Speaker, that they've been more than willing to cut helpful programs.

My question to the Premier: why should we believe, based on a track record of cutting good things like the AEDP [Aboriginal employment development program], why should we believe that things will be different this time?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, as is too often the case with the leader's questions, the Leader of the Opposition's questions, the preamble is incorrect. Mr. Speaker, we analyzed the program he references and in terms of the level of investment required, in terms of public dollars and the output for First Nations people, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't working.

Mr. Speaker, we have said that we want to fund action and not processes, and we are grateful as well for the task force report that has been, that has now been presented. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education's going to look carefully at that report, as will the cabinet.

There are some specific actions outlined in the report already. Mr. Speaker, I note one in particular. It's sort of towards the end. But in terms of specificity, there's one around driver education for First Nations, which is obviously pretty key for young First Nations people, First Nations of all ages, to be engaged in the economy. And it's one small recommendation; we might be able to move on that very quickly.

There's a lot of other general comments in there. But as a subset, there's some very specific pilots that are happening right now in the province we're going to look at. And I'll maybe get into that when the Hon. Leader of the Opposition asks his next question.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — There are a number of recommendations in the report, as the Premier points out. Among the recommendations is one to have an integrated, comprehensive early childhood strategy both on- and off-reserve, with attention to isolated communities. Another recommendation is for the province to provide interim financial support to close the funding gap between on-reserve and off-reserve schools.

Mr. Speaker, these recommendations will obviously take significant resources. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we saw in the last budget the Sask Party only earmarked \$3 million for the implementation of these recommendations coming from the report. Yet at the same time, Mr. Speaker, we see them willing to spend nearly \$6 million on a computer system for standardized testing, the results of which would point back to the recommendations in this report, Mr. Speaker, and the need to do better on a number of fronts.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: how is it that in the budget, as we have the sound recommendations coming from the task force now, how is it in the budget he has \$6 million for a computer system for standardized testing, but only has \$3 million, Mr. Speaker, to deal with the recommendations coming forward from this report? That does not show, Mr. Speaker, a willingness to take this matter seriously.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm very glad that hon. member asked that question because we've been trying to portray the importance of a student achievement initiative for all students in the province, but especially for First Nations students whose graduation rates we want to see rise, whose completion rates need to increase.

Mr. Speaker, the task force asked some university professors to write a report called *Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People*. I commend it to the Leader of the Opposition to read because in it there are a number of specific initiatives done by First Nations, some First Nations reserves, and other schools that are bearing results for First Nations students, Mr. Speaker, that speak specifically to this question, including at Whitecap, Mr. Speaker, where they're working with the Saskatoon public school division on the EYE program. That's early years evaluation. They're seeing better results for First Nations students. Why, Mr. Speaker? In part it's based on assessment. It's based on exactly the kind of principled assessment we're going to do province-wide, Mr. Speaker. That \$6 million worth of assessment investment is for every student. It will benefit First Nations.

There's another \$3 million, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition needs to do some reading, needs to do some homework, and I know he'll come on board with the student achievement initiative for First Nations kids and students across the province, Mr. Speaker.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 94 — *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2013*

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 94, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2013* be introduced and read for a first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved first reading of Bill No. 94, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the Deputy Premier.

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Will the member for Athabasca come to order again. And it might help if the Minister of Highways wasn't egging him on.

### Bill No. 95 — *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act*

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 95, *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved first reading of Bill No. 95, *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

### Bill No. 96 — *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Consequential Amendments Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act*

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — I move that Bill No. 96, *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Consequential Amendments Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved first reading of Bill No. 96, *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Consequential Amendments Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

#### 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 Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and enter into the debate on Bill No. 70, *The Education Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)*. Clearly education is taking a real profile these days, and clearly it should. Clearly it should because if we are to sustain the economy that we've seen in this province, then we must have the resources to do that. And of course a well-educated community can provide that, but there are challenges. And we've seen that.

And so as the minister has approved . . . or is moving these amendments to *The Education Act*, we have a lot to say about it and a lot of questions about it. And I know many of my colleagues have stood and talked about the questions that the minister has suggested that would be the things that we need to do.

And of course what we've really talked about is the lens of priority. Some of the things that they've been doing over on this side of the House of government has made us reflect on what are their priorities. What are their choices? And we've seen that, we've just seen that debate now where they are going to spend \$6 million towards software and standardized testing that

nobody seems to know an awful lot about, but the government sure seems to get worked up about it. They sure seem to get fired up about it as if it's something they have to defend, and this will be the hill that they will fight their battle on.

And it doesn't make a lot of sense in today's classrooms where we're seeing all sorts of challenges. And the challenge that we've saw, and today we saw the joint task force report on improving education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people. And of course there is a final section that talks about will this report gather dust? And we saw that in fact last week when we were debating assessment on standardized testing, I asked a question over there about how many of their members had read their own report about the panel on student achievement.

[14:30]

And you know, it's very interesting that the report was commissioned in 2008 by the current Minister of Finance, then minister of Education. And then we had one minister sit on it, and now we see a minister cherry-picking pieces of that report. And now they've done another one. I haven't had the chance to do a complete read of it, but I do have to tell you that it looks, from the first skim of it, it looks very thoughtful and very hitting the mark on so many ways. And of course whether it's the idea of dealing with drivers' licences, and you know, the other one that goes hand in hand where the drivers' licences is simple ID [identification] so you can set up a bank account. Now I haven't read that to see what they're really talking about, but it is interesting. But those little things really do matter.

But then it also talks about the holistic approach to education, which is so, so critical. And today's classrooms are facing those challenges, they're facing challenges from classroom composition with students with unique and diverse needs that must be met, that must be met. And it ranges from students who come from families who are living in poverty and trying to make those basic needs of life, whether it's food and shelter and clothing, right to the complex needs and especially when we get up to those who are in the gifted classrooms.

And we have and we talked about this last week, talking about mental health of students and how can we make strong resilient students. And that is a huge issue and we need to make sure we tackle that problem. We've seen that, as I said last week, with the Day of Pink on Wednesday, but the Pink Revolution, the whole week in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan, how critical it is that we get this right.

So I do really want to urge the government to get a sense of priorities of what's facing the students of today. Clearly it in many ways manifests itself in how they can connect to the labour market, but we have to go deeper than that. And I think this report, from what I can tell, does go deeper than that. And I know the people on the task force were outstanding citizens who, I think, will have offered an awful lot.

But this is the question before us: the government's priorities when it comes to education and what it sees as priorities and what can make the biggest difference right off, right off the bat, but also talking about systemic change that will make sure that everyone participates in our society, that no one is left out, that

it's an inclusive society both in terms of quality of life, both in terms of their work and in their contributions, the resilience of their family, their own mental health, and their ability to withstand challenges, as we've said, from bullying.

So I want to take a minute to review what the minister has brought forward in terms of reasons for the changes that they have. And the first one is changing the compulsory school age that is presently seven years of age to six years of age. And he talks about how it hasn't been changed since the 1940s, not consistent with other jurisdictions in Canada. I'm not sure if that's, you know, the best reason. You know, I often think of this government having sort of a bit of a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde complex. They like to be leaders but they also like to be followers. Sometimes they like to be alone; sometimes they want to be in the group.

And so whenever they feel it necessary, they throw out, well we want to be with everybody else. And then when sometimes, for example, Bill 85 where they create an employment code, no one else in Canada has it except for the federal government. So there they want to strike out on their own, and they feel that's a reasonable thing to do. So it's a bit of a conflicted, confusing message when they send out that they're doing this because we see other people doing this. And we know that's not necessarily the case.

And so we will take a look at that, and we'll ask a lot of questions. And we do know most students are six years, but there must have been a reason why seven. And I think it was probably to give parents an opportunity, in terms of parenting and different challenges or opportunities that families would have, but they had the opportunity to hold back their children till seven.

And I know, and there has been literature about kids who go to school later, a few years later, that in fact they flourish and they do really well. So I'm not quite as necessarily convinced, but we'll see what the research and what they have to say about that. And we think it's an important discussion to have.

The other one is a change of definition of school to reflect the kind of pre-kindergarten programs that are provided at school sites. So we'll take a look and talk about the different kind of approaches, that this government will be doing that, and how will they resource that change. It's very important that when we say we're going to move into the pre-kindergarten world and we're going to have programming that goes along with it, is that programming available across the province? Is it consistently offered? And I think this is an important opportunity to make sure we ensure that it is, that if it's going to go beyond the pilot stage then we have to make sure that it's consistent across the province. And that's very important.

Now one that I know, this is one that's been in the forefront of a lot of peoples' minds, is the change to the school day definition, and how the minister caused a bit of an uproar in the beginning of this year, talking about instructional minutes and instructional time and non-instructional time. And of course, you know, I think we actually did see this coming a couple of years ago when we saw the massive changes to *The Education Act* at that time. And while schools have worked through this, there are consequences to this. And you know, whether it's

pension time and the number of days and what qualifies as a day, and so we want to make sure that there are no unintended consequences to this.

And you know, we did talk a little about this in terms of the mixed messages from the government. Yet again that were willing to step in at the provincial level and talk about instructional time. They wanted to get involved with standardized testing, but in no way did they want to get involved with the class size debate. And of course that's a big debate as well. And it's not only class size, but it's class composition, and meeting the unique needs of all children in classrooms. So it's not just as simple as saying, not as simple as saying that it's only about the number of minutes. It's much more complex than that.

And I think as this government takes on more and more of the responsibility for these decisions, it's going to leave the local autonomy of school boards in the way that they can make these choices and work with what's best for their kids. Really one that we have to question what's the intention, and is it in the best interests of the child, best interests of the family, and in fact in the best interests of our province? Because we want to make sure all students flourish in this province, and when we start to get involved at the kind of levels, micromanaging that this government seems intent on or cherry-pick the things that they want to be involved in but not take on the challenging issues, and whether it's poverty at the family level or class composition, it's really important. It's really important. It leaves a lot of people with a lot of question marks. And so we have a lot of questions around that.

I'll go on and talk about the other changes he wants to talk. He talked about the consultation that, you know, and it is interesting how, I talked about the panel report that this government had commissioned in 2008. And when we had our debate just last week, many of the members over there looked as if they'd never heard of this panel report. And that's unfortunate because it's not that old. But when you do consult and you do come up with these major reports like the panel report, that you would think the government would have acted on it or discussed it or somehow signalled to the stakeholders.

So what's happening to that report, that consultation that we did for two years? They worked on it for two years — all the stakeholders — and it was put on a shelf. We sure hope that isn't what happens with this, but we've seen it too often. This government is falling into that trap of not honouring consultation, but in fact causing problems by ignoring their consultations. So this is really important.

It does talk about penalties. And some of those, we need to definitely ask more about this. It does talk about the stakeholders and how they do agree with that, and also talking about making it easier for newcomers to enrol in schools by clarifying what is a provincial resident. That's really important. We'll talk more about that, very important. Also people who come here on temporary permits. We see the situation at the University of Regina where we have students here, but this really speaks to more of the temporary work permits — people who come here, foreign temporary workers who come with children, and how do we make sure that they get the education that we've all come to expect in this province? So that's very

important, Mr. Speaker.

And it also talks about the issues about families who live along borders of school divisions and the situation when it arises that one school may be undergoing major changes where it's losing a high school, losing a school, or even as simple as changing bus routes. How does that all happen? So that's very important. There are some other changes here. And I think that, as I said, when we move into committee, that there'll be many more questions.

But, Mr. Speaker, I know that, as I said, education clearly is emerging as one of the top issues this year and this session, clearly because our population is growing, clearly because there's more children in our schools. There's the overcrowding, but there's the class composition, as I say, English as a second language, but also making sure that we do all we can to support First Nations and Aboriginal students so those students can reach their full potential and all that that means in our society here in Saskatchewan in terms of connecting with the labour market and whatever situation that may mean, whether it's arts, culture, mining, in the oil sector, whatever. But we have to make sure that that happens.

But we also have to make sure that we meet the needs of young people who are feeling challenges around mental health and school and whether that's through being bullied, lack of confidence, that type of thing. These are the realities of our new classrooms. And this is something that we've worked hard on for many years, and we will continue to meet that challenge, but we need to provide the resources for that. And we've often raised that question, particularly in this . . . [inaudible] . . . in this budget.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I know I don't have many more things to say with this because I am looking forward to having questions about this Act, Bill 70.

But again I just want to say that it's about making choices and setting priorities. And we definitely have that with this government who seems to be ideologically driven around particularly standardized testing at a provincial level and all that that means but are not meeting the needs of students in our schools, particularly around classroom composition and students of First Nations and Aboriginal descent. We need to support these students as much as we possibly can to make sure that they can do this. So I'm not sure this bill goes a long way to do that. But not every . . . We understand there are other needs too.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks. Thank you.

[14:45]

**The Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question? The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 70, *The Education Amendment Act, 2012 (No. 2)* 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 Human Services.

**The Speaker:** — This bill stands designated to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

### Bill No. 73

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 73 — *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 73, *An Act to amend The Municipalities Act*. This legislation is similar to the legislation, Bill No. 74, *The Cities Amendment Act* and Bill 75, *The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act*. And so I'm going to be making some comments about the legislation.

It's interesting because these three pieces of legislation are usually amended in every session because there are requests that come forward from municipalities or from the cities or from the northern municipalities to correct some things that aren't working quite right in the legislation. So we have legislation that's brought forward for that purpose.

But this year the legislation has some other things that are part of it that perhaps cause us to take a little harder look at what's going on. And I say that because there's a whole section in this legislation and in the other pieces of legislation around boundary alterations between municipalities or the ability to hive out pieces of municipalities for specific purposes.

And I think the most interesting part of it is that it really gives the minister and the government a great deal of power over municipalities as it relates to some of these adjustments, and I think that we should spend some time looking at that as we move forward. There's also a whole area that relates to licensing and municipal procurement to make sure that this legislation and the activities of municipalities is in line with the Agreement on Internal Trade and the New West Partnership Agreement.

Now I should point out that Bill No. 73, *An Act to amend The Municipalities Act* relates to all of those municipalities which are not cities, so basically it's the towns and villages and organized hamlets. It also I think includes, depending on the situation, what would be called some of the recreational residential communities. And so it relates to a fairly specific group of municipalities.

But what does the legislation do? Well we start right off in the

opening clause of definitions, and you get a hint at one of the first things that's there because the legislation adds another definition. The definition is additional service area. And what does that mean? It "... means a geographical area within a rural municipality that includes a residential or other land use requiring services or levels of services that are different from the services or levels of services provided in areas of the rural municipality that are not additional service areas."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think this legislation or this particular definition of additional service area is an attempt to try to deal with some of the regional planning issues that have arisen as various subdivisions have been created in rural municipalities across the province. And we have seen these places or these communities develop close to provincial parks, close to regional parks. We've seen them develop along some of our waterways, whether it's the South Saskatchewan River, the North Saskatchewan River, and they cause a number of issues for the local authorities because they often expect to get services which are quite different from the services that everybody else in that community receive. For example they will often want to have a common water system, maybe a common sewer system, have garbage collection, snow removal — and snow removal's been an issue this year obviously — and so they're willing to pay the fees to do that.

But often the structures that we have don't necessarily allow for these special extra services to be provided in the municipalities, and so part of this legislation is set out to deal with that particular issue. And it's an interesting way to do it because it's piecemeal. I mean, it's sort of going along with additions and patches and little pieces here and there rather than having a broader piece of planning legislation or a piece of legislation that would look at the total impact on the province.

And, Mr. Speaker, when these communities develop across the province, they do put stresses and strains on the ability to provide services to them. So rather than end up with a province-wide piece of planning legislation like what they've done in Alberta, we have these amendments to these three — *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act*. And then we also have the recent amendments to the planning legislation. All of them deal with the problem by giving superseding or overriding powers to the minister and the government, and that may or may not be a good way to do it. I think that it has quite a number of challenges. It may be more appropriately discussed or worked at through having a broader discussion about what it means to have regional structures throughout the province of Saskatchewan, which would then include how we provide these services. But at this stage, we have a relatively patchwork solution, and I guess we need to look at what's being done here to see how and what is being set out.

Now some of the first amendments in the legislation relate to the ability for the municipality to develop business licence frameworks and set up licensing. And I think those things are part of the overall system, and basically these are some corrections.

But the next section, and it would be section 5 which is an amendment of section 18, and it's effectively putting in place to clarify that there can be vehicle weights or route designation

and that it can be adopted as a broad system through a whole number of municipalities. And, Mr. Speaker, that's I suppose a good way to do it. But it begs the question of whether there may be even a better way to do it with some kind of regional structure, a regional organization, and that then applies to how the permits and licences are given around some of the overweight issues.

It also then goes into dealing with changes to the problems that arise when we have pretty heavy industrial activity, whether it's related to mining or oil and gas or even ... well and also some of the size of the trucks involved with agriculture these days, that many of the municipalities have roads that are not up to a standard for a really heavy truck, especially during wet conditions. And so it's attempting to give some more powers to municipalities to have this kind of overweight hauling stopped until there's appropriate permits in place and licences in place.

Now what's happened is people have pushed the rules and pushed the limits on this kind of hauling, and the legislation is attempting to give the municipalities even greater powers to deal with these particular charges that are there. And what they've done is, I think, allowed for some of these charges to be added on to the property taxes or other ways of providing for this information.

Now in the legislation there's also a discussion about allowing rural municipalities to develop or establish additional service areas within the rural municipalities. And this is what I was talking about before, but it does allow for the establishment of a new area. What has been in place is that if there's a village that decides to dissolve themselves back into the rural municipality, they are allowed to have a special structure which is an additional service area which allows for the establishment of fees for the people that live in that area.

What's being proposed here is that there be a similar mechanism for rural municipalities who want to establish new structures. And these are either country residential subdivisions ... They may be recreational residential subdivisions or even bare land condominium developments that have special service requirements. And what the legislation is introducing is a way that the services to these particular restructurings or these particular ways of organizing in a local community can be charged the appropriate fees for the types of services that are being provided for them. I think it also provides for the contracting to take place within these situations as well.

Now one of the previous tools that had been put in place was to allow for what's termed restructuring, in other words for villages and hamlets to move away from any type of local government and put it into a rural municipality. And it's set out some of the rules about how to do this. And effectively it's saying that there are some ways that this kind of a structure can take place and that the amendments here will allow for a ward-style government. So that what was maybe a former hamlet could have a representative; what is a new residential community that has some specific interests, together that they could be a ward and have particular boundaries, and then representation on the municipality government. It's not, you know, it's not necessarily a bad idea, but it is something that's being developed on the fly and in a patchwork fashion. And it raises the question whether we're not soon getting to the point



where we need to have an overall review of our municipalities-type legislation to cover all of the various options that we do have in Saskatchewan right now.

[15:00]

I know that over the years, some of the issues that have arisen with residential communities within regional parks and their access to services, also the residential communities within provincial parks and their access to services, relate to this particular legislation. But I'm not sure this legislation applies to them because they're not necessarily directly part of the rural municipality. There's also situations with respect to the national park at Prince Albert, a national park where there are concerns as well that they have a residential-type community, and how do they fit into the overall structure in the province.

Now as the numbers of these smaller communities develop across the province, there will be issues that arise, and I know that we'll have to continue to ask questions about that. I think the legislation has a number of other sections that are here at the request of the rural municipalities, and I think they are relatively straightforward. I think we will be able to ask some questions about them when we get into committee. And so, other than pointing out that this legislation and Bills No. 74 and 75 all relate to the regional planning legislation that's here, and they all deal with this changing nature of municipalities in the province, and with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no further comments.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 73, *The Municipalities 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 Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**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. 74

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 74** — *The Cities 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. Just to join in on the debate on Bill 74, *The Cities Amendment Act, 2012*, and just to give some brief comments about it. And I know later on a few of my colleagues have made comments.

And the minister talks about a number of different areas where he's going to bring in some amendments and whether these amendments have been asked by municipalities, by the cities. And like in his opening remarks he talks about the province having 16 cities now, and we know that that's a good thing. And as we move through, we want to make sure we provide the provisions and legislation that allows them to operate. Whether it comes to permitting, whether it comes to the boundaries, we want to make sure that we're not creating more problems. And by making these amendments, it's going to clear up some of the situations that I assume have risen from some of the challenges.

Municipalities, whether they're cities, RMs [rural municipality], they're running into situations where they have to have clarification. And to me it looks like that's some of the areas where they're going to try to amend some of the legislation, to give those powers to make sure that government can work with municipalities and the cities, whether they're, you know, rural municipalities, cities, to make sure that when they're looking at boundaries and they're having issues, that they can address that. There is provision in here to address some of that area.

They're also talking about provisions when you look at utilities. And cities now have the ability to I guess charge utility, whether it's water and sewer. There's provisions in there for them to charge homeowners, residents, whether you're a business or not. There is a provision in there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to allow . . . And I believe they're going to amend it so that in serving the tax notice to those I guess whether they're residents or business, it can show on the tax rolls that they owe not only back taxes but utilities to the cities or municipalities. So I know that they're talking about those provisions in there as well.

They're also talking about some of the taxes that they were referring to, but in there they're also referring to permits and certain powers taken away and adding. And I know that they are going back and forth with these provisions and making these amendments, and I'm hoping that they're consulting.

And if you look at the bill itself, it's quite a large Act. *The Cities Act* is a large piece of legislation with a lot of areas to it. But having said that, they're asking I think it's about four areas where the minister has made some response to certain amendments he's proposing.

And like I said earlier, we have to make sure those amendments that he's proposing and asking us to consider here, and that we need to work with, are . . . and I hope are coming from the municipalities, the cities, to deal with some of their issues. And there might be housekeeping items that, you know, sometimes we have to address. But these might truly be areas where they're impacting residents, business with some of the changes and amendments that they're proposing in here.

Now having said that, I know that in committee . . . And I know some of my colleagues have made comments and have referred to some of the changes in here and some of the proposed changes. But if you go through the document itself, it's quite lengthy. And I know the critic in committee and with my colleagues, we will ask a lot of questions. And that's where we're going to have to go through asking those I guess individual questions on certain areas. And we can give an around-and-about general conversation here in talking about it.

But I guess I want to be clear on that process, the process to make sure that we're talking with the municipalities, the cities, and anyone that's going to be impacted to make sure, you know. And we have to give opportunities to our municipalities. And I know the critic will make sure that he's in contact with them and making sure he's giving them the opportunity to raise their concerns. Whether it's this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or it's other bills that we discuss in this House, it's given residents and those that are going to be impacted an opportunity to come through, whether it's the critic, whether it's government, whether it's the ministry, however an organization, association that represents those individuals who have concerns.

There has to be that process where those individuals have that opportunity to raise their concerns. And sometimes they might bring those concerns forward, saying it's a good change; they agree with the amendment; that it makes sense; they're supporting that. And that's good. And sometimes they may find areas where they're saying, well we agree with this area for the amendment and this area, but we don't agree on this area. And I think that's sometimes the point where we have to make sure we're doing our due diligence and the critic is doing their . . . and the ministry, the ministry and the minister is doing their due diligence. And that's clear needs to happen.

So at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no further comments on this bill as it moves to where it needs to go for the next part of the business.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 74, *The Cities 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 Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**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. 75

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 75** — *The Northern Municipalities Amendment 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. Good to be recognized in the debate this afternoon. Good to rise in my place to speak to Bill No. 75, *The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act*. Of course this is part of a bit of a trilogy, legislatively speaking, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of the changes brought forward to *The Municipalities Act* and changes brought forward to *The Cities Act* as well.

So what does this piece of legislation do? Three main things, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Referencing the minister's second reading speech and the legislation itself, the first objective of the legislation is to “. . . support government's competitiveness and growth strategy related to business licensing, overweight vehicle permitting, boundary alteration, and municipal procurement.” You know, seems to be a fairly straightforward set of objectives, but we'll get into that at a bit greater length coming up here, Mr. Speaker.

Second up, we've got the provision for:

. . . northern councils with greater ability to deal with inactive municipal development corporations, clarify provisions regarding northern hamlet incorporation and northern settlement dissolution, and make terms of office for members appointed to the northern municipal trust account management board consistent with those for municipal councillors, which is four years, [moving it up from three, Mr. Speaker].

And the third objective of the legislation before us is to:

. . . address other requests from across the municipal sector to clarify wording and improve consistency among the municipal Acts regarding primarily administrative matters . . . [to make] other changes identified by the ministry to clarify areas such as education property tax reporting, licence fees, and purchasing policies.

So again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the first objective of the legislation, the purported support for growth and enhancing competitiveness in Saskatchewan, making amendments to the business licensing provisions to enable municipalities to establish and enter intermunicipal agreements and arrangements, to reconcile business licensing requirements such that business or certain types of businesses may operate across participating municipalities under a single licence — again, Mr. Speaker, the North is a place of great co-operation, a place of certainly vast distances and great beauty and tremendous opportunities, tremendous challenges. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that is the hallmark of the North is certainly that co-operation that exists between communities,

between First Nations, between Métis settlements, between other municipalities, Mr. Speaker.

I think of the great work done throughout the years by New North. I think of the great work done by the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, if this further fosters a greater co-operation amongst those entities as they set out to serve northerners at that municipal level, then this will be a piece of relatively decent work.

But, Mr. Speaker, any time I guess we see this government talking about the importance of the North and the way that different priorities of the North purportedly align with the express goals of this government, we can't help but think in these benches, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about the misadventure that went on with enterprise regions and certainly the way that — you know, year in, year out — the government says, well the enterprise regions are coming and that's going to be a great boom to the North, and what a wonderful era that will usher in. And then finally, the enterprise regions were set up and running in the North, and then they said, well you know, two isn't enough. We'll give you three enterprise regions, I believe it was.

And then of course, you know, for all the fanfare and ballyhoo and plans to make plans and the way that that was, I think, put in the window as a bit of a light to distract from the need for real action in terms of that northern agenda — and my colleague from Cumberland knows this very well, in terms of the way this government has done its business as regards to the people of the North — that those enterprise regions, Mr. Speaker, last budget of course, what happens? These long-hyped, long-promoted, long-ballyhooed enterprise regions, they packed them in, Mr. Speaker.

And so again, when they bring forward legislation like that which we have here today, again on the face of it, you know, seems to be fair enough and some fairly, I don't know, banal recommendations coming forward in parts of this legislation in particular. But you put that in the broader context of what's happened and you say, the enterprise regions, and you know, where again we had a government talk for six long years about the importance of fostering competitiveness and supporting growth and yada yada yada, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

Again, what do we see? You know, we saw a lot of talk, and we saw a lot of plans to make plans, and then at the end of the day in last year's budget, they chopped those enterprise regions right down at the stump, Mr. Speaker. So you know, here comes the government again with great offers and pledges of support and fostering and fine language like that. So, you know, good luck. We'll see how this all works out.

But in some regards, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've seen this movie before. We weren't real big fans of it, and I don't think the people of the North were real big fans of it. But we're also a hopeful people, Mr. Speaker, so we hope it works out better than the last round of claims and promises that were made. We hope it works out better than the press release that was put out for that vital piece of economic and social infrastructure that is

the road to Wollaston, again something that I know Mr. Deputy Speaker is very familiar with in terms of the need for roads, to ensure that that prosperity is not just there for the few or to make sure that you've got that fundamental transportation link that should be there.

Again this is a government that felt free to put out a press release saying that the road to Wollaston would be built. And that unfortunately ends, in some cases tragically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is not the case. So again there's the proclamation, and then there's the real evaluation of what was hyped and what was a real benefit for the people of the North in this case. And you know, we'll be there keeping a close eye, Mr. Speaker, but we'll see how it works out.

The second category of amendments in this particular piece of legislation concerns the supporting of greater accountability wherein “. . . amendments to assist northern municipalities to address inactive municipal development corporations. The municipalities involved have primary responsibility to address these issues by either dissolving the corporation or remedying any non-compliance issue.” Again you know, pretty straightforward proposition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of making sure that you can clear out the structures that are no longer purposeful, no longer working, and clear the way to ensure that those vital institutions such as the New North are doing the job.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I can't help but think about that intermunicipal co-operation and the way that development corporations, certainly those kind of activities, those kind of endeavours took a back seat while this government again proclaimed the importance of the enterprise regions and said, you know, there's a new day coming and it's called the enterprise region, Enterprise Saskatchewan, and all of those good things.

And the way that communities entered into good faith negotiations, good faith co-operation with this government — and not just for one year, not just for two years, but over a period of years, Mr. Deputy Speaker — where that government said, the bid play for the North is the enterprise region. And then, you know, when two wasn't enough, they were like, oh well, how would you like a third enterprise region?

And you know, again in terms of that development capacity that is there in the North, and you see the great leadership out of First Nations, out of Métis communities, out of the New North, that vital role that is being played in terms of working with business and labour to make sure that opportunities are realized, working with vital social infrastructure in terms of health and education, calling attention to the need for that economic infrastructure, again you think about that all work and the way that this government came to the table with the enterprise regions.

And you know, they were very bullish on the enterprise regions until they weren't. And so now what, Mr. Speaker? Well now they have to clear the decks and provide better tools for the northern communities to wrap up inactive development corporations. Well, you know, great. And you can't help but think about the way that we've had six long years of something very different being, you know, put before northern

communities as the way to go and how ultimately it was done in with the issuance of a single budget last year, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The last main category of amendments, and again this is where it gets back into sort of the picayune, the banal, in terms of the pieces of effort in this particular legislation but:

The last main category of amendments addresses other requests of stakeholders to clarify certain administrative matters such as the signing of council meeting minutes, consistent terminology regarding service or filing of assessment appeal notices, and adding contact information for appellant agents to assessment appeal notices.

And again, you know, in and of themselves, important initiatives, Mr. Speaker, but in terms of working with the North to make sure that northerners have the tools to get the job done, to succeed and thrive in this prospering economy, Mr. Speaker, again, great. I'm glad to see the effort here, but it's not exactly earth shattering. But you know, it's hard to figure out what's worse sometimes, Mr. Speaker, in evaluating the actions of this government because of course, as I've referenced in this speech, when they come along with the big idea and say, you know, hey the enterprise regions, that's going to make everything so much better, until we chop them down in one fell swoop in a budget, Mr. Speaker.

Well maybe it's better to have just sort of relatively minor, thoughtful initiatives such as this coming forward to help municipalities do what they do best, which is look to their own interests. But, Mr. Speaker, we can't help but think that again, it draws a pretty interesting contrast with rhetoric and plans and busywork that's gone before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and what is being brought forward in this piece of legislation here today.

That the amendments were developed in consultation with SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], with New North, and the Northern Municipal Trust Account Management Board, you know, great. Glad to hear it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And certainly we'll be making certain that that is in fact the case.

Because of course we've seen other consultation exercises that northerners entered into in good faith with this government, only to have that good faith rewarded with a budget where, you know — be it the freshwater fish marketing or trappers association, roads, education, critical education infrastructure, housing infrastructure, health infrastructure, long-term care infrastructure, you know, mental health care — there's a list as long as a northern arm in terms of actions that haven't been given their due by this government, haven't been given their due by a government that would be genuinely listening to northerners.

And you know, the height of it is where we get the Premier in a speech up in Prince Albert saying that there is in fact a program for First Nations and Métis, and it's called Cameco. And again, Mr. Speaker, it's nothing against Cameco. Cameco is, you know, a vital part of the mining sector and has been, in the main, a valuable contributor to the economy. And in certainly the northern jobs that it represents, that's great.

And I guess what I'd do is echo the comments of the northern communities that came forward and said, as fine as that is, as good as that is, you know, is that it? Is that the sum total? Is that the extent of this government's interests when it comes to working with northerners to bring the prosperity of Saskatchewan fully to bear in the North, to make sure that the wealth that is extracted from those communities benefits those communities as well, Mr. Speaker, and that the different sort of problems that are confronted by northern communities on a daily basis, to make sure that those are dealt with in a way that makes that progress that we need to have in this province if we're going to live up to our motto, if we're going to succeed as Saskatchewan people.

If that's the case, Mr. Speaker, then you know, you're not going to spend half a decade hyping up the enterprise regions only to cast them aside with the stroke of a budget pen. You're going to have measures that come forward in a much bolder fashion than what we have here with these relatively, you know, again important technical changes being made in terms of the overall scheme of things in the North and the challenges that are being faced. And again the way that it plays through infrastructure — through economic infrastructure, the roads, the telecommunications infrastructure that needs to be in place, the social, the health, the education — you know, pick your front where northerners are not well served by this government or need to be better served by this government or where this government needs to do a better job.

And again, Mr. Speaker, we await the day when that work gets the attention and the effort that it is so richly due. With that, Mr. Speaker, I know that we've got perhaps . . . We've had a number of speakers up on this piece of legislation. We'll have more to say come committee when this legislation goes forth. And at this time I would conclude my remarks on Bill No. 75, *The Northern Municipalities Act*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question? The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 75, *The Northern Municipalities 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 Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**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. 78

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Ms. Draude that **Bill No. 78 — *The Social Workers Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to wade into the debate and discussion on Bill No. 78, *The Social Workers Amendment Act*. I think some of the things we think about or need to think about when we debate and discuss the merits and the pitfalls of bills, we have to think about why is this bill before us. What is it proposing to do? Who requested these changes? Is it a government initiative? Are there stakeholders or are there individuals who've asked for some of these changes?

We need to look at consultation. Has consultation been thorough and meaningful with all parties impacted by the changes? And we have to also think about push back or problems, and that comes from the consultation process. We learn what some of the pitfalls are, and we look and find out what may or may not work. So I want to just take a little bit of time talking about Bill 78 and what it'll do . . . well those particular topics.

So what will Bill 78, *The Social Workers Amendment Act* do? Primarily this: these amendments will “. . . allow qualified clinical social workers to diagnose mental health disorders.” And I think we have to go back in time here a little bit to 2002. Social workers, prior to 2002 and the passing of *The Psychologists Act* or when it came into force in 2002, social workers used to be able to diagnose mental health disorders. So those abilities were taken away in 2002. So since that time, since about 2003, the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers in its own internal bodies has been pursuing and very interested in having that opportunity for qualified clinical social workers to have the ability to diagnose mental health and addictions illnesses, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So Richard Hazel, who is the executive director of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers — although I know he is very near, slated to retire sometime this spring, so we'll see when that happens — but he points out in his report to social workers in the newsletter, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the current proposal for change to *The Social Workers Act* came last spring after the Minister of Social Services approved a package of changes to the Act. And the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers is a self-regulating profession and a professional organization and reports to a minister of the Saskatchewan government, which is the Minister of Social Services in this case. So the government was ready to go ahead with this.

So this has been something that the Association of Social Workers has wanted shortly after they lost that capacity in 2002 and have been working towards this. So this is coming from people who work in the practice. So we know, we know who requested it, and we know a little bit about, well some of the whys, Mr. Deputy Speaker — lack of services.

[15:30]

I know from my own family's experience, we have some

mental health challenges in my family, some family members who have some very big difficulties and have seen first-hand how access to service is a huge barrier to people's health and quality of life, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I think it's recognized across the province that we have some huge mental health holes and gaps in services, and so that's something that needs to be addressed. But in rural Saskatchewan . . . And Richard Hazel again points this out as did the minister and as would anyone working in social work or psychiatric services, anything like that.

So what about rural populations? So we see that there's fewer and fewer . . . access to fewer physicians. We've heard from social workers practising in rural Saskatchewan that there are many people who have trouble accessing services. My experience has been in an urban setting in Saskatoon, and it's been hard to access services. Actually the minister pointed out that in Saskatchewan, when she first read this bill in December, there were 78 psychologists and 36 psychiatrists working in Saskatchewan in mental health outpatient services.

There are big problems with the lack of services everywhere you go, but rural Saskatchewan has . . . That's been an increasing challenge for people. Smaller health regions in rural remote areas of the province who don't have a psychologist on staff really struggle getting the services to their citizens. And that's where authorized and qualified clinical social workers to diagnose conditions — which would include things like depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, intellectual disabilities, or autism spectrum disorder — can help people in the regions to get the mental health services much neater, much more quickly than they normally would. So we are lacking mental health services, and the minister is proposing this as a bit of a fix.

In terms of consultation — I'm all over the place here — but in terms of consultation, I've had the opportunity to sit down with the Association of Social Workers and also extended a letter to all the organizations that the Ministry of Social Services and the Association of Social Workers consulted with directly or invited to receive submissions. And it was a fairly comprehensive list.

And actually in opposition, we did hear back from some people who have some concerns actually. The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan had some concerns. They initially . . . I saw the list of those who were consulted, but I know consultation needs to be . . . We need to make sure that people have the opportunity to participate, and it looked like a fairly thorough process. But I know the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan had some concerns about the changes to the bill.

They also actually flagged that as the largest group of service providers in mental health, as registered psychiatric nurses, they're very well aware of the issues regarding the lack of access to services and the fragmented system which exists. But they point out that band-aiding with a profession which does not have the education — i.e., diagnostic, medical, and pharmacological background — is a dangerous precedent. So that's some of the concerns the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan have flagged.

And they've also said that social workers diagnosing clients will not change the problems with access and lack of services. I'd agree actually. I think this change will mitigate some of the problems, but it won't change it.

So Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers have identified that there will only be about 50 of its members, current members, who will likely have the opportunity or the capacity at this moment in time to pass and get the qualifications. So 50 more people being able to diagnose is a good thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but it is a drop in the bucket.

So this will mitigate the problems, but it won't change the overlying reality that we don't have a mental health strategy. And actually that's what the psychiatric nurses go on to say is that changes that are being made should be part of a comprehensive mental health strategy for the province and all those providing the services. So we need to think about the whole spectrum of those who provide mental health and addiction services and think about how we could better provide mental health and addiction services to all people in Saskatchewan and not just picking and choosing one little element of it. And I know that is one of our concerns as well.

I am a registered social worker, although I've never worked in clinical practice. I've always done community development and policy work, but I've a great deal of respect for those who do clinical social work. And social workers are a self-regulating body but governed by a code of ethics. And I wouldn't dispute their professionalism at all or their ability to carry this out, but it is just one small piece of a mental health strategy that I think we need here.

I know one of the other concerns — and the Association of Social Workers identified this for me; I didn't have the consultation paper myself — but in social work there's something called anti-oppressive practice which actually encompasses all different kinds of theories. It's more of an umbrella. But I know some anti-oppressive social workers were concerned about diagnosis. They don't like to focus on diagnosis.

Anti-oppressive social work is about the debate between individual treatment versus social reform, or private versus public issues. So anti-oppressive social work looks at the structural issues that create problems in our lives. Racism is one of them, classism, sexism, those kinds of things — all the isms, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Anti-oppressive social workers, so I understand, had raised some concerns with diagnosis and ability to diagnose, and that is . . . I believe the Association of Social Workers acknowledged that, but the majority of its members believed that this was the right way to go.

I think some of the things that I've heard directly from people who are currently in the midst of our fragmented mental health system here in Saskatchewan is that we see silos; we don't see information sharing. Whether it's between health, the justice system, social services, there's huge problems around silos in mental health. We have long waiting lists. I believe it's about six months to get to see a psychiatrist here in Saskatchewan. And we are lacking a broad range of services, step-down beds for people who still need care but not quite the same care as they might receive at the Dubé Centre, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So

what we really need here is a mental health strategy. Mental health and addictions often go hand in hand, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

You know, another thing that I need to flag here is the reality that . . . So there were, last year in the consultation phase, the draft got . . . That apparently included draft bylaws that were included in the consultation process. So I understand that this bill, once it passes . . . And I'm pretty sure that it will pass here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in a month's time from now, that they will go to the table and put in place and work on the regulations. And actually Richard Hazel says this in his report, that advanced work on the draft bylaws would proceed when the legislative proposal receives approval, and they will do a very thorough job on those bylaws.

But I know we flagged this as a concern on other bills that have come before the House that the regulations don't come into force or come in, not even into force obviously but into existence, until after a bill is passed. But regulations often have a strong impact on how things go forward, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I know perhaps the registered psychiatric nurses might have been more comfortable with this proposal had they had an opportunity to see what exactly was going to be in place once the bill was passed. And I do know that it's been flagged for me that this bill will not be proclaimed until after all those bylaws are in place, which could take up to a couple years. So this is a pressing concern.

So I would just like to put that on the record that it might have been worthwhile to continue to work on those bylaws all year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just in terms of the consultation process but also in terms of speeding up the process. This is a pressing issue here in Saskatchewan — people's lack of services or lack of access to services. So perhaps that piece could have been done in tandem and perhaps easing some people's concerns because when the regulations come after legislation, the regulations in fact have more of an impact on people's lives than sometimes the legislation. So that I would've liked to have seen happen throughout this past year working on the bylaws.

So it's interesting. I understand that it will be . . . So social workers, of the 50, or so I've been told, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it will be . . . You will not be able to diagnose unless you have a master's degree and quite a level of number of years of clinical experience as well. So this will not apply to all clinical social workers. You would need a master's and more experience as well. But these are all things to still be completely worked out, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I believe that they'll be using the Association of Social Work Boards, whose clinical examination is intended to be part of the qualification process.

So again it would have been nice to have some of these in place before the legislation was passed so it could be implemented more quickly, and perhaps we could've put people's minds at ease. And again I just want to mention that although this is I think a positive step to provide some services to some underserved areas, we are lacking a mental health and addiction strategy here in Saskatchewan, and it's a huge problem. I know in the short time . . .

We see addictions issues here in Saskatchewan as a huge issue.

We see in Prince Albert, alcohol calls being far higher than Saskatoon and Regina combined. Addictions and mental health struggles or challenges are I think a big problem here in Saskatchewan. And I think the government needs to take . . . Well I know the government should be taking a more comprehensive approach to ensuring that all Saskatchewan residents have an opportunity to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. And we need to put in place the structures and then the services and programming to allow people to be able to do that. So we need to address the silos. We need to address the long waiting lists. We need to ensure we have a broad range of services. And we need to involve all those people who provide those services in the consultation process in developing that mental health strategy.

I believe actually that . . . Actually Dave Nelson of the Saskatchewan division of the Canadian Mental Health Association said in a *StarPhoenix* or a CP article, Canadian Press article, had said that “. . . the changes are good if there are adequate minimum standards and the social workers operate on teams with psychiatrists.” He says, “It will make a difference in getting people into service but . . . the actual services they will get into are woefully underdeveloped and underfunded.”

So we need to do some serious work in that regard here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I do hope that's on the Health minister's agenda but also working in tandem with Justice, with Social Services, with all . . . and then with all those who do provide those services.

So I know we'll have some questions in committee, and I have colleagues who will be asking some questions there. But with that, I would like to conclude my remarks.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Social Services that Bill No. 78, *The Social Workers 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 Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — The Standing Committee on Human Services, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — This bill stands referred to the Committee on Human Services.

[15:45]

## Bill No. 81

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Boyd that **Bill No. 81 — *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

[15:45]

**Mr. Vermette:** — Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on the Bill 81, the transportation global hub authority. Looking at the bill and just, I know, comments from the minister and individuals that have commented on it already and some of the concerns, it looks like there are starting to be quite a bit of concern raised about this legislation and about the I guess just the way the government's going ahead with the legislation, GTH, the Global Transportation Hub, and just about some of the . . . It looks like there's almost . . .

You have to stop and look at this bill for what it is, and it's raising its own concerns. And just some of the comments made, and I'm going to go through some of those because it's clearly . . . It's important to stop and look at some of the concerns that have been raised and also some of the questions being asked by our Privacy Commissioner, clearly his concerns and where he's going with, if you're using public dollars and it's a Crown, which way is it going to go? Just in some of his opening comments, and I look at that one just right away; it really wonders where the government is going. And with the GTH, exactly what are their plan and what is the long-term plan? And will they be reporting as they do like a Crown? Will they be making sure that there's an opportunity for the Privacy Commissioner to request or for the public under, you know, freedom of information to provide to individuals or to him when you're dealing with the public's dollars and where you're going. And that's just one area where, you know, you look at it.

But you look at this, and right from the start it almost, like, there's something that's been flawed. There's something wrong here just the way the government's handling it. And you're starting to see I think situations arise and, maybe, I don't know if it's a conflict or misunderstanding, whether it's the municipalities, the city of Regina. So people are starting to obviously have some concerns. This legislation and just the plan that the government has and the way the government's wanting to take this over, it's starting to really raise some concerns. And I think people are watching, and I think people have some true concerns. And I don't think it's on any part of anyone trying to mislead here. I think it's clear. There are some true concerns from individuals and from municipalities and from the city of Regina itself that, you know, they've got some areas where I think there's miscommunication or misunderstanding. You know, I don't know exactly what it is, but I hope they get an opportunity to raise those concerns that they're having.

And the way this government is handling this, whether it's the municipality or whether it's the city of Regina, that they get a chance as, you know, mayor and council and their administrators do, to raise the concerns, and the developers that they use, and how they're saying . . . We know that they want to

work with the government, and they want to work with industry. They want to make sure that this is a fair process, that they want to be a part of the growing province, and they see the plan to be very good. I know that. You watch the way they handle things and the way they work with industry, whether it's a small company, a large company. So you have that.

So right now just looking at that area in itself raises some real concerns, the way the government's taking control of that. And if that's the way they're going, I'm wondering why, why the government wants to take control of the GTH in that way. Why would they want to take over the authority of it . . . [inaudible] . . . whether it's going into a Crown or a board. We're not sure what exactly their plan is and where they're going.

And I think there's a lot of questions and I think people are confused. And I think the government owes an explanation and to make sure that those authorities have a chance to express their concerns. And I'm hoping the government will allow that provision to happen because they'd better be allowing that. Because you have municipalities and our cities who are supposed to be our partners, who we're supposed to be working with as a government when we're expanding or going into an area like this. It's supposed to be beneficial for all Saskatchewan residents, and just some of the concerns that, you know, are being raised here.

And I want to make it very clear. I hope there is provisions for the government to allow that whether it's in committee, whether it would be here to voice their concern to government. There has to be that opportunity for people that are concerned in our province and whether they're leaders, whether they're a municipality, whether they're business people, if they have issues and concerns, whether they're residents who own land.

And that takes us to another area. There's some legal actions sounds like is going on here in this file where land was taken over by individuals and whether they were told one thing, whether it's a misunderstanding. I guess it's going to be going to the courts. And it looks like there'll be a lawsuit here could be going. And is that the way it's going to be . . . you're dealing with your residents of our province? And if you're sharing stuff with them and you're sharing information with them and if they're understanding it and they're being dealt with, that's all we've asked.

And we see today an example, you know, the member from Athabasca raised some concerns for residents about the way they're being dealt with, with their land and the way their land's being . . . All they're asking for is to be treated fair. They want a fair value. They have nothing against growth. They're there. They're saying yes, we agree; we understand that. But I guess it's the way this government handles things.

And it goes to show again the way the Sask Party government deals with . . . When they want something, it doesn't matter. They don't have to consult you. They'll just go ahead and do what they want. And we're the government; we'll do what we want. And that attitude is what's going to get this government in trouble. And it's showing that, you know, and I keep saying this: it's a stone in the backpack. But carry it on, carry on. If that's the way they want to carry on the business and they want to talk about the growth plan and all that stuff, people and these

individuals, I don't see them being opposed to growth and the provisions in here.

I think it makes good sense to make sure that we're working with individuals when we are going to take over their land; when we're working with municipalities, to make sure that we're communicating with them to make sure everybody understands what's the intention of the government by the provisions that it's passing and legislation that it's bringing in. What is the whole plan? And you better make sure that you're being fair, honest, upfront with those organizations because you will get a backlash from that. And I think that's starting to happen, and I think this government is starting to see.

Now you also look at some of the stuff and I think some of the companies that have said they were willing to come here, and you look at some of those companies. Kal Tire was the one I know the minister had to head off, and he went off to BC [British Columbia] to try to deal with the situation that . . . you know, to try to make sure that that wasn't lost. And we'll see where that all goes at the end of the day. Will they be in there or are they going to choose to go somewhere else? It's going to be interesting to see. Do they stay in Saskatchewan? Are they going to another province? Or are they going to be, you know, around the hub, or where exactly are they going to go? And we'll see exactly where that is. And until that plan is definite, I guess we're not sure. So that just goes to show you some of the challenges that are going on here, the handling of this whole file, and that's the concern I think that people are expressing.

And when you see this many different, whether it's business, the industry, whether you see the municipalities, whether you see individuals with the kind of concern they're raising and some of the action — and you look at the media and you look at the Privacy Commissioner — people are weighing in on this. There's something, something . . . Something's wrong here. There are concerns. People are raising legit concerns. And I don't know that this government is listening. They're just, you know, bullheaded, going ahead with what they want. Somebody wants this for some reason. And you know, you're looking at different things. So it's not clear in here, and I think we're going to get a lot of opportunity yet. And like I said, individuals want to make sure that they have an opportunity.

Now you talk about an opportunity, and it's quite a large area where, you know, 2,000 acres of land, and we see some of the work going on already, you know, with the I guess the . . . Is it a bypass? And they're talking about the lanes and I guess if it's twinning or they'll have four lanes in that area. It's by the airport. And I just look at some of the comments that the minister made and where they're going. And I was actually through there today. And it's interesting. There's an overpass, and you see them going ahead and doing some activity over there and moving ahead with that.

And I guess nobody's opposed to growth and, you know, we want that to be because it creates jobs, and we want industry to come here. But we want to make sure that we're working with industry, we're working with the municipalities, and whether that's, you know, the municipal mayor and council, you know, Sherwood. You look at different ones. Whether it's the mayor of Regina and council, you want to make sure that those individuals and those municipalities are working and good.



And it's not that the government's taking over and trying to say, well we want this, and we're going to take over, and we're going to charge. We're going to have the authority, and we want to make sure that we have the provisions to say how we want it to be. And whether it's an authority or whatever they're going to do, it's very concerning. And I think people are raising those concerns right now. So this legislation is not . . . I don't think those individuals are done with it. And I know my colleagues aren't done with it.

And you know, you look at, clearly, fair value. And that's what people are asking for. And you see some of the reports here, even some of the councillors saying that the people that own that land, that property belongs to them, those individuals. Whether they're families, whether they're farmers, whether they are running a business out there, they want a fair market value.

And when you have councillors, you know, and news articles that you talk about . . . Councillors of the RMs are saying, you know, that they are not getting the fair market value for that property. The government's not dealing with them and fair. Then you know that clearly — and that was raised today — that you better start paying attention as a government that you're not treating people fair. You can't go off and do the way, the handling, and think you can get away with that. It's just not going to . . . It's not the way it is.

It's no different than I look at my grandfather and when we were on the farm. And as a veteran and very proud Métis person, there was no way my grandfather would have stood by, and I know that. And his family would have supported him and the people around. But somebody was going to come and just take his land and tell him, this is the way it's going to be and we're going to take it. There would have been a heck of a fight. Now he is a . . .

You know, when I think about it, a well-respected man in our community, my grandfather was. He was a Métis leader. He did lots. He worked with people and he helped people, but he just wanted to be treated fair. And that's the type of man he was. And I give a lot of respect to that. That's the values taught. You've got to make sure you're talking with individuals. When I see his land today . . . And my mother owns that land. She retains that land and that was, you know, what he left her. And I'm very proud as the oldest child he had of 13, very clearly.

So when we look at that and those areas, the way of the handling of it, you see the concern and the frustration of the individuals that were here today. And I know we met with some of them and my colleagues met with them and listened to their concerns about, they just want to be treated fair. They want to be treated with respect. And I don't think that's happening; this government is not doing that. And they have to do a better job. You know, you talk about the growth and you talk about working with Saskatchewan people, but be careful. Don't take Saskatchewan people for granted. Don't. You know, they deserve better. They deserve respect and they deserve to have their land valued at fair market value and compensated that way.

Government sees it as the plan, and they're willing to work with you. And I think these individuals are willing to work with

government and work with the municipalities and work to make sure that there's growth. And I never heard that they are opposed to that. They are making it very clear in this provision, in here, they want fair compensation and that hasn't happened.

Now you know, you go back. And I want to think because I think it's important — the letter, you know — and looking at the minister receiving the letter from the Privacy Commissioner about the provision. And he makes it very clear. You're using public dollars. How are you going to report that? And how will the public have access to the information and the plan that you're going out and the way monies are going to be spent? And if it's public dollars being used, then the public has a right. And I think clearly if you're going to make it a Crown or authority or whatever and if government is going to have the power over that and hire staff — and they're looking at that and that provision — and if that's how they're going to operate this thing, then they have to make sure that they have provisions. And again I think this is good then. And it's timely that the Privacy Commissioner is asking for clarification on this. And I think it's only right. And it's public dollars; that needs to happen.

Now I know my colleagues and I know the member from Rosemont has made it very clear, his concerns, you know, whether it's in questions he's asked the minister. And we've talked and asked for clarification on some of that, whether it was Kal Tire and that stuff, when we seen the minister heading off and doing what he was doing, damage control or whatever. But it goes back to making sure, making sure that the industry and the partners that are going into that area feel that you're doing the right thing, that provisions are there for them to make sure they want to go in that area. So we don't know what all the details are. And I know there's more, there's going to have to be more questions worked out. And there's a lot of questions and a lot of concerns people are raising.

So I talk about a number of different groups that are raising concerns — talking about lawsuits, you're talking about municipalities that are not real happy, that they have issues and concerns that they want to address. You see a government just taking over or being heavy-handed. You see the Privacy Commissioner weighing in on it. That's good, and I'm glad he is. So you see so many different individuals talking about it, whether it's councillors talking about fair market value and people being . . .

So I think this government needs to make sure. They need to go back to the draft paper and maybe truly consult with individuals in making sure that this is the right way to go and that they are respecting the individuals that should be shown the respect by a government. And this government is not doing that, unfortunately, clearly by the information that's in front of me in this folder. And I know there's going to be lots of questions in committee. That will definitely happen.

[16:00]

But I know there's more discussions. And I know we have more questions and, you know, we want to debate this bill more on the floor here. So at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 81.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 81, *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 83

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Boyd that **Bill No. 83 — *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 83, *An Act respecting Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is brand new legislation. It is quite lengthy in that it tries to deal with a whole number of the issues that arise around the recruitment of foreign workers and then the immigration services that relate to those foreign workers.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to try to trace a bit of the history of this legislation in Saskatchewan. It was introduced by the minister here in this legislature just last December 4th, about four months ago. But we note that in October of 2009 there was a story in Manitoba that involved four Filipino workers who were having trouble with immigration issues, and as it came out, it appeared that there was a connection to Saskatchewan. And so at that point the Manitoba Labour minister, Nancy Allan, identified this issue. And it says here in the news story dated October 7th, 2009 that she talked with the Saskatchewan Labour minister who was then, in October 2009, starting to work on legislation to deal with these registration of immigration consultants and dealing with mistreatment of foreign workers.

So that's three, three and a half years ago that this issue arose. Now it came forward again in April of 2011, which is two years ago, and at that point there was a suggestion that legislation was being developed by the Saskatchewan's Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration. And at that point, employers and . . . Well employers specifically were encouraged to send any comments that they had to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration around legislation and regulatory protection for foreign workers. And at that point the suggestion was that it would include the whole issue of immigration consultants. And so that work obviously continued.

And so then last fall we had the introduction of this particular legislation in December of 2012. And so, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Immigration who brought this bill forward says that it's some of the most comprehensive legislation to try to protect workers. And he's indicated that the whole bill's purpose is to balance the rights and obligations of recruiters, immigration consultants, and employers, and the newcomers — the new employees — during a process of recruiting and then their

immigration to Saskatchewan. But he pointed out quite clearly that it doesn't affect their rights as workers in the workplace.

And it's obviously quite timely legislation given all of the concerns raised on a national level about the temporary worker situation. And I think there are some issues maybe in this legislation that we may have to look at more closely in committee to see how the legislation deals with temporary foreign workers as opposed to foreign workers who are recruited and are coming here as immigrants. As we all know, the traditional method of foreign workers coming to Canada was as new immigrants with the goal that they would bring their families and integrate into the community. But what we've seen over the last number of months now is that there's been a substantial increase in the numbers of what some other countries call guest workers, or people who are here on a temporary basis, and they are treated differently than somebody who is coming here to live and develop a long-term relationship with the country of Canada.

We know that there have been different types of legislation developed around the world to deal with guest workers. The most prominent example I think relates to the country of Germany, where they have, for example, about 2 million guest workers who came from Turkey to be part of their economic activity probably 30 to 40 years ago. And it's taken a long time for some of those initial issues around the role of guest workers in a society to be resolved within the country of Germany.

I think that you can look at other countries around the world. There's I think some similar issues in France, also in Great Britain and in the Netherlands, where issues around the role of the foreign worker and how their rights are protected within the community become broader issues for the whole community.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we look at Bill No. 83 it seems, well it attempts to be quite narrow in its application to effectively talk about foreign worker recruitment and immigration services. And it has quite a number of definitions and it sets up a director whose job it is to monitor all these activities. But the prime focus of the bill is the licensing of foreign worker recruiters and immigration consultants on one side, and then I think it goes further as we move along to register employers of foreign nationals.

So the scheme that has been developed is that you would end up having anybody who wants to have foreign workers employed in their business, that they would have to get a particular licence. They would have to register. And then if they in turn used a recruiter or an immigration consultant or some service like that, they would have to make sure that who they were dealing with was properly licensed in Saskatchewan.

And this is a method of regulating an activity that has worked in quite a number of instances, but it is a fairly expensive way to do that. And I know that the minister was quite clear in saying that it would be the employers who would pay for the fees and licences related to this whole service, that it wouldn't be something that would be borne by the general taxpayers of Saskatchewan. And that's not a bad thing, but it is a factor in how this whole service is developed. And it also then affects the robustness, if I can use that word, the strength of the regulatory organization that's set up.

I'm not sure how many people would be using this particular bill or this particular system in Saskatchewan. I know that in some of the information provided by the Government of Saskatchewan, they indicate there's about 4,000 foreign workers who would come to Saskatchewan in a year. It may be more than that; it may be less. I'm not totally certain. But if this is a fairly extensive and large system that's created, and all of the costs are being borne by the employers of these foreign workers, I can see that there may be some tension around the cost.

What we also know, and sort of one, well one of the biggest issues that arises in the various stories of temporary foreign workers who are here is the kinds of costs that are imposed upon the foreign workers by their new employers, whether it's reimbursement for transportation costs to get to Canada, reimbursement for the consultants if it's an immigration consultant or the foreign worker recruiter, and all those costs. So I would suspect that there may be some attempt to collect the fees related to this whole licensing and registration system from the foreign workers as well.

Now I don't know if there's some direct attempt to deal with that, but ultimately we know that people who are coming to work here want to work here. They want to receive the wages. And I think it may be a fairly difficult thing to monitor and control as the system is developed.

So one of factors obviously in this legislation becomes what are the penalties or what kind of things can you do wrong or what kinds of things can you get charged with — if I can use that term — if you are going to breach this legislation. And those offences are set out in section 40 of the bill — it's on page 15 — and it's got everything from failure to provide notice of documents or providing information, false statements. Those are all those kinds of things, but also being basically if you unlawfully obstruct or interfere with the director or the system.

And when you look at the types of fines, they go up to \$50,000 if it's an individual that's made a breach, or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both, and if it's a corporation, a fine of up to \$100,000. So clearly the intent is to show that this is serious and that we don't want people to be breaking these particular rules. But once again we're dealing with people who . . . Well you hope you get them licensed and maybe even have a bond or something in place as it relates to the foreign worker recruiters or the immigration consultants, but if there are offences by some of the individuals, it probably is something that's going to be quite difficult to enforce.

So we have a fairly long piece of legislation. It's got lots of, lots of rules in there. It's got the appeal processes which it should have, including appeal finally to the Court of Queen's Bench and then obviously from there to higher, up the courts, Court of Appeal and to the Supreme Court if necessary.

[16:15]

And so practically we have a whole system that's being implemented to deal with the foreign worker recruiters and with immigration consultants. And the goal is good — protect the foreign workers, the temporary foreign workers — but it's a fairly big initiative and it has costs attached.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that the legislation has been developed after a number of years of work. It covers many different areas, but it does still end up, I think, having questions here in the legislature and most certainly in the committee. And so my intention at this point, Mr. Speaker, would be to request that debate be adjourned and so that some of my colleagues could speak to this as well. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 83, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 89

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doherty that **Bill No. 89** — *The Creative Saskatchewan Act* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 89, *An Act respecting Creative Saskatchewan*. And it was introduced just last week it looks like, April 8th, about a week ago today. Monday it came forward. So we haven't had much time to take a look at it.

There certainly has been a lot of attention paid to this file and clearly there should be. This represents our culture. It represents who we are. And we have such a proud history here in Saskatchewan that we really need to make sure we do the right thing here. And so clearly this is one that's going to cause a lot of interest from our side because we have seen some, I would say, bungling of this file when it comes to the film tax credit and how that was handled. It was clearly an ideologically driven decision where you have reports and then after the fact and then you have ministers, and more than one minister and the Premier who cannot explain fully why is it when you see a healthy, thriving industry, creative industry, that seemed to be singled out and attacked the way that it was. And so we have lots of questions. We have lots of questions about this. And I know that as we move forward, this will unfold more.

And I think in our 65th anniversary of the Arts Board, of which we are very proud here in Saskatchewan, the first outside the first that was set up in Britain . . . And so we have a proud history of creating an environment where artists are respected and they can thrive. But it is a challenge, and so clearly we need to make sure as a government we recognize our role to be supportive and make sure that artists receive the training, the education, and then the environment in which they can thrive and in which they can be also viable.

And I know that this government likes to think that everything is all about entrepreneurship, but there is an artistic value. And sometimes that is a challenge. I think about in my own city, in my own riding, where we have the Remai Art Gallery coming up in a few years to be built. And we're looking forward to that,

and already Mrs. Remai has bought 20 prints by Picasso. And of course Picasso, in many ways, was driven to do his art and it wasn't about being an entrepreneur. It was about seeking his fulfillment of his artistic vision and what that meant, and I think that's an important element. And I'm not actually seeing it from this government.

I see a government that views the world through the business lens, which is appropriate. In many instances it is an appropriate, it is an appropriate world view for sure. The entrepreneurial drive is an important one. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I spoke about one story today in a member's statement that it can be and it should be honoured and allowed to thrive.

But I am concerned when we see a government that is picking winners and losers and then coming up with after-the-fact kind of initiatives. And we I think have a lot of questions, will have lots of questions about the work here, and considering too that this bill will only be able to be debated a few short weeks before it becomes law and we really won't get to know it in the detail that we should have. And I know the minister and his government often talks at length about its consultation process, but clearly if there's an area where you can see . . . And I actually can point out very, very many instances where this government has failed in terms of consultations. We can add the cultural community as yet another one.

And I think that whether it was environmental or whether it was when we talked a few years ago about the world or *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* and the lack of consultation on that and whether that was the Bill 85 and the lack of consultation on that, and the list goes on. The list goes on. And we saw it with the film tax credit that all of a sudden it came out of nowhere. And that was a real problem. So these folks suffer a major lack of credibility when it comes to consultation and how do they pick winners and losers. And clearly this is yet another example that we are concerned about. Will this follow, go down that road? And what does this mean for the cultural community?

So we'll have questions but we want to make sure we talk a fair bit about this because not only when we talk about the artistic vision and how we make sure people in their drive to commercialize their initiatives, it's not only about being a commercial success. It's about artistic success and that sometimes is an uncomfortable thing because we often think of artistic things as only the sense is it pleasing to the eye. It has to be much more than that. It has to represent who we are and it's about honouring and respecting the artist's vision of the world before us.

The minister has in his remarks, and each of us will probably take different perspectives on this, but I do want to talk about one that is near and dear to my heart and that is from the worker point of view here. The minister talks about microenterprises. And I know that over the course of the past several years, folks that are involved in the cultural community have raised concerns about what does it mean to be a worker in these enterprises, and whether it's having a pension at the end of their work, their careers, and some sort of stability and predictability. That's a big deal. That's a big deal for everyone. And for those who are in the arts, it's a very significant deal because they don't get regular paycheques and so how do we make sure, well how do we make sure that happens? How do we make sure?

One of the biggest areas . . . Well there's many and I want to talk about a living wage and what does that mean for those people who are in the arts. What does it mean to have a living wage? Not just the minimum wage but a wage in which you can support your family, have your kids participate in our community activities, that type of thing. And why is it that they must pay a certain price because their work is not being honoured? So how does that meet this? This is very, very important work.

A few years ago we did, when we were on government side, we did a project around the vulnerable worker. And many people in the arts feel themselves as vulnerable workers because they're at risk in terms of so much that many of us who are in the regular workforce take for granted — the regular paycheques, the protection particularly around labour standards. Quite often labour standards does not meet the unique needs of the cultural community. And so it would be very interesting to read how and talk to the minister about his world view of how does he view protection when he talks about microenterprises for those who are engaged in the cultural sector.

The other one that is very, very, very important of course is occupational health and safety and the protection from injuries that may occur in that circumstance. And I think of two that are. And it's the visual arts, both as sculptors who are dealing with a lot of dust in studios that are not vented properly, that type of thing. How do we deal with that? That's really important that we make sure that we do that.

Folks who are involved with the visual arts, particularly painting, that's really critically important because again it's the studios and workspaces that really should be upgraded and that because of poor ventilation or different circumstances that they don't meet safety standards. And somehow we have to be able to meet that and help artists be able to do that — have safe workplaces. And it's not an easy thing to do because these folks don't have a lot of money, a lot of resources. And how do we make sure that's the case?

And you can go through several, several examples of where, in terms of occupational health and safety, it would be an important area that we should look at. Now clearly in a province that has been talking about Mission: Zero, that this is one area I think that we should really take a look at, you know.

And unfortunately I don't know in fact if this industry makes an impact on our WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] stats just because of the size of the industry, but also that many are just not registered. And it's one of those kind of circumstances where you don't really, you're not having the kind of impact that maybe, say the construction industry is; whether it's commercial or residential, it's just not the same size so it doesn't have the impact. But we know it's there. And when we have legislation like this, it is our responsibility as a government that we do the right thing, that we think about the needs of everyone. And when we take pride in our arts, that we know it's been done in a safe process that has not been exploitive, but in fact it's one that we can all share in pride. And that's very, very important.

And it used to be, well that's just an artist's life. Or, I think, in many ways they were referred to as the starving artists. And I

think we've come a long way in appreciating that just isn't on anymore. That might have been quaint at one time, but it's not on anymore. And we have to make sure people of all walks of life have a living wage, a safe place to work, and that when we talk about this kind of work that we're making sure that there is a standard, that there is a standard.

And when we had talked about actually, in our consultations in the fall on Bill 85, one of the concepts that came up was how do we protect individual contractors or the small contractors? Now artists may not think of themselves in that way, and I know the minister has raised the concept of the entrepreneur, and in many ways that is the reality they find themselves in. But is there protection for them and does this legislation do that or is it a vehicle for funding? And while that may be good and that may be what part of the answer is, we need much more rigorous work around this area.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to just review what I've said, that in fact we believe this government suffers a significant, significant gap in terms of their integrity in terms of the work in the creative field, the cultural area, just because of the kind of work that's gone on, particularly last year with the film tax credit in the film industry where we've seen a gutting of an industry and people moving away. And it's so tragic when you see that and you know people who have moved away, that when they talk about how they're going to do the right thing, well the proof will be in the pudding. And we will see what this means.

[16:30]

So they have a lot of work, a lot of work to do this. And you know, for a government that often talks about how people should admit when they've done wrong, we've not seen this from this government, not even when the chamber of commerce says, you know, I think they were wrong headed about the film tax credit. This government will just not admit that on that one they did the wrong thing. They did the wrong thing. And it shows a certain lack of class, and it hits them in integrity. And it doesn't make a lot of common sense, does it?

And so, Mr. Speaker, with that, you know, I think that we will have many, many questions about *The Creative Saskatchewan Act*, particularly in terms of their world view of what does it mean from an artistic point of view or is everything going to be driven by a commercialization entrepreneur world view, which in and of itself is not a bad thing. But if you apply that to everything you do, then we have problems and we have problems. It's not the type of Saskatchewan that I know many people value and think highly of and, as I've said, particularly when it comes to the Arts Board and how it's been arm's length and supports arts in a full way with respect and integrity.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we will have a lot of questions. And I will be asking the minister especially when it comes to the labour perspective because I know that there is been a lot of concerns that's overlooked, that's overlooked, that the government thinks if you send a cheque, you've got the grant. There's no need for labour standards or occupational health and safety discussions. And that clearly is not the case. It clearly is not the case.

We need to do more to protect our artists and make sure that, like any other person who works in this province, whatever

their work is, that they're safe and they're not exploited. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know there'll be many people who want to speak on Bill No. 89, *The Creative Saskatchewan Act*, and therefore I adjourn debate on Bill No. 89. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 89, *The Creative Saskatchewan Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 90

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 90 — *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2013*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's always great to be recognized in this Assembly, on this floor, to be able to rise in my place and participate in the debate on Bill No. 90, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2013*.

You know it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, for fans of the history of local governance, this one bears particular interest, I would submit, to the Assembly's attention. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting the way that this bill has come forward. It's interesting the way that the different sort of commentators that have weighed in on it to date, and it's going to be very interesting to see what sort of use is made of this piece of legislation. And you know, all that on top of what is a \$250,000 expenditure in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker.

The way this has come forward of course, contending in terms of the defence made by the minister in his second reading speech, to deal with the planning and development concerns that arise in the province of Saskatchewan and that need for inter-municipal co-operation, that need for regional co-operation, how do you foster that? And I guess again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the history of local governance in this province, the fact that we have 786 municipalities in this province, the different efforts made by governments of different stripes historically, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the question of how do you, as the provincial government, work with municipalities to bring about greater regional co-operation, greater inter-municipal co-operation?

And believe me, Mr. Speaker, I think you're making exactly the appropriate gestures here in terms of what this may entail if the government falls off the tightrope that they're trying to walk here as regards regional co-operation.

Of course last year in the raft of legislative secretary appointments, the number escapes me in terms of how many legislative secretaries were appointed. But I don't know if it was a baker's dozen or a round dozen or, you know, it was some significant number as such.

**An Hon. Member:** — Fourteen over there.

**Mr. McCall:** — Fourteen, it could have been. How do you deal with . . . A nice round number perhaps. But one of those legislative secretaries, Mr. Speaker, was of course the member from Melfort who was appointed as the Legislative Secretary for regional co-operation. And I can't help it if he's been taking counsel from his seatmate, the member from Melville — or the member in front of him, Melville-Saltcoats — who of course had some very well-articulated views on the whole matter of regional co-operation, regional amalgamation, how all these things work, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, it's I guess another sort of criticism I'd have of the way that these members have dealt with the whole question of legislative secretaries. In the past, ministers have had ministerial mandate letters, and you got some of the marching orders. You got a sense of what their task is, laid out in front of them by the Premier. And you know, I'm on record, and I'll say it again, Mr. Speaker: I thought that was an improvement to the kind of accountability that we should be pursuing here in the legislature in terms of having that yardstick to measure performance alongside in terms of having greater understanding on the part of the people of Saskatchewan and the official opposition as to just what members in government are up to, be they ministers or in this case legislative secretaries.

So where they're at in terms of the whole question of ministerial mandate letters, you know, it's a bit of an open question right now, Mr. Speaker. But as regards the legislative secretaries, it's an even broader question in terms of what are the specific marching orders for those individuals. What are the performance measures? What will they be held to account on? And what are their objectives?

So the member from Melfort, being appointed as Legislative Secretary for regional co-operation, we're interested to see that. And we're also, you know, left wondering, just what the heck is that member going to be up to as the Legislative Secretary for regional co-operation? And apparently, you know, the work has resulted in or has been complemented perhaps by a \$250,000 expenditure in the budget as regards regional co-operation. How that's going to be spent, how that's going to be deployed, well you know, we've got some questions that we'll surely be asking in estimates, Mr. Speaker.

But it does, you know, in terms of the legislation that's in front of us here and the way that it now gives the minister a hammer to force regional co-operation, it's going to be interesting to see if the Legislative Secretary gets near the hammer or if he's going to be carrying the hammer for the minister as the minister sets about to lower the boom. Or will he be a czar? Or will he be a mini czar? Will it be a good cop/bad cop scenario, Mr. Speaker? We're very interested to see how this all works out.

You know, will they be swooping, from an incident of lack of co-operation, in a motorcycle and a sidecar? How's this relationship going to work? Who's going to be writing the cheques on that quarter of a million that they've set aside for regional co-operations? It's going to be mightily interesting to see how this all unfolds, Mr. Speaker.

But I guess the thing that is of greatest interest to us in the

opposition benches is the power that is invested in this legislation for the minister to direct regional co-operation. So again is it really co-operation if it's directed by ministerial mandate, Mr. Speaker? Well you know, I think there's some longstanding opinions on that matter in this House, and it'll be interesting to see if it's just a matter of people saying one thing in opposition and then something else when they hit the government benches. Because I guess, not to lean too heavily on the member from Melville-Saltcoats and I've followed him with great interest over the years because he's had a lot of interesting things to say, but I think the member from Melville-Saltcoats is on record as saying, you can say just about anything in opposition, Mr. Speaker.

And apparently, apparently he did particularly, particularly with regards to this subject, Mr. Speaker. And so how this all works out in terms of, you know, is it co-operation if the minister has to direct it? You know, how this all squares, how this comes out in the wash, we'll be mightily interested to see how this works out, Mr. Speaker.

We'll be interested to see who they're going to be listening to in terms of the kind of balances they've got to square here, Mr. Speaker. Will it be the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities? And I should also state, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting. Usually with legislation of this magnitude, there's a fairly long list of people that have been consulted in terms of the construction of the legislation. And it seems to be kind of absent in this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. And maybe we can get that cleared up in committee or maybe members opposite have some information that they'd be able to relate or maybe the Legislative Secretary for regional co-operation has got the inside track on how this all works or doesn't. You know, I guess we'll see how this all shakes out, Mr. Speaker.

But it was interesting to note that when this \$250,000 expenditure came forward in the budget, it was interesting to see the commentators that weighed in. One of them of course was John Gormley — you know, a fairly constant friend of that government opposite and often given to writing glowing critiques of actions of the members opposite. And what Gormley had to say on the day after the budget in the pages of the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* was:

. . . a regional planning approach where local governments in the same area, in particular cities and adjoining municipalities, should do their development planning as an overall region, rather than as individual and often competing entities.

. . . The warning is that they can choose to play nice or government will be snapping into line unco-operative and difficult RMs that are impeding progress.

Again, Mr. Speaker, you know, does John Gormley know something that hasn't been fully communicated in this Chamber or in terms of the way that this legislation is coming forward? Was there some kind of consultation that went on in terms of, you know, the highlights of the budget that, you know, the Tory insiders got in terms of the talking points? Or is there something else afoot here? Or is he just that good, Mr. Speaker, in terms of figuring out the agenda of this government and having the finger on the pulse over there? I guess we'll have to wait and

see.

But another commentator, the very next day in Saturday's *Leader-Post* is where I read it, certainly an individual that's made a great contribution to various pursuits in public policy around this province but, you know, one-time Sask Party appointed head of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, SIAST. I'm speaking of course of Alan Thomarat. You know, nice individual. But it was interesting what he had to say in the *Leader-Post*. And it was as follows, and I quote, Mr. Speaker:

Regional collaboration will allow many urban and rural municipalities to combine resources to make planning and development more efficient and economically sustainable. Currently, Saskatchewan has 786 municipalities, which reduces the economic benefits of population density and critical mass. Reorganizing the existing municipal model to a regional governance model can increase planning and funding efficiencies for municipalities . . .

Adopting Regional Planning Authorities will serve where necessary local, rural and regional interests, but moreover they will enhance provincewide efforts to grow the New Saskatchewan.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker. If that was in some kind of mandate letter for the Legislative Secretary for regional co-operation, you know, it would have pointed out certain matters of irony to be dealt with, Mr. Speaker, but that would have been helpful in terms of figuring out what the agenda of this government is around regional co-operation.

But when it comes forward from two, you know, fairly closely aligned voices when it comes to the affairs of this government, around a more, how shall we say, directed approach to regional . . . to use their phrase, co-operation, Mr. Speaker — and again the whole matter of, you know, is it co-operation if it's been dictated to you by the minister? — and you know, how that squares with their historical record on these matters, Mr. Speaker, well I guess we're going to see how that all comes out in the wash.

But it would have been good to have those kind of insights, you know, hard-wired into the mandate for the Legislative Secretary. It would have been good if they'd drawn that kind of attention to this big quarter of a million dollar expenditure in the budget.

[16:45]

And I guess, you know, with all respect to the member from Melfort, the Legislative Secretary for regional co-operation, with all respect to the quarter of a million dollars of expenditure, Mr. Speaker, you know, not to dismiss the merits of those markers on the table here, Mr. Speaker, the real power is in this legislation. The real showstopper is in this legislation.

And in terms of the minister having the authority to direct whether or not municipalities get along, whether or not they're going to be working together in a common planning model, the myriad of powers that are carved out for the minister in this piece of legislation, it's pretty interesting to see. And it's pretty

rich to see this coming forward, particularly given some of the ways that members opposite have gone on the record over the years as regards whether or not we should have, how many municipalities we should have in this province and how economic that is and how we balance these competing interests of local governance and local democracy off in terms of a rational regional planning model, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, how this all comes out in the wash, we shall see. But I guess one thing that is instructive is the way that the members opposite and way members of that cabinet have approached local people in terms of . . . And you know, the case that we saw here today in terms of whether or not the Ministry of Highways uses the powers, the huge power of expropriation, and what leads up to that, Mr. Speaker. And again, the minister tried to say, well you know, this is the same model as the NDP. So you know, yet again it's the NDP's fault, you know. Like when does that come to an end? When does that hit the best-before date? I guess, you know, six years on and it's still going strong, Mr. Speaker. But I don't know when they're going to look in the mirror and realize that they're responsible for their own actions. But we'll see how that all shakes out.

But as regards the way that they've wielded this powerful tool such as expropriation as the Ministry of Highways and the way that we hear from citizens in this province who feel like they have not been dealt with fairly, who feel like they have not been dealt with squarely in terms of the approach of this government, well you know, the proof is in the pudding, Mr. Speaker.

So we heard members opposite say just about anything in opposition over the years in terms of regional co-operation or regional planning or those kind of things, or the importance of local governance or local democracy. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I guess this is where the rubber hits the road. You know, it's interesting to see how members opposite are conducting themselves in this passage. It's interesting to see the kind of powers that are being secured for them in this piece of legislation, and if there's a rationale . . . I guess one of the things that, you know, if these powers are called for, then make the case for it. Don't try to do some kind of sneak attack where the people you let in on it are like Thomarat and Gormley; they're the ones with the inside track on what's happening with this government's agenda. If you're going to be moving for this kind of power, you know, own up to it. You know, let it be known what you're about. But of course, Mr. Speaker, they've got to square the circle in terms of what's been their record and what's, you know, they think is going to make sense.

And it's also interesting, Mr. Speaker, again in terms of recent experience on the part of the people of Saskatchewan, the way that this government utilizes existing powers in the legislation and what concepts like consultation mean to them and what concepts like, you know, due process mean to them. So we'll see how this all shakes out, Mr. Speaker. But you know, it's interesting the way this legislation has come forward. Not the immediate circumstance in which it's come forward, but it's mightily interesting to know something of the historical record, Mr. Speaker, and ways that members opposite got on the record in terms of the question of so-called regional co-operation, you know, regional co-operation where it depends on the minister having the hammer to force it, Mr. Speaker.

Well it would be interesting to know, you know, if some of the members opposite were, you know, if the tables were turned, what they'd have to say about that. And I think they'd say some pretty outrageous things about that, Mr. Speaker. And I think they said some pretty outrageous things in the past about some pretty straightforward propositions, you know. Anyway we'll see how this shakes out, Mr. Speaker. But if it's anything like what's gone on to date, you know, it's not a lot of hope.

And I know the minister can drive around with that Legislative Secretary in the sidecar all he likes. I know they can maybe fight over who's going to sign the cheques on that big quarter of a million bucks that they've got in store in terms of trying to facilitate this co-operation. But of course the real price, the real power is in this legislation, Mr. Speaker. And how that gets sorted out, we'll be watching with great interest from these benches.

Anyway you know, maybe that sidecar's going to hit a bump. Maybe, you know, he'll have to turn around, go back, pick up the Legislative Secretary, say, oh, oh, we've got some more regional co-operation to direct. We've got some more regional co-operation to force because now we've got the legislative power. You know, local decision making, well that was a nice thing we had a lot to say about back in the '90s, but not so much anymore, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway with that, Mr. Speaker, we'll be watching mightily close in terms of what happens with this piece of legislation in terms of Bill 90, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act*. It's too bad that they didn't call it the regional co-operation Act, you know, sort of play out the irony in the piece to the full extent, Mr. Speaker. But I guess the irony is speaking loud enough for itself. With that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill 90.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 90, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act*, 2013. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 91

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 91 — *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or Mr. Speaker. It's Mr. Speaker in the Chair now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into the debate on Bill No. 91, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act (No. 2)*.

What does this bill do, Mr. Speaker? This particular bill, or these amendments, will enable the Saskatchewan Pension Plan board of trustees and it enables the board to establish a pooled

registered pension plan, or PRPP, through the creation of a non-profit corporation to act as a PRPP. A separate legal entity is required to be the registered administrator in order to meet the requirements for a corporate administrator under *The Income Tax Act* and to create a legal separation between the existing Saskatchewan Pension Plan and the PRPP.

So to ensure the plan has a low-cost structure, the administrator corporation will be a non-profit corporation under the direct control of the Saskatchewan Pension Plan board of trustees because any property acquired by the administrator will have been funded by the plan members. Remaining property on dissolution would revert to members, and in order to maximize economies of scale for both the Saskatchewan Pension Plan and the pooled pension plan, the administrator will be obliged to invest the PRPP money in the Saskatchewan Pension Plan fund.

So this bill is enabling the creation of . . . There is a bill that follows this that actually will establish the pooled registered pension plan, Mr. Speaker. So what is some of the history of this? We need to look to see what the federal government has done. This is the federal government's way to support Canadians in retirement. I know one of the goals, many Canadians had been pushing for the increase to the Canada Pension Plan to ensure that all Canadians have an opportunity to contribute. So this is not an ideal way.

I'll just go through some of this here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So the one of the . . . Canada actually has a fairly comprehensive retirement income system. As the minister points out, it has several different pillars, three elements or three pillars. The first pillar consists of publicly-funded supports programs like old age security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement. And these programs are to provide a minimum level of financial support to Canadian seniors. Actually in recent times, actually the federal government, we've heard, is going to be upping the age at which you can access this plan to 67 from 65, which is hugely problematic, I think, should be from the province's perspective because that means the federal government has fobbed off responsibility onto citizens of the province and taxpayers of the province while the Government of Saskatchewan and every other provincial jurisdiction will have to take over supporting those individuals. So this is a huge difficulty for many people who will now not be able to access some of these programs until they're 67.

The second pillar consists of the Canada Pension Plan, which as we know is funded through earnings-based contributions from employees and employers. Participation in the CPP [Canada Pension Plan] is mandatory for all employed and self-employed Canadians. There are many people who've put forward very good arguments for enhancing this particular structure rather than pooled pension retirement funds, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And this is not the way, the direction the federal government has chosen to go in, which to our minds is problematic.

The third pillar consists of private retirement savings, including workplace pension plans and registered retirement savings plans or RRSPs. And participation in some occupational pension plans is a requirement of employment, and then obviously we know that participation in other private savings plans is entirely voluntary. And I know for many people that I speak to who are unable to plan properly for their retirement, it's not because



they don't want to, it's not because they're not thinking about it, but the amount of money that they have at the end of each month is not . . . With increasing rents, with increasing housing costs, with increasing cost to food, and the things that we need to live, as much as we'd even like to put \$100 away, that is a huge challenge for so many people.

1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:59.]

So relying on the private pension plans is hugely problematic for so many people. And it's not because people don't want to plan for their future, it's because they don't even have enough income today to ensure that they have a decent quality of life right now. So I know that the minister and the federal government, to address the gap in retirement savings for workers, there were several Canadian ministers across the provinces who proposed a new pension savings arrangement, the pooled registered pension plan, which is voluntary, less complex, and less costly for employers, and which allows the assets of employees for multiple employers to be pulled into a large cost-effective pension plan, which unto itself isn't a problem, Mr. Speaker. It's not that this itself is a problem. It's that you're missing a few pieces of the puzzle in terms of ensuring people have the income that they need in retirement.

As I said, I know, I speak to constituents on a regular basis who have far . . . who don't have money at the end of the month. And the goal, I know, when we talk about private pension plans, people say, oh just — or RRSPs [registered retirement savings plan] — well just take \$50, take \$100 off of each cheque. But when people are barely making it, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, \$50 off the top of a cheque to put into your retirement savings can be incredibly burdensome.

So it's not that pooled registered pension plans in and of themselves are a problem. And many people I'm sure will take advantage of them, and many employers. But I know that we do have some concerns just with the federal government's overall strategy on helping people into their future retirement years, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, so I know that many of us will have many comments on Bill No. 91, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act (No. 2)* going forward. And with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 91, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This House now stands adjourned to

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