



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

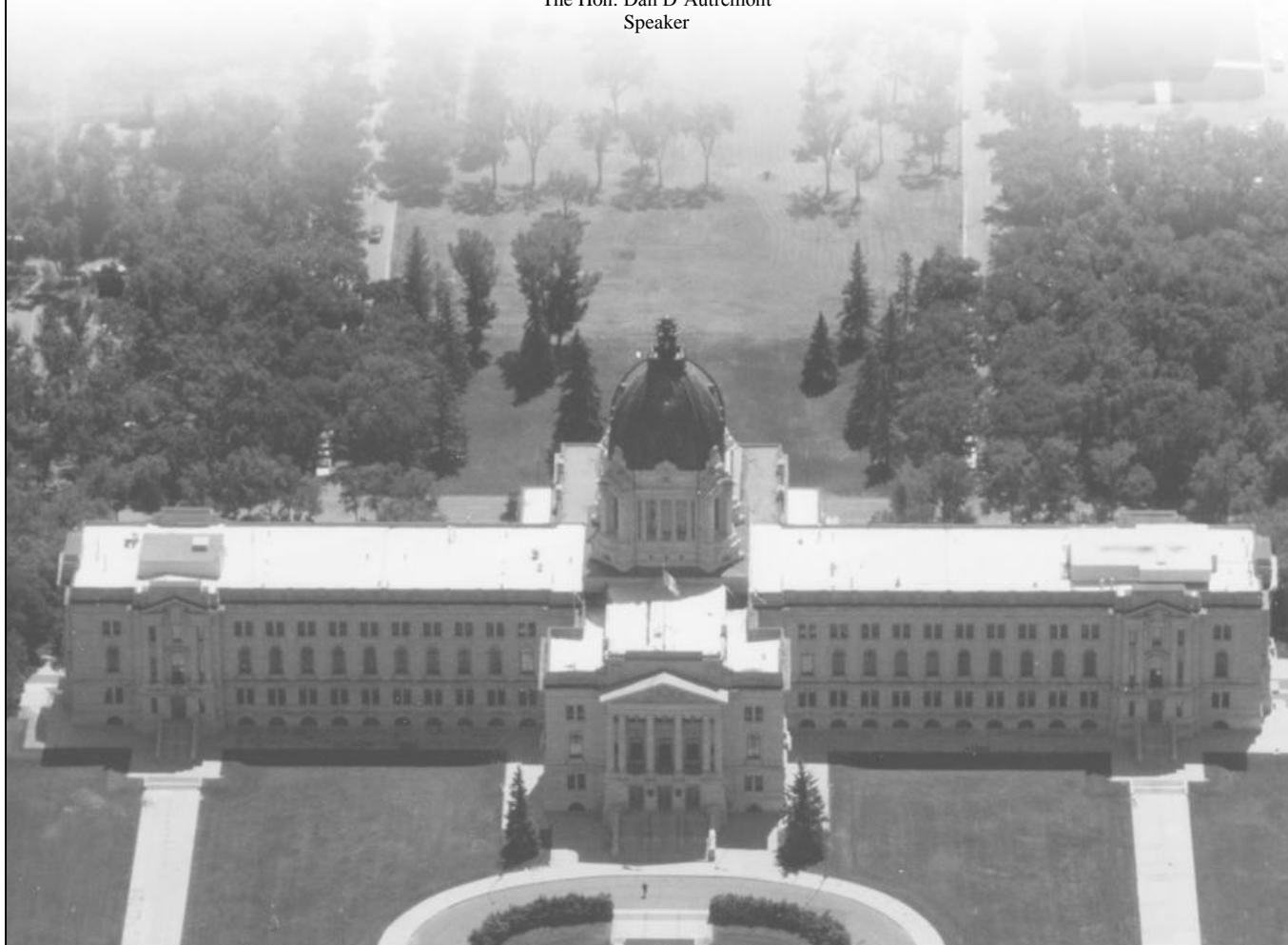
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Cam Broten

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Hon. Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I request leave of the Assembly for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks, colleagues in the legislature, for the leave. It's an honour for me to be able to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House, some special guests that have joined us in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. Larry Rosia is president and chief executive officer of SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology], the new president and chief executive officer of SIAST, if I can use that term. Mr. Speaker, he's also joined by the board of SIAST, Ralph Boychuk. I'm going to be meeting with these gentlemen a little bit later on about their ongoing plans for that very, very important institution within the province.

Mr. Speaker, I could tell you that Dr. Rosia joined SIAST in July of 2012. And so to say new is maybe a bit of a stretch, but certainly the introduction is the first chance that I've had to properly welcome him on behalf of the government here to Saskatchewan.

He had served 13 years prior to that as dean of the School of Construction at SAIT [Southern Alberta Institute of Technology] Polytechnic in Calgary. He's worked literally at every level of education in terms of his 35-year career. We're very pleased that he's made the move to Saskatchewan, like other Albertans have done over the last number of months, Mr. Speaker.

I also am honoured to introduce a friend, Ralph Boychuk, who has been involved in many aspects of the life of this province in terms of the banking industry and the business life of Saskatchewan through his involvement with the chamber of commerce where he was a former president of the Saskatchewan chamber, Mr. Speaker.

These gentlemen are leading SIAST at a very exciting time in the life of that particular institution. Our growing economy requires that we are training more and more, that we are providing more and more education to those who want to participate in that growing economy, Mr. Speaker, and SIAST is using innovative partnerships with industry to be able to meet

the labour shortage challenge that exists here.

Evidence of that was just earlier this week when SIAST received a large donation from K+S Potash — \$121,800 to go towards mining training in the province. It is good to have K+S back to the province after they left in the 1970s, Mr. Speaker.

I can tell this House that apprenticeship training is up 83 per cent, Mr. Speaker. I can tell this House that more than 17 per cent of SIAST's students are Aboriginal. And, Mr. Speaker, most importantly of all, I can tell you that SIAST grads are finding jobs right here in the province of Saskatchewan. We want to thank the doctor for his leadership to date, and we want to thank him in advance for what's to come. And we offer the same to the chairman of the board of SIAST. And in so doing, we welcome them to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Premier in welcoming Dr. Rosia and Mr. Boychuk to the Assembly. We know Dr. Rosia has a wealth of experience, and I'm sure that he'll be bringing that to his role at SIAST, which he's been in for a while now getting his feet under him, and will be providing leadership to the important institution that SIAST is here in Saskatchewan.

We all have constituents, family members, businesses that we know, Mr. Speaker, that have benefited from the good work that SIAST has done in this province over many years. And we know it's a hugely important institution for the future of our province. So we're happy that they're here in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you, two great entrepreneurs from our province. Brian Olson is president of Power Pin Inc. and Terry Jo Batke is vice-president and director of operations for the company.

Power Pin, Mr. Speaker, a Saskatchewan-based company from Fort Qu'Appelle, they're the world's largest supplier of implement hitches. They produce 220,000 of them around the world every year. You'll find them on the back end of almost every tractor produced in the world. They send them to countries of Brazil, Germany, France, Italy, the United States, England, Russia, Mr. Speaker. And they're currently developing a new system for smaller trucks, and they call it the Hit-N-Hitch. And, Mr. Speaker, it is expected it may revolutionize that industry.

And as a true Saskatchewan entrepreneur, they sell around the world to the biggest companies in the world, but when they want to start a new project like Hit-N-Hitch, they go to Southey and they buy a trailer. And that is how this operation operates, Mr. Speaker. So please help me welcome them to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan

Rivers.

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, in the west gallery I have my first group for the season and actually my first group of school people since I've been here six years. So they're very special to me. Se-Se-Wahum School from Debden, 26 grade 9 students, and they're accompanied by their teachers Marla Netmaker, Doreen Netmaker, and chaperones Nicole Netmaker, Derek Rabbitskin, Rose Morin, Valerie Thomas, and the bus driver, Merle Morin.

So thank you very much for being here, and I would like everyone to make them welcome in their Assembly.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, a group of 43 grade 6, 7, and 8 students from Thomson Community School here in Regina, accompanied by teachers Kyle DuMont, Luke Blondeau, Leah Corbett, and teacher assistant, Wendy Cowan.

And Thomson Community School, I've talked about it before in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. It's a really special place. It's quite literally the embodiment of our provincial motto, "from many peoples, strength." And today's group of students is no exception, Mr. Speaker. Including students born here in Canada, we've got students from Bolivia, India, China, the Philippines, and Israel, to name some of those places of origin. So it's a really neat place. There are a lot of interesting things going on there. And I appreciate Mr. DuMont taking the time to bring the students down, the other teachers bringing the students to their Legislative Assembly. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Campeau: — Request leave for extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce one of Saskatchewan's dynamic young leaders, Randall Fiddler. Randall Fiddler is a third-year student at the University of Saskatchewan majoring in Native studies and minoring in political studies. He's a member of the Waterhen Lake First Nation and has Métis roots in the northern community of Green Lake. He was raised in Meadow Lake and has overcome many obstacles at 20 years old.

He has continued to empower youth from leadership to sexual health, thanks to work he's done with Meadow Lake Tribal Council, health and social development for youth in urban,

rural, and remote northern Saskatchewan communities. The bullying initiative and Aboriginal youth task force are very important to him because it is creating awareness and understanding of the realities that all youth face, whether you live in a rural, remote, or urban community.

I would like to encourage all my colleagues to welcome Randall to his legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 asking for increasing cellphone coverage to northwestern Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed the petition are following. The prayer is:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are from all throughout Saskatchewan. And on this particular petition page, the people that have signed are primarily from Cole Bay, Saskatchewan. And I so present.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition concerning the need to create a publicly accessible asbestos registry here in the province. And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take immediate action to increase protection of workers, patients, students, and the public by passing Bill 604, the asbestos right-to-know Act, which will make a list of public buildings containing asbestos available to the public.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for reconsideration of passing Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. And we know since the Act was introduced in December, literally hundreds of hours of study and comparison have been carried out in the interests of due diligence. And we know there is no labour relations crisis to fix and no necessity to rush this omnibus bill through that will likely govern workplace relations for decades to come. And if this bill does become law in Saskatchewan, working people — particularly young people, immigrant workers, and

other vulnerable workers — will suffer from the hasty watering down of our current labour standards which set the mandatory minimums for all Saskatchewan workers. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

And people signing this petition come from Balcarres, Indian Head, Melville, Redvers, Wapella, Esterhazy, Regina, and Saskatoon. I do so present. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Access to Physician Services

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know some days being short has its challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to recognize our government's continued commitment to improving access to physician services for all Saskatchewan residents. Keeping and attracting key health providers, including physicians, is one of our top priorities. Since the release of our physician recruitment strategy in 2009, we've been training and recruiting more doctors and coming up with new ways to retain Saskatchewan- and Canadian-educated medical students.

In 2013-2014, we're providing 17.8 million in funding for post-graduate physician training seats at the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine. Mr. Speaker, this is a \$2 million increase over last year and it will help support our broader goals of increasing the number of physicians working in Saskatchewan. We're committed to a strong, viable College of Medicine, and to offering more seats in medical education.

Since 2007-2008, medical education seats at the college have increased from 40 to 100, and medical residency positions have doubled from 60 to 120. Mr. Speaker, our multi-faceted approach to physician recruitment and retention is paying off. Physician numbers rose 15 per cent between 2008 and 2012. Over the same time, physician turnover had dropped by more than 2 per cent.

We will continue to work to attract and keep physicians in communities across Saskatchewan, and meet the health care needs of all of our residents. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Sikh Society Celebrates Vaisakhi

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to speak about an

incredible act of generosity and humility that took place in my community this past week. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking of the celebration of Vaisakhi, the establishment of the Khalsa. Members of the Sikh Society of Saskatoon mark this day by taking part in community service and offering food to over 500 individuals at shelters across Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, a deep belief in equality and community building are major tenets of the Sikh faith.

In speaking to a reporter, Gurwinder Singh, a member of the Sikh Society of Saskatoon said, and I quote:

The kind of feedback that we get is just priceless. We cannot compare it with anything else. It is just the thing that gives you the most satisfaction and helps you come forward in a more generous way.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, they are already making plans for next year.

The Sikh community in Saskatchewan is growing and now numbers well over 2,000 people. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan continues to be a diverse and vibrant place and the Sikh community is an active part of that. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my fellow members of this legislature to join with me in thanking the Sikh Society of Saskatoon for their service to the community. We are grateful for their work and their commitment to equality. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Yorkton Students Win McKercher Cup

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize students from the Yorkton Regional High School who won the 14th annual McKercher Cup at the Canadian Bar Association's mock trial competition in Saskatoon.

Participating students included Emily Gage, Mari Grobler, Rebecca Hotsko, Adesewa Oloka, Mikaila Ortynsky, Alex Redwood, Dani Richard, and Wiktorija Wilanowicz. They were accompanied by their teachers Tara Haugen and Lisa Yeadon and coached by lawyers Gord Prichard and Shane Wagner from Rusnak, Balacko, Karchur and Rusnak.

The event was held in honour of National Law Day, which is observed annually on April 17th and celebrates the signing of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and promotes an increased awareness of legal rights and obligations.

The competition provides students with the opportunity to learn the basic facts about courtroom procedures, rules of evidence, and various legal concepts inherent in a criminal trial. The mock trial was held at the Court of Queen's Bench in Saskatoon and included witnesses, a judge, a jury, as well as lawyers for both defence and the Crown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in congratulating these bright students from Yorkton who won the McKercher Cup at the Canadian Bar Association's mock trial competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

World Hemophilia Day

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, today is World Hemophilia Day. This year, the Canadian Hemophilia Society is marking its 60th anniversary and the World Federation of Hemophilia, its 50th. World Hemophilia Day is an opportunity for the global bleeding disorders community to raise awareness about where they have been, where they want to go and how, together, they can close the gap in care experienced by many individuals with bleeding disorders.

This week, Canada hosted the second global research forum on bleeding disorders in Montreal. There are many critical issues facing people with bleeding disorders, but it is also a time of great hope, as research is pointing to new treatment products for improved care.

In Toronto, the CN Tower will light up in red to mark World Hemophilia Day. Mr. Speaker, Hemophilia Saskatchewan plans to have booths at Canadian Blood Services in both Regina and Prince Albert today. Hemophilia Saskatchewan is the provincial organization that seeks to provide education, support, and hope to improve quality of life for all people with bleeding disorders.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan bleeding disorders program at the Royal University Hospital provides comprehensive care for individuals with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. It also provides valuable educational programs for the community and for health care providers. Mr. Speaker, I invite everyone to join me in recognizing World Hemophilia Day.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

St. Brieux Crusaders Win Gold

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in this Assembly today to share another exciting sports story from my constituency. Last month the St. Brieux Crusaders became the Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association 1A Boys provincial champions after claiming the title at Hoopla 2013 in Saskatoon.

They earned this title with an 89-75 win over LCBI [Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute] in the gold medal game. This was the school's first gold medal in a team sport in history, Mr. Speaker. The win also completed a strong run for the Crusaders who ended the year on an 11-game winning streak. They are a youthful team and should be strong for years to come. The school's basketball program has been really developing over the last five years, according to team coach Gary Pachkowksi.

The St. Brieux team used speed and skill to overcome what might be considered a lack of height, as they have no players over 6 feet tall. Calyb Hoffman led the Crusaders with 27 points in the final game. He and teammate Julius Rara are currently being recruited to play basketball at the university level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Crusaders on their gold medal finish, and also in thanking the parents, coaches, and volunteers who helped make this season such a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Couple Selected as Family of the Year

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, a strong spirit of volunteerism is the foundation of every thriving Saskatchewan community. I am proud to say that Moose Jaw has been blessed with two individuals who exemplify the spirit through their endeavours with their community and with their church.

Mr. Speaker, at last week's Knights of Columbus State Council dinner, Pat and Al Rossler of Moose Jaw were duly recognized as the Saskatchewan Family of the Year. Al and Pat Rossler's first commitment has been to their family. This is seen through their 50-plus years of marriage and raising four wonderful children. Al has been very involved in many leadership positions with the Knights of Columbus, while both Al and Pat have served on parish council and heading up liturgy committees while volunteering in a variety of lay ministries. They are also committed to the behind-the-scenes tasks, such as cleaning of the church and preparing pancake breakfasts, fall suppers, organizing Christmas hamper donations for the less fortunate, and other charitable activities.

In the non-church community, Al has previously coached Elks minor football and Pat has been involved with the Royal Purple service organization dedicated to the advancement of speech and hearing support for children.

I ask this Assembly to join me in recognizing Al and Pat Rossler for their dedicated service and congratulate them on being selected as Saskatchewan's Knights of Columbus Family of the Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Party Policy and History

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last weekend the federal NDP [New Democratic Party] voted to remove the word socialist from their party constitution. Now many people would say they still are, they just don't want to use that word. So in a sense they're trying to run and hide from their party's history, just like the Saskatchewan NDP. Today if you go to the NDP website, you will no longer find the *Regina Manifesto*. That just doesn't mean they have rejected it, that means they've hidden it.

You won't find their disastrous \$5 billion platform from last election. Once again, Mr. Speaker, they haven't rejected that platform, they've just hidden it. You won't even find the 2011 NDP policy review, their infamous tree book written by the now Leader of the NDP. Again it's still their party policy, they've just hidden it. Mr. Speaker, you certainly won't find any reference to Dwain Lingenfelter, who wasn't seen, heard, or even mentioned at their recent leadership convention.

Mr. Speaker, it makes you wonder why is the NDP leader hiding from his own policies and, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, why is he hiding an election platform and policy review he helped author?

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Asbestos Registry

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This evening the Human Services Committee will consider Bill 604, Mr. Speaker, and this is the asbestos right-to-know amendment Act, a piece of private members' legislation that I had the honour of bringing forward. Though initially opposed to this common sense step, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Sask Party has recently said that they will support this piece of legislation, legislation that will create an online registry, a list of public buildings that contain asbestos.

I want everything to go smoothly this evening in committee as the Human Services Committee will be looking at the bill, Mr. Speaker. So my question to the Premier: will the government members tonight be supportive of this legislation and not be obstructionist in their approach?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes.

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

Mr. Broten: — I thank the Premier for his co-operation on this issue, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's a constructive thing for this Assembly and for this province when we can find common ground on issues that are simply based on common sense.

This legislation is important, Mr. Speaker, because it's about providing more information to the people of Saskatchewan so that workers, families, students, and patients are able to make the best decisions possible for their family members. But in order for that to happen, Mr. Speaker, there needs to be compliance with legislation. We've been talking about this for a number of months now in the Assembly, so the Sask Party government has had time in order to discuss and to have a rollout plan for what the legislation, how it will change things here in the province.

My question to the Premier: what plan is in place in order to ensure that there will be full compliance by school divisions, health regions, Crown corporations with this important piece of public safety legislation?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've had ongoing discussions. This piece of legislation is an amendment to *The Public Health Act*. We have determined that the enforcement provisions will be done by the officials from the ministry of occupational health and safety, or Labour Relations and Workplace Safety.

Mr. Speaker, those individuals have already worked to identify which institutions have their information ready, which institutions will require some more time to come on. But we want to make sure that we have . . . the information there is

meaningful, is up to date, is kept up to date. We have a requirement that each of the buildings that's affected by the legislation will have something on site so that people don't accidentally miss it, or that there is a reminder on site for workers that are going to be going into the building.

Mr. Speaker, the officials take that responsibility seriously, and I am confident that they will have a good level of compliance. Mr. Speaker, we know full well that asbestos, when encapsulated, is not a risk. But we want to ensure that we minimize and reduce risk wherever it can be found.

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

Mr. Broten: — I thank the minister for his remarks. Many in the community have been championing this bill, especially the family and friends of the late Howard Willems. There are others, Mr. Speaker, many in the province who won't know about this legislation and won't know about the existence, the soon-to-be existence of the asbestos registry that will be mandatory. So it's an important step, Mr. Speaker, because this legislation is a very significant step. It's a Canadian first, and it is a step that I think government should be congratulated on for coming onside and supporting.

But while progress has been made, Mr. Speaker, there are still very important follow-through steps that must take place. And I think the follow-through steps include making the public fully aware of this change. My question to the Premier: what plans are in place in order to share information about the asbestos registry so that all families, all patients, all students are able to make the best possible decisions for their family members?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's probably appropriate that today again we recognize the late Howard Willems who made it his life cause to try and raise awareness of asbestos. His spouse and his stepson, Jesse Todd, have been tireless advocates since his passing, and I think we want to once again offer our condolences to the family and to the contributions made by Mr. Willems and by their family in raising awareness.

We have already included it on the government website. We are ensuring that there are a number of links there in place. We would encourage the media to report tomorrow as we expect the bill to go through all the final steps tomorrow as we expect the bill to pass through the House. We've worked as well, Mr. Speaker, with the House leaders and the staff within the Assembly to ensure that all of the scripts and everything are ready so that the bill is able to pass through committee tonight, Mr. Speaker, and we look forward to a significant amount of public awareness.

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

Support for Home Care

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, rather than being lean or efficient, the new changes to home care in the province are bureaucratic and full of red tape. The Sask Party government has asked

health regions to make cuts and find efficiencies. What that really means is cuts to services for people. One of the first fallouts of the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is a clawback of important home care services.

Mr. Speaker, basic services including laundry and cleaning help people stay in their homes and live healthier lives. Home care also saves the health system resources because it's more affordable for us as a province to have people living at home rather than staying in hospitals or care facilities. Mr. Speaker, why is the Sask Party neglecting the importance of home care in our province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, home care is a service that is delivered by all health regions across this province. Mr. Speaker, in the last six years, the budget for health regions in this province has gone up 46 per cent, an additional \$1 billion into health regions' budgets over that time period, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in fact we believe that home care is an important part of the continuing care for seniors and that's why we're investing \$2 million to pilot a new home care project, a program in Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region which is based on programs that are used in other parts of Canada, Mr. Speaker. We hope that that program will be able to demonstrate good results here in Regina Qu'Appelle in a short order of time and hopefully be able to deliver it in other parts of the other health regions across Saskatchewan once we demonstrate its efficiency. We know that home care is an important tool to keep seniors in their homes longer and to, in this program specifically, Mr. Speaker, to hopefully defer trips to emergency rooms and acute care beds and provide increased assistance for seniors in their own homes.

[14:00]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, Michael Lilley is a senior in Regina who has severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma. He is severely allergic to dust, and he stops breathing when exposed to too much dust. He gets sent to the hospital if he has a severe attack.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lilley has until now been receiving home care to assist with cleaning and laundry services. It's been a useful service to him to stay out of the hospital and in his own home. But, Mr. Speaker, on April 8th, following the Sask Party government's mandate for more cuts in health care, Mr. Lilley was cut off. This senior was told he was on his own, and he should look in the Yellow Pages for help. Mr. Speaker, why would the Sask Party government tell a senior to look in the Yellow Pages for help when home care has been helping Mr. Lilley?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the particular case that the member from Lakeview raises today in the House, but I would say that

significant dollars have been invested into health regions in Saskatchewan in this year's budget.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, when you look across Canada at health budgets that have been released already, Mr. Speaker, including Manitoba's just yesterday which only sees a 2.7 per cent increase in health spending, this budget in Saskatchewan includes 3.5 per cent increase in health spending but, Mr. Speaker, more importantly, four and a half per cent as an average for health regions across Saskatchewan. And that'll range from anywhere from 2 per cent all the way up to 7 per cent in increased health funding, in increased health funding specifically for health regions, Mr. Speaker.

We're pretty excited about this pilot project that we're going to launch here in Regina Qu'Appelle to enhance the home care services, Mr. Speaker, and as I said before, hopefully this demonstrate some good results and be able to deliver it across the province into the future.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview,

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, after a review, Mr. Lilley was told Social Services will now pick up the tab for a private sector cleaner. But Mr. Lilley has been told he has to find two contractors in the Yellow Pages, get some proposals and then submit them, and then the Social Services ministry will pay for the private cleaning service.

Mr. Speaker, this whole process is a mess of red tape and bureaucracy and a shell game. It's putting undue stress on a senior, and it seems to be pushing responsibility to Social Services to deliver reduced home care. This is nothing more than extra red tape for seniors and home care clients, and it does nothing to improve home care or the health care system.

To the minister: why would the Sask Party government fail to improve home care and instead leave the Social Services ministry scrambling to fill the gaps they're creating in the health system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, again, while not knowing the specifics of this individual's circumstances, Mr. Speaker, we are providing record funding to health regions across Saskatchewan, including Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Mr. Speaker. In fact their budget will be going up significantly in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker. Those dollars will be needed to be allocated by the health region in important programs, including home care and long-term care and delivering acute care services and emergency services and physician services, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly I will be pleased to follow up in this particular case, particularly as it relates to Social Services, Mr. Speaker, as I can't speak to the specifics of this one.

But, Mr. Speaker, this government is making a concerted effort to not only increase the funding for health care regions across this province, including Regina Qu'Appelle, but also look at new and innovative ways to deliver important services like home care.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Highway Conditions

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've been keeping a close eye on the CAA's [Canadian Automobile Association] worst roads poll. For Saskatchewan people like those that live in Estevan, Hatchet Lake, or Earl Grey, voting on the CAA website once a year seems to be the only way to get the Sask Party government to pay attention to their crumbling roads — your crumbling roads.

My question to the minister: does he pay attention to CAA worst roads poll, and can he give us an update on which communities are winning this year's contest for the Sask Party's worst roads?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm certainly aware of the CAA poll that is going on right now, that is being conducted. And it's people from around the province that are calling in and placing their vote for what they think is the worst road, perhaps not always with a perspective of all the roads across Saskatchewan certainly.

I can tell you that I'm very, very fortunate with 48 members on this side of the House that tend to tell me where roads need fixing, Mr. Speaker, whether it's in Estevan and the issue just north of Estevan on Highway 47 I believe it is, Mr. Speaker. So we gain information from a number of different avenues, whether it's the area transportation planning committees, whether it's the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from this side of the House, or whether it's from CAA, Mr. Speaker. We look at all the information as we come in.

Certainly the Ministry of Highways has a long-term plan as to what highways will be fixed, a five-year plan, Mr. Speaker. And we're moving forward with that plan to make sure that we have the best transportation and road system that we can possibly have in this province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, highways for Cumberland House and Dinsmore are currently on top of CAA's worst highways list. And this voting was done this week, Mr. Speaker, or last week. And despite government attention and commitments to Earl Grey last year, Highway 22 is still on the list this year.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government's new provincial budget allocates less money for highways this year. And that's right, Mr. Speaker, the highways budget has less this year. When will the residents of the Cumberland House area, Dinsmore, Rosetown, Earl Grey, Gravelbourg, or any of the hundreds of other communities finally have their roads fixed, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I would say again regarding the CAA poll, this is not a new poll. It's been around for a number of years, probably even back a number of years ago when that member was the minister of Highways. I will say the difference between when that member was the minister of Highways and this government, Mr. Speaker, is the investment in the highways, Mr. Speaker.

Those members turned their backs on many of the highways and had a \$1 billion pothole for our government to fill, Mr. Speaker. We worked very hard with a number of extremely large budgets, Mr. Speaker, this being the second largest budget in highways history, Mr. Speaker. And when you compare our funding over the last six years compared to the previous six years of the NDP, it's an increase of funding for highways alone by 76 per cent over the days of the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, I've got a budget here from 2007 that shows \$65.5 million was committed to northern roads, including Cumberland House's road. I'm going to send that over to the minister so he has a little read, Mr. Speaker.

Safe roads are an absolute necessity in northern Saskatchewan. The Sask Party government draws out millions if not billions of dollars out of the North from all sorts of mining. They should at least have the decency to realize that transportation of those goods has to be done safely and that this cannot be done . . . You cannot handle the dangerous goods routes on a network of damaged roads.

Mr. Speaker, decent roads benefit mining companies. And, Mr. Speaker, it's vital to the safety of all northern residents. There's huge potential for dangerous goods to be spilled and people's lives could be put at risk. When will the minister listen to the northern people, listen to the mining companies, and at least invest some of the revenues generated by the North to fix the roads in northern Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — It's a very interesting line of questions, Mr. Speaker. When will we start listening? Well we have listened, Mr. Speaker. That's why we've entered into an agreement with Cameco, Mr. Speaker, a joint partnership to repair or to extend a connector road for 914 specifically to address the issues that member is talking about. But it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, because in this year's budget there is money for that. What did that member do? He voted against it, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, we checked his budget for this year and guess what? Nothing for northern roads, Mr. Speaker. There's no question that when the minister spoke with the press, he said, and I quote, "We're going to have potholes. We're going to have heaving. We're going to have all of that. There's no question. I know that."

Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that the roads are bad,

but he has no plans to fix them. When people drive on roads that are this bad in northern Saskatchewan, they are damaging property, which are expensive vehicles, and it's also threatening people's lives, Mr. Speaker. When will this government and when will this minister realize that if they don't fix our roads in northern Saskatchewan and through all Saskatchewan that they are putting industry at risk and more importantly, Saskatchewan people's lives at risk, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, certainly we know that the seasons have a huge impact on our road surfaces, not only in northern Saskatchewan but in southern Saskatchewan. The frost coming in and out of — if it ever leaves our road system, Mr. Speaker — it certainly has an impact. We see potholes, and we see heaving not only in northern Saskatchewan but also in southern Saskatchewan. That's why we are continuing to put a record amount not only to capital, which is new construction, but also maintenance, is to make sure the roads we have continue to serve the people as best as possible.

But I can't help but listen to that member opposite day in and day out when he stands up and asks questions. He asks questions like, why would we not put more into northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? He was the minister of Health . . . minister of Highways, sorry. They didn't do it, Mr. Speaker. He asked questions yesterday or two days ago about expropriation. He expropriated, Mr. Speaker. It's unbelievable. He's asking all these questions on the very subjects that either in expropriation he did or in funding northern highways he didn't, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Firefighting

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Protecting the province's forests requires co-operation with communities in and around the North. And that's what's so disconcerting for people living in the forest fringe communities, to see the Sask Party government propose a new wildfires Act that leaves it up to RMs [rural municipality] to fight wildfires with limited access to the forested land and tax dollars.

The province has a responsibility to protect against the potential damage of fires to communities, to industry, and to people. But, Mr. Speaker, under the proposed wildfire Act, municipalities and their local volunteer firefighters could be left fighting fires with limited resources and equipment, potentially bankrupting the RM. Mr. Speaker, why would the Sask Party government tell rural municipalities that they are now responsible for fighting wildfires?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. To the hon. member, certainly fighting fires and keeping residents and communities safe in northern Saskatchewan and across Saskatchewan is a priority for this government. We will continue to do so with the resources of the

Government of Saskatchewan.

We asked the municipalities to participate in that. They have done that. They have done that under the members opposite when they were government. They continue to do that today. We will continue to use technology and to look at the best ways of fighting fires in northern Saskatchewan, and we will continue to ask the municipalities to participate. Right now we're consulting with them. We're asking them for ideas. We're asking them for their innovation. And once that consultation process is finished, we will bring legislation to this Assembly to ensure that this good record continues.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, RMs are being told that the province will no longer provide support to fight fires in the four and a half kilometre buffer area unless the RMs pay for it. Given that the province knows that the potential threat of fires is increasing, this makes no sense. RMs have pointed out in many meetings with the ministry that, among other things, climate change predictions show an increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires, and there's an increase in the amount of mature fuels in the forest fringe area.

Mr. Speaker, why is the ministry, through the proposed wildfires Act, already telling municipalities they'll be forced to absorb all the costs for fighting wildfires?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect, the member opposite has her information wrong. We are not asking municipalities to fund the entire operation. Certainly there have been joint funding arrangements in the past. We have asked municipalities to do their share. They have done that time and time again. We have discussions ongoing and going forward, Mr. Speaker, but again the premise of the member's opposite question is absolutely wrong again.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the ministry says they will continue to assist rural municipalities to fight these wildfires. But on their web page, it states very clearly that they will only do so on a cost recovery basis. It's the ministry's way of dealing with the disastrous effects of fire, and it's clearly different than how the province deals with other disasters such as flooding or grass fires.

Rural municipalities have been speaking out about the proposed downloading of wildfire protection costs onto their ratepayers. SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] debated a resolution at their 2012 mid-term convention following resolutions and discussions raised in the RMs of Prince Albert, Buckland, Beaver River, and Lakeland. But so far there has been no indication that the Act won't contain this downloading of costs.

Mr. Speaker, why won't the minister listen to the RMs? Will he

commit today to change this proposed legislation and ensure it doesn't download unmanageable costs onto the RMs?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, cost recovery is a responsible way to administer firefighting in the North and across Saskatchewan. It is indeed the way it has operated under members opposite and continues to operate today. We have a very good relationship with municipalities, with SARM. We continue to consult at the provincial level, at the regional level, with individual municipalities.

And when it comes to downloading, I will take no direction from ministers opposite, because in the past and certainly in the years between 1991 and 2007 there has been a record amount of downloading from members opposite under municipalities. They asked for revenue sharing under that government. What did they get? We're getting around to it. Sorry we didn't get to it. Under this government there is a record amount of revenue going to municipalities, as it should be and as it will continue, Mr. Speaker.

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

Combatting Discrimination and Bullying

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my last question to the Minister of Advanced Education, as he was commenting on the asbestos legislation he made an interesting point, Mr. Speaker. He talked about how the government website would be updated so Saskatchewan people could find out about the asbestos registry, how it could benefit their families. I think that's a good step, a very common sense step, Mr. Speaker.

What a contrast, Mr. Speaker, to what we heard from the Education minister yesterday when we were talking about gay-straight alliances here in the province — a complete refusal to simply update the government website. A very easy step, would not cost any money, and could be done tomorrow.

My question to the Premier: why is it that this double standard . . . Why is it that the Minister of Advanced Education can post information on a government website about the existence of an asbestos registry, but when it comes to a gay-straight alliance, simply providing some information, not a legislative change, simply providing information to Saskatchewan students and parents, why is that not allowed? Why is he allowing this double standard?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly not a double standard at all. We're at the end of a process that, to the credit of the Leader of the Opposition, was initiated in many respects by him in terms of the legislation. As you get towards the end of a process, then you look to communication tools. And, Mr. Speaker, the minister said that's what would happen. That's precisely what we've said with respect to the issue of gay-straight alliances or bullying in general in terms of information on the website. We have a member, the member for

Fairview who's going to be doing some work in this particular issue. And all avenues of communication will be considered.

Mr. Speaker, though with respect to anti-bullying in all of its forms, including information provision for gay-straight alliances but also around cyberbullying, I can tell you and members of the House that the Minister of Education, the ministry is looking at ways to speed up that process. I think as of today he can provide a bit more details.

I want to finish though on the topic of double standards. Yesterday though in this Assembly, the Leader of the Opposition stood up, asked that same minister to fund, fully fund First Nations schools in terms of the provincial level off-reserve to the federal level on-reserve. Mr. Speaker, at the convention, at the NDP convention, that same Leader of the Opposition said he wouldn't commit to that kind of funding, and moreover, moreover, Mr. Speaker, you can check an MBC [Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation] story that says the NDP will not provide that funding where the federal government wouldn't.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition hasn't met a position of the party he hasn't changed yet. And he needs to determine exactly what his direction will be and stop frankly trying to work both sides of the street.

TABLING OF COMMUNICATION

The Speaker: — I wish to advise the House that I have received advice from the Lieutenant Governor regarding changes to the Board of Internal Economy:

Pursuant to section 67 of *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2007*, I hereby inform the Assembly of the membership of the Board of Internal Economy effective April 10, 2013: the Hon. Dan D'Autremont, Chair; Hon. Nancy Heppner; Hon. June Draude; Jeremy Harrison, MLA; Doreen Eagles, MLA; David Forbes, MLA; Cathy Sproule, MLA.

Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and enter into debate of Bill 91, *The*

Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2). It's very important that . . . This is an important area when we talk about pensions. And how will our seniors and how will we, as we age, and how will our children have that stability when they reach the retirement years? And what kind of plans have our governments made to ensure that there is that stability and predictability and the protection against poverty when we reach that age?

And so in many ways we're starting to see the fruits of the labour of this government and also at the federal level I know, and the federal minister and our own provincial minister have spoken about the discussions that have happened at the federal-territorial-provincial tables around pensions and security in old age. And so this is one part of that package, and of course this one is about amending the Saskatchewan Pension Plan so it can offer the pooled pension initiatives that the ministers have been talking about.

So it's important that we take some time and talk about this. I think there's three or four bills that are tied together on this issue.

But as I have talked earlier, and I will continue to raise this in terms of the fact that we think this is not the approach, I think this is not the approach that serves Canadians in the best way, that unfortunately that we should be doing more to strengthen the programs that all Canadians have. And of course the minister did talk about this. He did raise the fact about the different pillars. And he talked about the fact that in Canada we are considered to have one of the best systems in the world. It's a blend of public and private programs. And he talks about the three elements or referred to the three pillars, and I think that's very important to consider.

Now he does talk about only 47 per cent of workers have access to workplace pension plans. And that's so true. And ironically almost all of those have workplace pension plans because they are unionized or they are organized. And that is one of the positives of an organized workplace is that you can get benefits that most others can't.

And in fact, Mr. Speaker, you know, and I think I may have said this, but I'm not sure. But two-thirds of my family, my siblings and our spouses — and that would range in to about 15 people — have pensions because of the fact that we belong to some sort of organized workplace. And whether it's myself in terms of the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] or whether it's CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] or Steelworkers or the SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] or SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses], almost . . . Yes, two-thirds of my siblings belong to some sort of organized workplace. And most families I think in the province would think, well we're not a union family, or we're not a labour family. And I think that until just recently, I think that I would've said the same thing about the Forbes.

But unfortunately or fortunately, I think perhaps more fortunately, the fact is that we were able to launch our careers in organized workplaces, whether that be nurses or teachers or social workers. It's interesting that we are now, my siblings, many of us are reaching that retirement age. And we can make that choice because we belong to some organized work

association, whether it be a union or a professional organization. We were able to have workplace unions' plans. But unfortunately less than half of Saskatchewan people have that.

Now the other shocking statistic is not only is a small number, less than half have a workplace pension, but then about only a third of people take advantage of private pension plans. They just aren't meeting or aren't able to be utilized by workers in Saskatchewan, and it's unfortunate. It truly is unfortunate because what happens is that we could make these plans, but if people cannot afford them or it's the last thing they do because they have too many other bills to pay, then there's a problem. There's a real problem. And so, Mr. Speaker, this is a challenge that I think that we have to address.

And while we can talk about changes to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan and we can debate the value, the merit of that plan — and it's been around now for quite a while, almost 30 years, 27 years — the real debate is, is this meeting the need of people in Canada and in Saskatchewan when ironically so few people can actually take advantage of it? And I mean about a third of people. And I don't know what the actual percentage of . . . And I think the member did talk about the fact that Saskatchewan Pension Plan has grown over 32,000 members. But we've got to realize, out of what kind of pool of potential members is that? And this is something that we think is a problem. And he talked about 1,000 new members since 2012.

So, Mr. Speaker, while the Finance minister may be impressed by these numbers, we have to be impressed by the fact that old age security is becoming a real, a real challenge for people, and they are worried about what will be their lot when they retire. We know more and more people are actually working past 65. And in fact the federal government did raise the age of retirement or what we often think of the age of retirement to 67, and it's pushing people to work longer.

Now we're seeing potential pressures from that. Interestingly last week we saw the stats on workplace fatalities, and one of the highest stats was heart attacks in the workplace. Now I don't know the situation behind that and all the details, but I do know that there were several in their 60s, and I think that there might have been one even in their 70s who were still working.

Now it is a wonderful thing to work into . . . you know, until you feel that you are ready to retire. And if you feel you are contributing, and it's a meaningful workplace, or if you're meeting a social need, that you're working in the coffee shop for a couple of hours and it's meeting your need, I'm fine with that too. But I am worried. I am deeply worried that people are working or may be forced to work longer than they normally would simply because they have a hard time making ends meet. That shouldn't happen in Saskatchewan.

And when the minister talks about the fact that our retirement income system in Canada is considered to be one of the best in the world, you know, there's many things that we are considered to be the best in the world, but our reputation is sliding. And I really worry. I deeply worry about this, that how do people around the world view our retirement plans? And it used to be one of the best and may be today, but clearly is it on a slippery slope?

Now pooled pension plans may work for some, and I think that's an interesting tool in the tool kit. I'm not opposed to it in principle. But what I am concerned about is the priorities and choices this government has made when really I think the idea that I know that many groups have raised with the Finance ministers that talked about the second pillar which consists of the Canadian pension plan, CPP [Canada Pension Plan], which is funded through earnings-based contributions from employees and employers . . . And participation in CPP is mandatory for all employed and self-employed Canadians.

[14:30]

And so I think it's important that we take a look at that. That would have been my first choice for this government, and I think it would have been the first choice for people in Saskatchewan to say, can you look at this more carefully? Be one of the provinces that join in in convincing the federal government to pay attention to the Canada Pension Plan. Pay attention to the CPP because while it is tough when we have deductions off our paycheques and it goes to CPP, you know, you feel a lot more secure about it. You know what's going to happen, and you can count on it.

And the wonderful thing about CPP versus say the Saskatchewan plan . . . And we see people moving back to Saskatchewan, but we don't know where we're going to be in 20 or 30 or 40 years, especially young people. And if they're making contributions to the CPP, it will follow them. It will follow them right across Canada whereas the Saskatchewan Pension Plan is really focused on, you know, one employer who may be involved in the Saskatchewan plan. And will it follow them, or will they have to keep track of it?

And I think that could be a real challenge for somebody who is 25 or 28, working and saying, oh I have to remember that when I was in Saskatchewan and I worked for a company for two years, I had made contributions and the contributions are in the Saskatchewan Pension Plan. And now I'm 65 and I'm living in BC [British Columbia] or Nova Scotia, and I have to remember, oh yes, that Saskatchewan Pension Plan. And that was located in what city was it? Kindersley.

And that's great that it's in Kindersley. But you know, Mr. Speaker, I think this is not the appropriate priority that this government should have gone down the road of. This government should have gone down the road of CPP. And this is a tool in the tool kit. As I said, I'm not fundamentally or on a principle opposed to it. And it was originally set up to meet the needs of homemakers and those people who did not normally have access to a pension. But now we're seeing that it's moving into the mainstream, and I worry about that. I worry about that.

So I would really, I would really encourage this government to continue — and I understand from the minister that they'll be meeting in June — to talk with the Finance ministers to continue this conversation around pensions and security for seniors. And I would really urge them to continue the conversation around CPP, just because I think that's a more universally accessible program for Canadians. And I think that it's critical that we do that.

And I think we can do both at the same time, that we can have

tools. And it's good to have a variety of tools to meet your needs in your senior years. But we do have to set priorities. And I said with the CPP, I think that makes a lot more sense to have that full discussion. And of course, Mr. Speaker, I don't know all the specific details. Obviously the Finance ministry . . . It's a very complex, very complex issue. But I would really urge the government to really pull at that as well.

And while we will be debating this, we will have many more questions in committee around this topic and around this tool because it has stood the test of time as I said, being created in 1986. Obviously it's been well run and the management is strong and it's not going anywhere. And it's meeting the needs of a group of people. And so we will have questions about that.

But as I said, that it's important that we look at the broad range of people — those who are able to save money, those who are able to put money aside, who'll say this makes sense for me; I can put this aside. But there's many, many people, and we often consider them, we often talk about them as vulnerable workers, those who just have a difficult time making ends meet. And whether it's because of the high cost of housing that they're spending more than what we would normally, say 30 per cent of their income on housing, and if they're paying 40 or 50 per cent, that extra 20 per cent is what they could be making a choice about putting into their retirement savings. But they can't.

And we know in the reality in Saskatchewan that housing has become much more expensive. It's much more expensive. And it's one of those basic needs. You've got to pay the rent. You've got to make your mortgage payment every month. You absolutely do. And so these are the realities that people have. And I'm not even thinking we can call them choices because you really don't have a choice. Do you pay rent or do you pay into your savings account, your retirement savings account? Unfortunately that's reality here in Saskatchewan now.

And the other issue though of course is around you may have a high cost like housing, but you also may have low pay. And that's an issue as well. Now we've seen the minimum wage increase significantly over the past seven years. And on our government's side we were very happy and proud of the contributions that we made in terms of increasing the minimum wage to what we thought was going to be a living wage. But clearly the cost of living in Saskatchewan has outstripped that, so it's no longer really considered a minimum wage, even when it's over \$10 an hour.

The reality is, though, we have to make sure that people have a living wage. And this is something else, on an aside. You know, when we first did that, I think that there were numbers around 10 or 12,000 who were working for minimum wage. And now I understand the number is much, much higher. Because as you increase the minimum wage, it catches more people who were working maybe 50 cents or \$1 dollar an hour higher, and you were catching those people. So they're not getting the increases that typically would have happened or should have happened. When minimum wage was increased, their increases should have happened, but they didn't. And so they've been caught up by the increase in minimum wage, so you have a lot more people at the lower end of minimum wage.

And again I hesitate to use the word choice because they don't really have a choice. They have to pay for the basic things of life and what's happening in their life right now. And unfortunately, putting aside for retirement isn't making their priority list. And I can understand why. I can understand. I absolutely can understand. And so this is why we need to have that broader discussion.

And I'm using this time, Mr. Speaker, to make that pitch for us to have that conversation about strengthening the Canada Pension Plan. And while we are talking about the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, as I said, it's a tool in the tool kit. Not fundamentally opposed to it. It meets the needs of a certain group of people, but it sure does fall short of the mark to meet the needs of many, many people in Saskatchewan, particularly those vulnerable workers who are working at low-income jobs or are caught in a cost squeeze because of their cost of living.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this is the challenge that we have. This is the challenge we have, and I know that there will be many people who will want to speak to this bill because this is, again, we call it a suite of bills. We understand there's three or four of these. And I know that we'll be ready to go on to some other debates pretty darn quick because I think that . . . I know there are many people who want to speak to this particular bill. So I would like to move now adjournment of Bill 91, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of 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.

Bill No. 92

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 92 — *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter debate here this afternoon, or discussion, as it relates to Bill No. 92, *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act*. And of course this is an Act that follows changes that have occurred federally that has made PRPPs, pooled registered pension plans, available to some Canadians, and particularly the federal changes opened this up to those that are working in banking and telecommunications industries.

This change that's brought forward here today allows much broader applications to PRPPs, and on those fronts we're certainly supportive. This is updating Saskatchewan legislation following many of the approaches that are being taken by provincial governments across the country. And certainly we recognize and speak regularly to the importance of addressing the pressures and challenges that so many hard-working

Saskatchewan people and Canadians are facing as it relates to retirement security, income security, and to those years beyond work.

I want to make clear that while we're supportive of improvements on this front and this legislation, we need to continue to press this government to do far more as it relates to what is inadequate supports for those that are retiring, for those hard-working Saskatchewan people, hard-working Canadians. And we call for this government to be a strong voice and join voices of other provinces that have lent their support, lent their voice to see an expansion of the Canada Pension Plan, CPP, which is certainly a pan-Canadian solution to something important to all Canadians, and certainly to all Saskatchewan people.

So we urge that measure, and we urge that voice from our Finance minister to be of one of support towards expansion of something that's portable, that's effective, that's efficient, and something that could impact the lives in a significant way for all Canadians.

And of course where CPP has its strengths is of course on the side of its efficiency and its low cost of management but as well by the fact that it's portable right across the country and also by the fact that it's not a voluntary measure for employers and employees, something that is lasting and meaningful and creates real security for all Canadians.

We also recognize the pressures that workers are facing. And we see a context of, in many cases, dismantled public and private pensions across Canada. And we see an agenda in many ways of this government as well, pushing towards removing workers' rights and making changes to legislation that haven't been done in listening to workers, and not understanding the importance of some of these measures, and whether it's the safety of workers or the fair compensation and certainly that of income security. We need to make sure that families are strong across Saskatchewan, families are supported. And that after many years of the hard work that so many provide, that they're able to retire with some dignity. And that's where we're looking for these broader supports to be brought forward.

We know that the federal government is making cuts to old age security, delaying when individuals, hard-working Canadians and Saskatchewan people, when they retire when they can draw upon those supports. We see that as a step in the wrong direction. We believe that Canadians and Saskatchewan workers are entitled to the dollars that they've put away, Mr. Speaker. And I think that's something that's important for us to remember when we're talking about old age security or CPP, when we're talking about those contributions that have been done in concert with employers. These are independent dollars and dollars that are not at the discretion simply of a government to make decisions with. And they're important in the lives of Canadians and certainly of Saskatchewan people.

Now by way of the PRPP, some of the benefits that we see in this legislation is that it certainly makes more accessible the possibility of some retirement fund plans to possibly smaller businesses or to entrepreneurs themselves. This is something that's a good thing. This is something that we support. Some of the drawbacks is that they're still . . . they're voluntary and that

we need to make sure that we're providing income security and that dignity of a retirement for all.

We also see as strengths of a PRPP is that there have been noted benefits by way of some of the costs of these plans could be shared by many and should be a more efficient tool than some other methods. So on that front we're supportive.

We look as well in hope that the Saskatchewan Pension Plan can be involved in this process, that they can apply to be an administrator, that they could be considered for licence, and certainly that's important for us to make sure that this legislation supports those changes as well.

But as I say, when we're talking about retirement security, this is something that's of paramount concern to so many. I think of the young families and the young workers all across our province. They're working hard here today to take care of the needs of today, to put aside some dollars for tomorrow, and certainly government has an important role to make sure that it's supporting those Saskatchewan workers, those Canadians. In doing so, the PRPP is certainly one tool that can be brought forward, and as I say, we're supportive of that tool being brought forward.

[14:45]

But we have to lay this against the broader context where we're far too . . . far too many Canadians in fact aren't making gains on this front, where far too many Canadians and Canadian families are actually losing ground. And we need to make sure that those families are provided the tools and the mechanisms and the supports, that their hard work today will provide them some dignity tomorrow.

And certainly as I say, we need to make sure that this government gets on board with other provinces to be that voice, to expand the Canada Pension Plan — something that's efficient and that's affordable, that's meaningful to all workers quite simply, Mr. Speaker. And we'll be looking for this Finance minister to be a voice as he comes together with Finance ministers across Canada in June, and that's certainly something that's important to us.

We look at the rights of workers and those changes to legislation that this government's pushing forward. We see that as a regressive step towards making sure that workers have the rights, protections, dignity that they deserve. And that all fits within this framework in this discussion as well.

But as it relates to this, the changes to enable PRPPs in Saskatchewan to make sure that the Saskatchewan Pension Plan can participate, to make sure that this voluntary tool is afforded to more Saskatchewan workers, that's something that we support. But we do have to do a much better job of providing income security, retirement dignity to all Canadians, all Saskatchewan workers, and certainly we'll continue our call on this government to make sure that the actions they're taking are meaningful and impactful for all. And we see this as simply one measure and certainly insufficient in meeting the big challenge that so many families are facing.

At this point in time I will, you know, I don't have many other

comments at this point in time. I certainly will continue to consult with families, with workers, and with stakeholders. But at this point in time, I'll adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 92, *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 93

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 93 — *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act**** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is simply a consequential amendment to the piece of legislation that I just spoke to, so I don't have many other comments to it here today.

What this does do is provide families the kinds of protections though that they're afforded through a pension plan by way of the enforcement of maintenance orders and making sure that the pension dollars are included in those laws. Just as a pension is, Mr. Speaker, so certainly we support making sure that the new pooled retirement pension plans are also included in, by law, protected in the enforcement of maintenance orders and making sure that families have that protection. This also addresses some of the translation in English and French, so it's of a practical nature, and certainly an amendment for which we are supportive of.

But as I say, this whole discussion on retirement security and income security, we're supportive of a new tool, being the PRPP, and how that may extend to smaller businesses and to individuals who may want to participate. But I need to remind the Assembly and remind all Saskatchewan workers that this is a voluntary plan.

We need to work towards pan-Canadian solutions that are broad-based and making sure that, you know, that we're supportive as a province of the Canada Pension Plan, something that this minister, this government's been back and forth on. And that's not what we're looking for to make that sort of a change. We're looking for leadership and a commitment to expand the Canada Pension Plan. We're looking for a strong voice to oppose the delayed receipt of old age security payments for retirees.

And as well making sure that we're supporting those Saskatchewan people that have actually put their dollars away through tools that have already been afforded to them in this province. And I think of the labour-sponsored venture funds

where certainly there's been concerns raised by many Saskatchewan families that have placed dollars into those funds and only to see now government coming in and dictating where those dollars can be placed and certainly threatening the return that those families, those investors . . . Those 55,000 hard-working Saskatchewan people that have placed those dollars into those funds, they deserve the full return based on the prospectus they entered into. And we call for this government to make sure they're addressing what they've brought forward in this budget. That's certainly not fair to those investors, to those families, and certainly not supportive as well of the Saskatchewan economy.

But as it relates to the pooled retirement pension plan and making sure that there's provisions to make sure families are protected through the enforcement of maintenance orders — and we are supportive of those consequential amendments, see these as but another tool — but recognizing that we're not making the gains that we need to provide real protection, real security to hard-working Saskatchewan people, hard-working Canadians. And we'll continue to be that voice, Mr. Speaker, on those fronts.

But at this point in time, as it relates to Bill No. 93, I will adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 93, *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2013*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure this afternoon to join in on discussion on Bill No. 83 which is *An Act respecting Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services*.

Mr. Speaker, here in the Assembly over the last couple of years we've had a number of discussions as it relates to immigration here to the province, as it relates to workers, as it relates to families that are seeking to come to our province. We've had a number of question period exchanges over the course of the last few sessions, Mr. Speaker, and the discussion has been around what sort of, what sort of approach we want to have when it comes to immigration here in the province.

The question has been whether we want to have a short-term approach, which doesn't necessarily recognize workers as belonging to families, as a longer process of coming to Saskatchewan and how they can fully establish themselves and take root here in the province, or whether, Mr. Speaker, it's a

proper approach where it focuses on the need for strong social ties along with the economic drivers that are often behind immigration, and often behind the reality for businesses to seek foreign workers to come and work in Saskatchewan, or for families to welcome individuals here to the province and to have a larger extended network of people they are related to here in Saskatchewan.

So we know immigration is hugely important to us here, as a province and in a number of communities. I can think of my own constituency, Mr. Speaker, that has a real diversity of people from Saskatchewan, whether it's people of European descent who have been here for a number of generations, along with a large First Nations and Métis population. But also a large immigrant population, Mr. Speaker, a number of people from South Asia, Pakistanis and Indians, Mr. Speaker, as well as many Filipinos as well, and they're adding to the richness of the neighbourhood. They're adding to diversity in our schools, so the children learn how to interact and how to respect differences in a constructive way, Mr. Speaker. And immigration is a positive thing for the province and something that we support.

It's important to support immigration, Mr. Speaker, in a way that, though, is based on common sense, that doesn't view individuals simply as an economic cog, but as belonging to a larger family, belonging to a larger society. And, Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that the immigration system we have, as it relates specifically here to Saskatchewan, that it is facilitating the type of long-term sustainability that we want when it comes to welcoming people to Saskatchewan.

And so how individuals come to Saskatchewan, how they are welcomed plays a really big part in how individuals feel about the province, how they feel about their community. And as MLAs, perhaps some of us have had experiences in our constituency offices where either an employer or an immigrant has faced a challenge or an unpleasant experience with respect to immigration, Mr. Speaker, and that colours their opinion and their feeling of being in Canada.

They'll always welcome and are always appreciative of the freedoms we have, of the wonderful place that we live in, but when immigration is a negative experience, Mr. Speaker, when it's not fair, when it's not with a long-term view in perspective, that's when it causes problems. And that's not appropriate for businesses that are operating because businesses want to and ought to conduct themselves with the highest level of ethics and responsibility, as the vast, vast majority of businesses do here in the province.

And also those that are in the immigration process, individuals need to, Mr. Speaker, be following the rules and playing by the rules that are in place, and allowing those rules to allow them to do well as individuals and as families.

So when we look at this piece of legislation, I note the minister's words about preventing exploitation. And I do think, Mr. Speaker, that is an appropriate lens to look at this issue because we don't want exploitation for the workers or for prospective immigrants who are coming to the province, and we also want to ensure that employers are acting in a way that is fully responsible and fully within the rules. So we must ask

ourselves, Mr. Speaker, what steps are necessary in order to ensure that we're setting up that structure to allow for the best operation of our immigration system?

So this step, Mr. Speaker, the legislation brought forward by the minister responsible, is an attempt, as I understand it, to provide some structure, to have consultants who are licensed, part of a registry. So there's a degree of accountability there, Mr. Speaker, to have employers operating within that system as well on a list so that they have met a threshold of responsibilities that they must meet, and then also, Mr. Speaker, providing the rules or the game plan for immigrants and for workers who may be coming here to the province.

Within the legislation there are a number of sections, and I won't list them all. But important aspects within the legislation, Mr. Speaker, we see the licensing of foreign workers and immigration consultants. So the idea that people have to follow rules, that just not anyone can hang a shingle and say they're doing this type of work, that there's an accountability mechanism in place, Mr. Speaker. And I think that is appropriate and proper. Then, as I've said, the registration of employers so that if employers want to be bringing a worker in, that they belong to a registry.

Of course there also needs to be prohibited practices and standards of service, which is included, aspects of inspections, penalties for those that are not following the rules, Mr. Speaker. Then of course there needs to be the necessary enforcement. And we know this is important. And we hear situations in the news from time to time, Mr. Speaker, of workers who have not been treated properly or of people who have been taken advantage of through the immigration process, either financially or through their relationships, and how this has had a harm on their families. And, Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that we are taking the right steps.

So a framework is important. And I think this legislation can go a distance, Mr. Speaker, in providing that framework, which is important because we especially need to be on guard to fight against exploitation and ensure that everything is above board and that the reputation of Saskatchewan as it relates to a place where people can come and be welcomed, follow the rules, establish themselves, and have their families thrive, that that reputation be upheld and actually be strengthened, Mr. Speaker.

Looking at the legislation, we do have to ask ourselves a number of questions such as, is the bar set high enough with respect to the licensing requirements for those individuals who would be working as an immigration consultant, Mr. Speaker? I think that is important. We also have to look at whether or not the penalties involved with this legislation are adequate and provide enough of a deterrent to those who may be seeking to bend the rules.

We also need to look at what the structure put in place. Any of us as MLAs who have helped individuals with immigration casework, it can be complicated. And it is not something that's done overnight, and it requires a lot of paper. So we have to ask ourselves if the steps being put in place are effective and appropriate, whether they are a duplication of other hoops or other measures that must be done by either immigrants or employers, just to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that we're striking

the right balance between having a system that's timely and meeting the needs of individuals, while at the same time ensuring that the right checks and balances are in place, that companies are operating properly as well as prospective immigrants.

[15:00]

The issue of temporary foreign workers is also top of mind. We know we've heard a lot of stories, Mr. Speaker, in the news recently about situations, and this is an issue which requires attention because, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier on, it's necessary to have the long-term view when we think of immigration. And I think when, you know, when my family, my great-grandparents came to the country, Mr. Speaker, it was with a long-term view of establishing themselves, welcoming other individuals, being part of the economy and doing well, and then giving back to the province that welcomed us. And so we need to ensure that we are taking the steps of doing that, of laying the groundwork and the framework that treats people with respect and provides a clear path for those wanting to come to the country or for those wanting to welcome individuals to the country.

When establishing any type of program, there are also costs associated. So it's important to have a discussion, Mr. Speaker, about by whom those costs will be borne — through the employer, through the applicant — and of course that ties in to other pieces of legislation. And when looking at legislation, Mr. Speaker, it's always important and necessary to ensure that the proper consultation has taken place — the proper consultation has taken place with employers, with immigration consultants, and as well as the families here in the province who want to welcome people to Saskatchewan.

So that's an overview of the legislation and a highlight as I identify some of the relevance and importance of this type of legislation in terms of providing structure and rules to this system. And I support this, a framework like this, a legislative framework like this in principle, but of course it is in looking at the details to ensure that we are striking the right balance. And I have raised some of my questions around the legislation.

I look forward to the opportunity in committee to have more . . . have some interaction with the minister to discuss some of the topics that I raised as well as some of the other items that I, other items that I'll be bringing up at that time. So I've appreciated the opportunity to speak to this piece of legislation today, and I look forward to further discussion in committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of the Economy that Bill No. 83, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act* . . . Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

An Hon. Member: — Be now read a second time.

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — Be now read a second time. Oh, Bill No. 83, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — Carried.

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

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — 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 the Economy.

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 94

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 94** — *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2013* be now read a second time.]

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to enter into the discussion on Bill No. 94, *An Act to amend The Tobacco Tax Act, 1998*. This piece of legislation is fairly straightforward, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's nice to see a woman in the Chair today. What this bill does, it increases the tobacco tax rate from 21 cents per cigarette, tobacco stick, or gram of tobacco to 25 cents. So on a package of 25 cigarettes, that sells for about \$12 and amounts to a tobacco tax increase of \$1.

So we know that when we think about, we think about smoking here in Saskatchewan. The minister has pointed out that we are now at the lowest rate of smoking here in the province than we've ever seen, which is great news, but we still happen to be far higher than any of the other provinces. So that's a bit of a problem. We know that bans on smoking in public places, public education and awareness, are some of the factors. And tobacco taxation, I can't forget tobacco taxation because that's what we're talking about. And these are all ways to reduce smoking rates.

So I think about myself and think about my own family and my experience around cigarettes. It's I think a very good thing to reduce smoking rates. There's nothing good that comes from smoking cigarettes, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's hard on people's health. It ends up having very negative outcomes. People who get sick from smoking cigarettes, it's a huge burden to our health system. I know my own experience . . . And it's incredibly sad. People's quality of lives who become addicted to cigarettes and end up smoking for a long period of time, it has a huge impact on their quality of life. But it's incredibly sad

as well.

I know in my own experience, I had a good family friend, actually my mom and dad's best friends, Ken and Linda. My dad grew up with Ken, and I knew Ken and Linda all my life. And Linda was a long-time smoker from the time that she was a young woman. I remember actually sitting at her kitchen table rolling cigarettes. I didn't roll the cigarettes, but I remember her little machine where she'd stick the little paper in and fill them with tobacco. And I spent a great deal of time with Linda. And about 25 years ago, shortly before Christmas, she was diagnosed with lung cancer. And it was incredibly sad. Ken and Linda had been together for a very long time. And within just three short months, Madam Deputy Speaker, Linda succumbed to lung cancer. And it was an awful illness to watch. It was terrible to watch Linda, but it was very hard to watch the impact on her family and friends as well.

So I'm a pretty strong advocate of not smoking, Madam Deputy Speaker, as you can see, from personal experiences. A huge loss to my family to lose Ken and Linda, who were family friends but were like family. And I know my parents . . . Linda passed away in the early '90s, and you know my parents have never really recovered from that. They've got lots of good friends, but Ken was my dad's best friend growing up, and they travelled every couple of years with Ken and Linda. They were just really great people. And it was awful to watch what happened to Linda. And you know, after Linda passed away, six months later Ken passed away on Christmas Day. He was to come to our house for Christmas dinner, and he had a massive heart attack. We think that perhaps he died of a broken heart, but when they did the autopsy, they discovered that Ken had the body of a smoker from living his life with a chronic and regular smoker.

So reducing smoking, in my mind, is a very good thing. My Auntie Alice, actually right around the same time, just a few months after Linda had been diagnosed, my Auntie Alice was diagnosed with lung cancer and the same thing happened to her, Madam Deputy Speaker, just a few short months later. Again a really awful . . . Passing away is never a good thing, but lung cancer is ravaging and awful to watch. It's hard on the individual and hard on everybody else around them.

So I think about my 15-year-old daughter who is in that demographic of people who have increased . . . The age demographic of those who are taking up smoking happens to be the age of my 15-year-old daughter. I'm a big believer that everything humanly possible to keep her from smoking is a good thing, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I know that young people tend to feel like they're invincible. And I was never a smoker. It never appealed to me, and I'm also a bit of a rule monger. So I'm the youngest of seven kids, and I always wanted to make my parents happy. And I wasn't a rebellious teen and didn't decide that . . . Smoking wasn't one of those things that I wanted to do to be different and rebel against my parents. I was a pretty by-the-book kid, and thankfully, I think my daughter Hennessey is. But as I said I'm always happy to hear of things that will keep our young people from starting smoking, but will hopefully encourage other people to quit.

Very thankful. My dad actually was a long-time smoker as well and quit shortly before I was born. He was one of the fortunate people who . . . Money was tight in our family, six kids at the time before I came along, an at-home mom, and a seventh baby on the way. And my dad, I've been told . . . [inaudible] . . . that he just decided to quit. It was too expensive and that was it. And he never went back. He never was interested in smoking again.

But from everybody I talked to who . . . From most people with whom I've spoken about smoking, it's a terrible addiction. Once you've been a smoker, there's so many things around us that can be tempting, or it's a hard thing to quit for the long haul. I know many people who have quit smoking 20 times, Madam Deputy Speaker, who try and do really well, and then for many reasons start smoking again.

So we think about public policy, of bans on smoking in public places. Again reflecting a little bit on my own life, I've mentioned here in the House before that I was a server in restaurants and bars during my university days, and it's not that long ago, although perhaps maybe it's longer than I'd like to care to admit. But that was about 20 years ago, 20-plus years ago that I did that. And I can remember every night coming home. The bar would close at 2:30. I would come home and I would have to shower. I stunk like cigarette smoke. I knew that it was impacting my health. Actually one of the reasons I quit smoking is because I have very bad allergies and that was it for me. So I was very pleased to see years ago the government starting, the former administration moving on banning smoking in public places.

It's interesting when you think about smoking and how policy evolves too. Again I might be dating or aging myself here a little bit, but I remember the Nick nicotine ads. I don't know if anybody else recalls those where Nick, in his jeans and his very cool shirt, sat on the steps. And smoking makes your teeth yellow; I remember that.

And when you think about a public policy, from a public policy perspective, that's called suasion. It took a long time of public education and awareness before government was in a good position to be able to start moving on things like banning smoking in public places. I think it can be very hard for governments to go from here, from one point and to the next point very quickly. There's things in between. And public education was one of those pieces. Public education and awareness was one of those things that helped move us along so we could start banning smoking in public places and taxing cigarettes becomes a little bit easier. And I think smokers are in the minority now, Madam Deputy Speaker.

So I've appreciated personally government policy that has aimed to curb smoking and keep smoking rates from rising or tried to reduce smoking rates. And I'm glad to hear that we're at the lowest rates that we've ever been, but there's undoubtedly still work that we can do on this.

Smoking is expensive. It's hard on people's health. It's hard on the taxpayer, from my understanding, aside from some of the chronic illnesses that come with cigarette smoking as well. I think about my friend Linda or my Auntie Alice. And that short, very short time in hospital is also very labour-intensive

and very expensive on the taxpayer. So I think that there is good merit in trying to ensure that our people in Saskatchewan have good information and there's public policy tools in place to reduce smoking rates.

So with that, I would like to move adjournment on Bill No. 94, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act*.

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — The member from Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on 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 Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — Carried.

[15:15]

Bill No. 95

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 95 — *The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act*** be now read a second time.]

The Acting Speaker (Ms. Campeau): — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you. It's my pleasure to rise this afternoon to speak to Bill No. 95, *An Act respecting the Operation of Public Registry Statutes, establishing the Office of Public Registry Administration and making consequential and related amendments to other Acts*.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Justice outlined when he introduced this legislation, this is a legislation to provide a new way to deliver public registries. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier especially, and others, but the Premier especially really has a thing about red tape and creating more work and more confusion in legislation. And, Mr. Speaker, I can see why they numbered this one No. 95 and put it at the end of the list because they kind of want to slip it in and basically tell people that, oh well we've got this ideological decision to privatize our ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] registry, but to do that we have to bring in a piece of legislation that's got more rules and all kinds of pieces to it, that it's going to take a long time for all of the information to be totally recognized in the system.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to end up talking a bit about what this document tries to do. Now I know that the people who have been working on this have been under a fair amount of pressure to put this together. And I wouldn't be surprised if we'll even see some more amendments in the coming weeks as we move forward with this one because this is not a very simple piece of legislation to put in place.

If in fact the government had stuck with the original intent of the Information Services Corporation and the consolidation of registries through that government-controlled, government-owned system, this whole Act would not be necessary, nor the next piece of legislation that we have which

is consequential amendments to that. It wouldn't be necessary because the rules have been in place for a long time as it relates to a whole number of pieces of legislation. And so let's talk about what pieces of legislation are affected by this Act.

If you go to page 4 of the Act or to the definition section, which is section 2(2), it lists the Acts that are presently going to be part of this particular legislation. And let's talk about them. We've got *The Business Corporations Act*. We have *The Business Names Registration Act*. We have the *Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act*, *The Companies Act*, *The Condominium Property Act*, *The Co-operatives Act*, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*, *The Land Information Services Facilitation Act*, *The Land Surveys Act*, *The Land Titles Act*, *The Libel and Slander Act*, *The Names of Homes Act*, *The New Generation Co-operatives Act*, *The Non-profit Corporations Act*, *The Partnership Act*, *The Personal Property Security Act*, and any other prescribed Act that shows up.

And practically what we're trying to do here, or the minister's trying to do is to put in place some method of contracting with a private contractor that protects the rights of Saskatchewan people. And they're doing it on the fly. They're doing it as a result of the ideological decision they made around ISC. And then all of a sudden they realized, oh, vital statistics; people don't like that. Well we're going to move that back to Health or eHealth. And we know how much turmoil that's causing as that's being done.

And then they realized, oh we have to make sure we protect the public interest in all these other pieces of legislation. Let's try to draft an Act that looks at that. And then, oh who's going to look after this? Well let's create the office of a public registry administration.

So, Mr. Speaker, you end up making an ideological decision and then all of a sudden all these other things start trailing out from it. And this is only in the first two or three months since that decision, or maybe four months since that decision has been made. It doesn't take into account what kinds of litigation we hear. One of the first things I looked for in this legislation — and it may be here, but I haven't been able to find it yet — is a protection for Saskatchewan people and Saskatchewan corporations that their information will be retained here in Saskatchewan.

And there doesn't appear anywhere in here that I can see, unless it's supposed to be part of each and every service agreement that's created. But, Mr. Speaker, there, that seems to me that it would be a fundamental part of this legislation, which is about protecting Saskatchewan people and Saskatchewan corporations and other entities that are registered under this system.

So I don't think I'm wrong in saying that people have been working very hard to get this legislation ready to prepare or ready to be presented in the legislature, and that when you move too quickly and you move in a way that is not getting all of the checks and balances in place, there are going to be some problems. And so at this stage when you look at this, you know that the good civil servants who are drafting this are trying to pick up every problem that maybe or might arise in this process.

But it could have saved everybody a lot of work if the Premier just said, hey we floated this idea about ISC, but hey, maybe it's not as good an idea as we thought. We've made a mistake. Let's pull back on that, and let's allow for a very profitable corporation to continue to be in the ownership of the public of Saskatchewan so that those resources can be used by the people of Saskatchewan.

I heard the minister say the other day that oh, this is a great time to privatize this piece of this company because what's happened is that it's got high revenues this year. Well that's also a very good time to say, maybe we made a mistake and those revenues should be retained by the people of Saskatchewan to provide services for the people of Saskatchewan. So there's a bit of a strange sense of oh, if we get something that actually works quite well, let's sell it off so somebody else can make some kind of income out of it.

Now what's clear in the legislation as well is that the ability to set fees is put forward into . . . It allows the contractors to set the fees, and the primary contractor for most of this work will be this privatized ISC. And it removes the ability for each of the ministries that might be responsible for some of these types of institutions to have a say in how those fees are created. Now I know that there's a lot of freelancing going on as this legislation is being developed and that there's a brave face being put forward by the minister and others that, oh well this is going to solve all our problems. But I don't think there are total, ironclad, a sense of security around the fact that this is actually going to do what we all expect, which is to protect Saskatchewan people and to protect Saskatchewan businesses and institutions.

So why create more red tape, create another agency, another whole set-up of people? Why do all of that when you can basically not have to be involved with that and you can actually then retain the service as an asset of the people of Saskatchewan?

This bill also builds on a long history in Saskatchewan of looking at different, innovative ways to deal with public information. And we all know, but maybe sometimes people forget, that when the original land titles systems were set up here in Saskatchewan, we adopted an Australian system which had effectively provincial government or state guaranteed title. And part of this legislation is attempting to scale out or take out those obligations around the guarantee of title and make sure that they continue even though the main part of the operation has been contracted out to a private entity.

And that's why I say that this legislation may have bigger consequences over the long term for what happens in Saskatchewan than anybody realizes. And for them to work at it, slip it in at the end of the legislative session and try to get it all in place is an example of how hurried and how not totally preplanned this whole initiative is. And it goes right back to an ideological decision to privatize a piece of a corporation that Saskatchewan people expect the government to retain.

And they've made that decision. They're testing the waters. We don't know what it means for other of the Crown corporations in Saskatchewan, and that's another factor in this. I assume they'll set up some kind of another operation if they privatize

some other corporation in the province with another office of public registry administration or whatever they're going to do. And every time they do this they'll create other layers of red tape. Now how does this mesh with the goal of having efficient, inexpensive government? I don't know where that comes.

So, Mr. Speaker, this legislation has been brought forward in a hurry. It's been brought forward to try to patch some of the holes in the ideological decision they've made around the Information Services Corporation. I think that there are a number of issues which aren't addressed, including where this information is to be retained and where it's to be protected.

One of the things that we know as legislators and also I think as citizens of the province is that our legislation often will only apply within the boundaries of Saskatchewan. We have to have agreements if our legislation is to apply in Manitoba or Ontario or other places or in the United States. And in fact we do have some of those kinds of agreements. But as it relates to this type of protection of fundamental information about people and about corporations, institutions in Saskatchewan, I don't think we have that kind of a protection. And I'm not sure we have the jurisdiction if a big chunk of that information is taken out of the province and is placed in some other place.

And so what kinds of rules will there be? What kinds of things will be part of the whole system to protect us in that way? I don't know if I see anything in here that addresses that.

Another question that I have for the minister and for the Premier is whether this has been fully vetted by the Privacy Commissioner. We know that two or three pieces of legislation this session have been a surprise to that person whose job it is to review legislation. And I saw no record of any reference to review by the Privacy Commissioner as this proceeded. I'm not certain that this legislature and the people who are members in this legislature are ready to go ahead with this type of legislation with so many questions outstanding.

[15:30]

And I urge the members opposite who are part of the government caucus to go back and take another look at this one and ask themselves and ask what some of their constituents will be thinking about this type of legislation that is meant to protect Saskatchewan people and corporations and institutions. But does it actually do that? And I think that that is the fundamental question as it relates to this legislation and it's something that we all need to take a very hard look at.

Now I'm not going to make any more comments today, but I know others in my caucus want to look at this particular bill because it has a number of large questions attached. It may be that it's the type of bill that should take a couple of sessions, a couple of years, to be dealt with because it has these long-term implications for the province. Our registry systems have been around for centuries, and there's no reason that we shouldn't take the right amount of time to review what's here. So at this point I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 95.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on 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 Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 96

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

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 96, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act*. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this particular bill relates to the changes that are necessary if Bill No. 95 is passed as it relates to bilingual legislation in the province and under our agreements with and plans for the province in the long term. We have wanted to have legislation drafted in both official languages of Canada, in probably in all areas, but we've started very carefully with those pieces of legislation which affect more people than some other ones.

And so what this legislation then does is address the issues as it relates to bilingual legislation that is being affected by this whole procedure, which is the ISC privatization kind of initiative.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would say on this particular bill is that it should move hand in hand with Bill No. 95 and have a thorough review, whether it takes one or two or three sessions of this legislature because of the changes that are made and because of the concerns around protection of the information and important details of the lives of people, of corporations, of institutions.

And what happens is that I think sometimes governments slip things in at the end that even get past their own caucus members about what they're trying to do. They just say, oh we have to do all of this. But I think that's the point where both the caucus and opposition members need to say, okay let's slow down a bit here. What's the big hurry? Let's make sure that our people in this province are protected, their information's protected, and that things are done properly.

And I know that this has been a pretty hurry-up job in dealing with this. The whole initiative that was brought forward by the Premier was another one of his surprises. And when those things come forward, we know that they move sometimes ahead of thinking through what they're doing. It's kind of like getting your mouth in motion before you've actually thought about what you're going to say. And this is getting your legislation in motion before you actually have thought about what the effect of it is.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on this particular bilingual bill, I think

that this matter should be adjourned. The debate should be adjourned to allow some of my colleagues to deal with it, but also to allow the minister to take another hard look at both of these pieces of legislation to make sure that the protections are there for individuals and corporations and other institutions in our province, and also that the issues of privacy are properly addressed and that information is presented in this legislature.

So with that I will adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 96. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's with pleasure that I enter the debate on Bill No. 89, *The Creative Saskatchewan Act*. It's important in opposition and for everybody in Saskatchewan to think about, when a bill is before us, who has suggested the bill, or why is the bill before us, what the bill proposes to do, and why they are proposing to do that.

So I think we have to go back to a year ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or just over a year ago when the government cut the film employment tax credit, which had a huge impact on jobs, on economic spinoff, on peoples' lives. There were very real impacts on peoples' lives through the cut to that tax credit. There were people, families who have deep roots in the community, in the province, who've been forced to leave to find work elsewhere, film workers and production companies who made a living here who had to go where other provinces . . . every other jurisdiction that still supports a film tax credit.

The film tax credit was a key part of what used to be a strong and vibrant film industry here in this province, but this government actually slowly has eroded that. It cut SCN, the Saskatchewan Communications Network, three years ago. And then we have the tax credit that was cut last year. Now we have a sound stage which there are public dollars in that sits empty right now, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Usually by this time, we know that there'll be productions shot in the sound stage. At this point in the year, we know what will be shot during the summer on the sound stage. And right now the sound stage sits empty. And that was public dollars and public investment that is not being utilized.

So we go back to a year ago when the government made this decision and then backpedalled slightly. And instead of cutting it as of April 1st, they realized, after there was a huge outcry by both film workers and people in the community, that they should extend that. And they agreed to sit down and work with

the film industry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And so they were doing that, and the film industry came up with a proposal that they felt was workable. So what the government did was take the film industry's recommendation, and in front of the word refundable tax credit write the word simply "non" and said that they had taken the industry's recommendations, and here they are, and these are good. And of course so what the government had thought would fix the problem just made people even more upset, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So why is this bill before us? It comes back to the film tax credit cut this time last year and the huge public outcry.

So after session and as we rolled into spring and summer, the government announced that it was going to embark upon consultations for all creative industries. And that was their solution to solving the problem that had arisen with the film tax credit and the film community and those who supported the film community, which was a broad swath of people here in the province.

People here in Saskatchewan appreciated the direct jobs that the film tax credit created. They appreciated that young people could graduate from our film school and stay here in the province. And that should have fit with this government's narrative about attracting and retaining young people, that those are the people who are primarily working in the film industry. The goal should be to attract and retain them. Instead we have people who go to film school here who are forced to leave.

I know a young woman in grade 12 who is at the film school in high school at Evan Hardy. And it's been a fabulous program for her. She's so enthusiastic. Actually her teacher had high praise for her. And he said there's not too many people who he's ever recommended should become producers, but she is gregarious and outgoing, and he said she should pursue film studies. And well actually he suggested a commerce degree and film studies. And this should be something that she should do.

But unfortunately she doesn't feel like if she goes to school here that there will be a job here, so she is going to be going to school in Ontario. There's a great school here, but the problem is the time when you're in your education is often time where you make connections for when you move beyond your career.

So people here in Saskatchewan saw that this created direct jobs and employment, economic development — all those organizations that benefited from big spend, the spending that happens when film or TV production comes to town, whether it's a restaurant that does all the catering or a lumber yard that is used to supply the set building that goes on in the sound stage, the clothing store that gets \$8,000 of business when a wardrobe person comes in and needs to buy clothing. So there are many people who realized that their businesses would be impacted from the cut to the tax credit.

Just the sheer opportunity to tell Saskatchewan stories . . . If we're not telling our stories, if we don't have a vibrant film industry here in Saskatchewan, who is going to tell our stories, Mr. Deputy Speaker? And so people saw the issue with that.

Another piece of that is pride of place. I think when a film is made here in Saskatchewan, we have the opportunity to see our

neighbours as extras or that opportunity to say, hey that set, which looks like a place in Minnesota or wherever it might have been, is my backyard, or that's my neighbour's tree in the film. I think that pride of place, seeing Saskatchewan landscapes reflected on the big screen or the little screen or now on the Internet with interactive media, those are all things that people here in Saskatchewan knew what was missing.

So it's a huge problem with the cut to the film tax credit. I think what we discovered was even a bigger problem is that we saw a government who made the cut to the tax credit, and then shortly before they announced the cut, decided to spend some taxpayer dollars on a quick piece of research but didn't release that study because it didn't fit with their narrative. So a government makes a policy decision and then decides that they better do some analysis.

And you know, last spring on many occasions both in this House and in estimates I asked, has the government done any economic analysis? Could you table that economic analysis? Nary a word from the members opposite, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We didn't hear a single word on economic analysis. We heard lots of spin. I actually was just looking at estimates from last year, and the minister, when asked that question, repeatedly would not table that document.

We learned that there was a second document when the chamber of commerce and SaskFilm came out with a report in support of the tax credit. The chamber of commerce, which is typically not what one would say is an organization that takes these things lightly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, came out strongly in support of the tax credit and the economic spinoff that it generated for many of its members.

So what happened after that? The government again did a piece of economic analysis on the tax credits that . . . They didn't make it public because it didn't fit with their narrative. So we have two pieces of analysis done after the government has made a decision to cut a tax credit. That, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is poor public policy decision making. That is not the way public policy should be made.

So why do we have Bill No. 89, *The Creative Saskatchewan Act*, in front of us right now? So after all of the mess the government made with the film employment tax credit, they needed to embark upon a consultation process that involved all creative industries. And you know, I commend them on that. It's important to raise the bar or raise I think the fortunes of other creative industries, ensure that they have access to the things that they need to take their product to market.

[15:45]

So I should just define for you that creative industries are the businesses and people involved in production, distribution and marketing of commercially viable content and experiences, like music, publishing, craft, visual arts, film and digital media, theatre, and dance. So I think it's great that there is a desire to improve things for the other creative industries.

But we could have gotten there, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We could have gotten there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, without cutting the legs out from one of the creative industries that has the hugest

production or that brought an enormous amount of money. Because there's a huge amount of capital that comes with film, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a huge amount of money that is involved in it. The reality is it is the one creative industry that has the capacity to bring . . . has budgets in millions and millions of dollars.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we didn't have to cut the legs out from under an entire industry to raise the bar, to raise the bar for the other creative industries. That wasn't necessary. We could have improved the fortunes of the other creative industries and still kept a film employment tax credit.

So with respect to the consultations, with respect to the consultations that started back I believe last July, there were calls for submissions. And I know initially many of the creative industries, not just film because other . . . There's not been a single person who I've spoken to in any of the creative industries who didn't think the tax credit was a good thing. They all recognize that they benefited from a vibrant film industry here in Saskatchewan. So I didn't hear people from other creative industries saying, oh no no, let's kill the tax credit and we can share it all. What I heard people say to me is, I benefited from a strong film industry, and it's really unfortunate and not right that this government cut the tax credit.

So we didn't have to do that to ensure that everybody else did well. So the government embarked upon these consultations. And people were nervous, invited to submit, but people initially were incredibly wary. They didn't have a lot of faith or trust in the process.

And you know, I'll give the government credit here. As the processes moved along from that initial few months where I think it was pretty rocky, things started to improve, and most of the creative industries were feeling quite good about the process, although there were still some challenges. I know film actually has felt like they haven't been listened to at all.

There was just an article in *The StarPhoenix* last week where the Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association says that they haven't felt like they've been listened to at all. And they would argue that in the small transition fund that the Arts Board offered up \$1 million that was part of the Arts Board budget, the cap of \$60,000 that was placed on grants was not, didn't meet filmmakers' needs. We have to think too, in this whole creative industries process, this is a very disparate group. They all have very different needs. What publishing needs isn't the same as what film needs or isn't the same as what music or craft needs.

And film is a bit of a different one than all of them because they do their marketing before the product is actually made. Marketing happens when you are going to pitch your product to get broadcast licences or to try to create budgets. The marketing for film happens at the start of the project, not once the project is complete. So film is a very different entity. So I recognize that it's a very difficult thing, pulling all these organizations together, and there is not a cookie-cutter approach that can be taken with any of the creative industries.

I know that one of the concerns that is on the table right now is with part III, 12(3) and 12(4) with:

Not less than five of the members are to be appointed from a list of nominees provided by the creative industry.

And:

Nominations made for the purposes of subsection (3) must be made in the manner prescribed in the regulations.

People are concerned with what the regulations are going to look like. And they're still in consultations and, again, I give the ministry credit for continuing the process. It's absolutely imperative that they get this right.

But what I've heard from the creative industries is there is an organization, a not-for-profit that's been in existence, I believe, since 1997. It's incorporated. The Saskatchewan cultural development council, which initially had five of the creative industries on it but with the Pride of Saskatchewan they have moved to a model that includes some of the other creative industries as well. But I know the cultural development council would be very interested and willing to have some of the new dance and theatre incorporated or included in the council as well.

But from my understanding, there has been consensus, and the minister last night in committee said otherwise. But from my understanding from conversations with people around the table is that they want a body from which to appoint . . . There are only five spaces available for industry reps. So five spaces and there are more than five creative industries. So instead of picking and choosing that, saying, this creative industry and this creative industry can have spots, they want the cultural development council to be the body, the representative body that puts forward nominees.

And I know that the only, from my understanding, the only people who are opposed to this is the ministry at this point in time. And I'm sure that if I'm incorrect, I'm sure I will hear from the creative industries who disagree with that. But from my understanding, from being in close connection with those who are around that table, that that was agreed upon.

I know when we talk about consultation, this has been, as I said, it started out as a very rocky process but again it's been quite thorough. And at this point in time, the ministry is sitting down on a weekly basis with the creative industries. But one of the concerns expressed was around the introduction of the bill and not getting to see the bill. And the minister explained that he couldn't, people couldn't see the bill before it was introduced.

But I think one of the frustrations that people had was that the definition that in this consultation that has been ongoing, in the consultation a definition of creative industries was put forward and agreed upon by the creative industries, and that definition wasn't the one that showed up in Bill 89, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So that's one of the reasons they aren't feeling that the ministry and the minister is hearing them. So that is a bit of a problem.

And there are other questions that are out there as well right now around funding. And I had an opportunity to ask the minister some questions last night, and I think things still aren't entirely clear. There's \$6.5 million in the budget and the minister confirmed that 5 million will be for an investment

program, which is interesting. I digress here. This is interesting.

The pot of money that was put in place for a transition, the \$1 million — I think this needs to be put on the record — the \$1 million that was put in place to support the creative industries, that will be evaluated, the minister said last night. And it may be the model that's used going forward for the 5 million, but we're not sure yet. It needs to be evaluated. But I need to point out that that was a grant, a direct grant. And it's great that we're putting money in the hands of our creators who want to take their content and share it and rightfully earn a living, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But I think it's ironic that this time last year the words on the opposite side of the House is, we're not in the business of grants, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I don't know how many times we heard that over and over and over again. But the reality is the program that the government put in place was a grant program. So I find that interesting that the spin that they were using is exactly the kind of program that they've landed on, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So that is just, I think, something interesting to note.

But back to that budget of \$6.5 million. So the \$5 million is for an investment pool. The \$1.5 million, it's still not entirely clear. The ministry has committed that 1.5 million. Some of it is for the creative industry sector organizations which, in consultations, the sector organizations have said it's absolutely imperative that that funding continues because the sector organizations are the direct, are the direct link to all the creators, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They are the people, the sector organizations who are the voice of all the different people in their respective sector. And so the sector organizations have made it very clear in the consultations that continued funding is very important. They are the ones who liaise directly with the ministry.

So the 1.5 million is about what they get right now, but there's nowhere in the budget, there's no line item specific to how Creative Saskatchewan is actually going to function. There's no money for administration as a line item or in the Creative Saskatchewan budget. So I know the minister explained last night that some of the money could come from SaskFilm, some of the money could come from Culture on the Go. But all of that, there's still . . . The creative industries have many, many questions on will the sector organizations be funded to the level they are right now to carry out the services they currently are carrying out right now, or what does that look like? So they still have some fear and apprehension around how all of that looks. And just again pointing out that there isn't any direct money set aside at this point, some very transparent way of looking at what's going to be used for operation for Creative Saskatchewan.

So I'm looking forward, when this bill is moved to committee, I do have more questions for the minister and look forward to the opportunity to get some further clarification on some of the issues that the creative industries have raised with me. And again it's been my pleasure to have the opportunity to speak to this bill. I think that raising the fortunes of all the creative industries as a whole is a very good thing. But I just want to emphasize we did not have to cut the legs out of an entire industry to get there, and I think that's a huge shame. Thank you.

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 Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 89, *The Creative Saskatchewan Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy 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. 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 Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House does now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:58.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	3259
Brotten	3259
McMillan	3259
Wilson	3260
McCall	3260
Campeau	3260

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Belanger	3260
Brotten	3260
Forbes	3260

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Access to Physician Services	
Ross	3261
Sikh Society Celebrates Vaisakhi	
Forbes	3261
Yorkton Students Win McKercher Cup	
Ottenbreit	3261
World Hemophilia Day	
Nilson	3262
St. Brieux Crusaders Win Gold	
Kirsch	3262
Couple Selected as Family of the Year	
Michelson	3262
Party Policy and History	
Steinley	3262

QUESTION PERIOD

Asbestos Registry	
Brotten	3263
Wall	3263
Morgan	3263
Support for Home Care	
Nilson	3263
Duncan	3264
Highway Conditions	
Belanger	3265
McMorris	3265
Funding for Firefighting	
Sproule	3266
Cheveldayoff	3266
Combatting Discrimination and Bullying	
Brotten	3267
Wall	3267

TABLING OF COMMUNICATION

The Speaker	3267
-------------------	------

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 91 — <i>The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)</i>	
Forbes	3267
Bill No. 92 — <i>The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act</i>	
Wotherspoon	3270
Bill No. 93 — <i>The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2013</i>	
<i>Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Act</i>	
Wotherspoon	3271
Bill No. 83 — <i>The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act</i>	
Brotten	3272
Harrison (referral to committee)	3274
Bill No. 94 — <i>The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2013</i>	
Chartier	3274

Bill No. 95 — <i>The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act</i>	
Nilson	3275
Bill No. 96 — <i>The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Consequential Amendments Act, 2013</i>	
<i>Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Operation of Public Registry Statutes Act</i>	
Nilson	3277
Bill No. 89 — <i>The Creative Saskatchewan Act</i>	
Chartier	3278
Harrison (referral to committee)	3281

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

Minister of the Economy
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

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

Hon. Nancy Heppner

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Russ Marchuk

Minister of Education

Hon. Tim McMillan

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

Hon. Don McMorris

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

Hon. Don Morgan

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

Hon. Jim Reiter

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

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General