



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

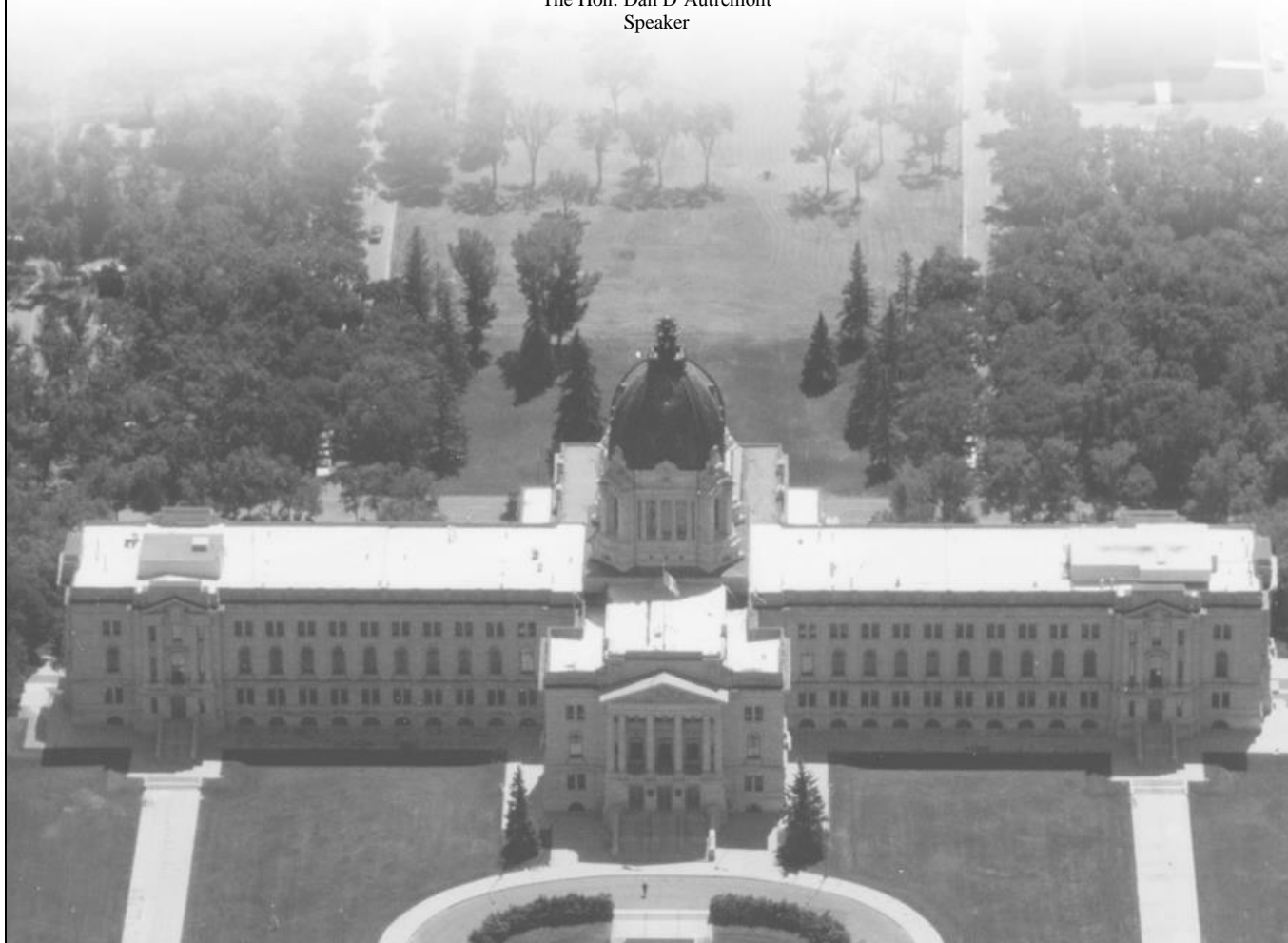
of the

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, Hon. 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, Hon. Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, 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, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Hon. 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, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Young, Colleen	SP	Lloydminster

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, it's my privilege and pleasure to introduce 23 members of the public service sitting in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. They come from a number of different ministries such as Central Services, Economy, Environment, Health, Highways and Infrastructure, Justice, SaskBuilds, and the Legislative Assembly.

This is kind of a routine appearance of public service members into the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. They do it on an annual basis. I know they'll be meeting with you, some members of the opposition, as well as myself. I look forward to meeting with them. I do have to say, Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong resident of Saskatchewan, you always knew there was a public service, but perhaps I never knew how much work they really did until I became a cabinet minister and see the work that they do first-hand. So just on behalf of government, and more importantly all the people of the province, thank them very, very much for the work that they do day in and day out for the people of Saskatchewan. I'll ask all members to welcome them.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming these public servants to their Legislative Assembly. Certainly taking a greater interest in the affairs of the political side, the legislative side of the public service work that they engage in, is to be commended. I'm glad to see some participants from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy also in the gallery, Mr. Speaker, some top-notch folks there.

And it's also good to see one Nicole Lang in the gallery. Now I think she's got some inside information in terms of how this Assembly works, but it will be interesting to test that out later on. But if we could join with the minister opposite in welcoming these public servants to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — If I could have leave for an extended introduction, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to members of the Assembly, I would like to welcome four representatives from the Mennonite Central Committee of Saskatchewan. With us today, Claire Ewert Fisher, executive director; Peter Guenther, board Chair; and two board members, Peter Peters and Arlene Janzen.

The Mennonite Central Committee, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a non-profit organization that engages in a number of forms of peace and human welfare ministries both in the province and internationally. Their legacy of charitable work is long and impressive, which speaks to the tremendous contribution their members have made over the years. To speak to just a few, members will be interested to hear that the history of the MCC [Mennonite Central Committee] Saskatchewan includes: founding the Menno Homes of Saskatchewan; helping to found the Global Gathering Place in Saskatoon; operating a number of thrift shops in the province including in Herbert, Lanigan, Rosthern, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Rosthern, and Warman; supporting prison ministries; and collecting funds and material aid for natural disasters worldwide.

MCC Saskatchewan is celebrating its 50th year in 2014, one reason we have the pleasure of welcoming four of its representatives to the Assembly today.

Our province has a long history of faith-based charitable work, and many families over the past 50 years have come to rely on the services of these organizations and their volunteers to help them in times of need.

I would ask all members to join me in thanking MCC Saskatchewan for the work it has offered to the people of this province over the past 50 years in the hope that the four guests we have with us today will pass on our gratitude to the many volunteers and donors they represent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome the delegation from the Mennonite Central Committee who are here in the legislature today. With us again is Claire Ewert Fisher, executive director; Peter Guenther, Peter Peters, as well as Scott Siemens who has joined us here today, Mr. Speaker.

All members in the Assembly know of the important work that MCC has been doing throughout Saskatchewan and around the world over the past 50 years and for that reason it's a great pleasure to have these fine individuals in the Assembly today. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them and thanking MCC for their fantastic work.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I would like to welcome in your gallery a number of members of the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association. These people are here to meet with MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and have been for the last couple of days.

I would, while I'm on my feet, like to thank them for their commitment. They routinely put their lives at risk for the safety and security of all of us in the province. They also provide some amazing medical services because they're often first on the scene. So on behalf of all members, I would like to thank them for that.

In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are Craig Farrel — and I hope I have all the names and I hope I have them correctly — Jarod Benson, Bruce Siemens, Joel McNair, Doug McLaughlin, Tedd Brown, Tyler Packham, Jeff Anderson, Rod Smith, Peter Gunther, James Green, Jeff Reader, Jay Protz, Gord Hewitt, Trevor Braun, Marc Schweitzer, Brian Seidlik, Neal Matechuk, Brian Belitsky, and Lloyd Zwack. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to welcome them to their Assembly today. We look forward to having meetings with them further in the day.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the minister and introduce and welcome to you and through you the members of the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF [International Association of Fire Fighters], and recognize as well the good work they do in our communities right across this province. We value and, you know, we rest easy because we know there are professional firefighters who are there to put our minds at ease because safety is the first thing, that they're required to make sure that we are safe in our homes, in our communities, in our businesses.

I want to make sure we recognize these folks come from seven different communities in Saskatchewan: Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Weyburn, Moose Jaw, and Swift Current. And of course they've brought many issues to the House here today and I hope we all take them very seriously. I want to recognize three people in particular — the minister read the list of names and thank him for that — but Kirby Benning, the president; Lloyd Zwack, the vice-president; and Brian Belitsky, the secretary-treasurer. Thank you all for coming, and welcome to your legislature. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in the Assembly again today and ask all members to help me welcome another great group from the Yorkton Regional High School up in the west gallery, led by their teacher, Mr. Perry Ostapowich, and one of the other teachers, Mr. Steven Delong. Also out on the bus again today, Mr. Pat Rawlick.

I was talking to Mr. Ostapowich earlier and we're thinking we might have to physically drag Pat into the Assembly some day, but being ex-RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and very much a cut of the same cloth as our Sergeant-at-Arms, I think we may need four or five of us to drag him in the building.

But some honourable mentions, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned yesterday, Mr. Ostapowich is very good at getting the kids to engage with local political figures, myself specifically, through social media quite a bit. So I always promise them I'll give

them special mention. So special mention today goes to Austin Hilderman — give us a wave, Austin — Abigail Unrau, Zowee Mydonick, and Renee Walker, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to specifically print off her tweet and quote her in the Assembly because I got a real laugh out of this one, Mr. Speaker. So @GregOttenbreit, right, this is off of Twitter: "Yo, home dog. I'm going to the Saskatchewan legislature this Wednesday with Mr. Ostapowich. Think I could get a shout out maybe?" Definitely. Welcome to your Assembly. I ask all members to welcome them.

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

Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Mr. Derek Giles who's a resident of Saskatoon Greystone to his legislature. Derek is the general manager of Alsip's construction products. He works right across the province. And in fact he's kind of swinging through five or six communities, and he happens to be here in Regina today. And so I'm delighted that he's been able to join us, a bit of a quality assurance session for his MLA. And I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Derek to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for greater protection for Saskatchewan citizens from developers who default on fixed-price contracts with the Saskatchewan government.

And we know that in September this year, this government walked away from a new 48-unit, low-income affordable housing project in Regina, allowing a private developer to instead take control of and then rent the units at full market price. When asked to explain how this government could allow this to happen with a private developer to back out of a fixed-price contract without any penalties, the Minister of Social Services said, and I quote: "You're assuming that there is these desperate homeless people" — showing how disconnected this government is from the realities within our communities. Mr. Speaker, 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 recognize that there are indeed desperate homeless people in our province and to immediately reverse its policy of now allowing private developers with whom the government has close relationships to default on fixed-price contracts for affordable housing projects.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the city of Prince Albert. I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions as it relates to the unsafe conditions on Dewdney Avenue created by that government in their failure to

plan proper and safe traffic flow. And the current conditions have heavy-haul truck traffic that's inundated Dewdney Avenue and simply shouldn't be there, and the petitioners are working to have those heavy-haul trucks rightfully moved off of Dewdney Avenue. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the provincial government to immediately take action as it relates to the unacceptable danger, disturbance, and infrastructure damage caused by the heavy-haul truck traffic on Dewdney Avenue west of the city centre, to ensure the safety and well-being of communities, families, residents, and users; and that those actions and plans should include rerouting the heavy-haul truck traffic, receive provincial funding, and be developed through consultation with the city of Regina, communities, and residents.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents from across Regina, including those directly on Dewdney Avenue. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise a petition on behalf of Creighton, Denare Beach, and area. Many residents in these communities are struggling with disabilities and currently do not have the supports and services they need and deserve. And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government of Saskatchewan to establish and build a residence and a day program in the Creighton and Denare Beach region to support the immediate and ongoing needs of the community, and so that persons with intellectual disabilities thrive in their respective communities.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by many good people from Creighton, Denare Beach. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place today to present a petition on the second bridge for Prince Albert. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to guarantee that a second bridge that serves central and northern Saskatchewan and as well the city of Prince Albert will receive a commitment from senior government.

And the people that have signed the petition, Mr. Speaker, are primarily from Moose Jaw. And I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition from citizens condemning this government's dangerous smart meter program. In the prayer that reads as follows:

The petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to take responsibility for its failure to act on readily available information about safety concerns with its smart meter program, including through the immediate resignation of the Minister Responsible for SaskPower and a fully independent inquiry into the concerning chain of events that severely compromised the safety of Saskatchewan families.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by good citizens from Balcarres and Indian Head. I so present.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to present a petition from people who are opposed to the privatization of correctional service jobs. There are a number of people in Saskatchewan who work in our public corrections facilities who are concerned about their jobs, and they have presented this petition.

And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan may be pleased to cause the government to cancel its privatization in the corrections and young offender facilities in Saskatchewan.

Thank you.

[13:45]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise to present a petition in support of better health care in Saskatchewan. The individuals who have brought this petition have highlighted a number of issues, including the fact that emergency wait room times in Saskatchewan have doubled since 2010, and the government's own statistics show that patient safety is getting worse. In the prayer that reads as follows, they:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to recognize health care is getting worse under its watch and to begin fixing the basics by listening to health care workers, patients, and their families; properly maintaining hospitals and care facilities; and focusing its resources on front-line care instead of spending millions on its lean pet project.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by individuals from my constituency. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Mennonite Central Committee of Saskatchewan

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, for 50 years the Mennonite Central Committee of Saskatchewan has been putting faith into action as they respond to basic human needs and work for peace and justice here in Saskatchewan, throughout Canada, and around the world.

The MCC does incredible work in our province, including with families in core urban communities, with newcomers, landless indigenous bands, people in prison, and those who have been released from prison. And MCC is heavily involved in the truth and reconciliation process.

They not only advocate for policies that lead to a more peaceful and just world, but they take meaningful action at the local level to achieve that. When disaster happens, when people need food and water, when communities seek peace, and when children need to feel safe, the Mennonite Central Committee is there, meeting the needs with love and compassion in the name of Christ.

I appreciated meeting with MCC representatives this morning and I was reminded in our meeting — as I often am when I spend time with Mennonites — of Micah 6:8, which says, “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” Mr. Speaker, that is what the MCC lives out every day, and I ask all members to join me in thanking them for their inspiring work. Thank you.

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

International Education Week

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House and announce that November the 17th to 21 is International Education Week. This week is held to raise awareness and understanding of the important contributions international education provides to our country, our educational institutions, and our people.

Mr. Speaker, currently there are just over 4,500 international post-secondary students from over 124 countries studying in Saskatchewan. This provides a unique opportunity for Saskatchewan to build relationships with other parts of the world. It encourages students to study abroad and welcomes international students who bring global perspectives into our classrooms and communities.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the Saskatchewan plan for growth, our government has identified a number of goals focused around international education. They include increasing the number of international students in Saskatchewan, increasing the number of Saskatchewan people studying abroad, and encouraging the study of international languages in Saskatchewan business schools to better equip students and the business community to engage internationally.

Mr. Speaker, we want our students to bring the valuable knowledge and skills they’ve acquired abroad back to Saskatchewan to help execute our plan for growth. I would ask all members to join me in recognizing International Education Week. Thank you.

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

Professional Firefighters

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in this Assembly today to bring recognition to the great work done in our communities every day by our professional firefighters. All across our province, firefighters serve our communities and keep us safe. At any hour, at any time of the year, they are ready to spring into action, save lives, and defend our homes and communities.

But for most firefighters, service isn’t something that stops at the end of the shift at the hall. Firefighters often take on community leadership roles, like supporting great causes and coaching minor sports. It’s important to remember, Mr. Speaker, that we have a duty to serve our firefighters as dutifully and faithfully as they serve us. We need to make sure that our firefighters and their families have the supports they need when they get sick or injured because of work — which is in part why today’s forum and discussion with MLAs on both sides of the Assembly is so important. It’s a forum and discussion that enables us to take steps that are priorities for those that serve us and improve community safety for all.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that all members will join with me in recognizing and thanking the professional firefighters that have served us and have joined us here today and all professional firefighters that serve our province every day, and that we will all commit to supporting those who keep us safe and commit to improving community safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Lows in Motion Parkinson’s Fundraiser

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. On November the 1st, I had the opportunity to attend the sixth annual Lows in Motion Parkinson’s Shaker presented by Ens Auto, held at the Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. This year’s event was a sellout with 1,200 people in attendance. This event is an opportunity for people to come together to increase awareness about Parkinson’s disease and raise funds for the Parkinson’s Society of Saskatchewan. More than \$125,000 was raised at the shaker this year. The Lows in Motion fundraiser has grown every year since the first event in 2009 which drew 350 people and raised \$23,000.

Mr. Speaker, the highlight of the night was the moving video entitled *Beneath the Tremors — Living with Parkinson’s*. The video was produced by Living Sky Media. It tells the story of Dwayne Low and Dr. Kurt Williams and their experiences living with Parkinson’s disease. The video had all 1,200 attendees engaged and there were more than a few tears being wiped away throughout the crowd.

Parkinson’s disease is a progressive disorder of the nervous

system that affects a person's movement. There is currently no cure for Parkinson's. About 4,000 people in Saskatchewan are living with the disease. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating organizer Travis Low, the event committee, on another very successful Lows in Motion Shaker and on increasing awareness for Parkinson's disease in the province, and on raising more than \$125,000 for the Parkinson's Society of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Moose Jaw Health Foundation Capital Equipment Campaign

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise in the House today to announce that the Moose Jaw Health Foundation has raised to date \$2.27 million for its capital equipment campaign. Mr. Speaker, the capital equipment campaign is working to raise \$8 million for brand new equipment that will be used in Moose Jaw's regional hospital once it's been completed. This includes the \$3.3 million cost of the new MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] unit which the hospital foundation has committed to raise 100 per cent of the cost.

Once the hospital is completed, the Government of Saskatchewan has dedicated funding to the operating costs associated with the new MRI. There are currently over 50 volunteers who have been working diligently to make this possible, and that number continues to grow. The hospital foundation expects the donor base to grow as the community rallies to make the \$8 million grow.

Raising the funds for this campaign has been no small task. I would like to thank all of the volunteers, the donors, the hospital foundation, the community of Moose Jaw, and the people of Saskatchewan for all the work that they have done. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me on congratulating the Moose Jaw Hospital Foundation and the capital equipment campaign on raising the \$2.27 million. Let's make sure the momentum continues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

University of Regina Rams' Head Coach Retires

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to celebrate the career of University of Regina's head coach, Frank McCrystal. Earlier this year, Coach McCrystal announced he would be retiring from coaching after this season, and on November 8th he coached his final game with the Rams.

Frank was the head coach of the Regina Rams of the Prairie Junior Football Conference from 1984 to 1999. Before becoming head coach, McCrystal spent five years as an assistant coach for the team and five years prior to that as a player. In 1998 the Regina Rams became the University of Regina Rams, joining the Canada West Conference of the then Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union.

To date, Frank McCrystal is the only head coach in the history of the Rams. In total McCrystal has spent 41 years with the junior and university versions of the Rams as either a player or a coach. Frank's teams have had playoff successes winning seven Canadian Bowl championships between '84 and '98, and winning the Hardy Cup and the Atlantic Bowl on the way to the Rams' only Vanier Cup appearance in 2000 in just their second season as a university team. Many of Coach McCrystal's players have gone on to pro football careers, including three former Rams currently playing in the NFL [National Football League].

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Frank McCrystal on an exceptional coaching career and wishing him all the best in whatever he chooses to do after his retirement. Thank you very much.

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

Long-Term Care Comparisons

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the member from Saskatoon Riversdale stated that the criteria to be accepted into long-term care has changed and that the government was rationing care replacements. This is just not true. The assessment criteria for long-term care hasn't changed since 2004. It is exact criteria used under the NDP [New Democratic Party].

In fact, if the member would have taken time to actually read the written questions, she would have seen the number of seniors who have been assessed and placed on a waiting list is decreasing. It was also provided to the member from Riversdale that the average time on the waiting list in 2007, the last full year of the NDP, was nearly 32 days. Under our government, the average time a senior was on a waiting list for long-term care replacement has dropped to only 23 days.

Mr. Speaker, our government's commitment to long-term care is working. Waiting lists are shorter. The time spent on the waiting list is decreasing, and more of the people who need to get into long-term care are getting the opportunity to do so. The NDP know that they cannot compare closing 19 facilities and 1,200 beds to our government's record, so instead they misrepresent the facts.

Mr. Speaker, will the Leader of the Opposition stand up for genuine debate and real scrutiny and correct the errors of his Health critic? We are about to find out.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provision of Care for Seniors

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Margaret Warholm was in care at Santa Maria seniors' home here in Regina. She suffered severe malnutrition and multiple fractures, and her family believes that her treatment in this seniors' care facility led to her premature death last October.

Mr. Speaker, Margaret's family is here with us today because they want accountability, and they want to ensure that this stops happening to seniors in Saskatchewan. My question is for the Premier, Mr. Speaker. What does he have to say to the family, and how can he assure them that this will stop happening?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the government. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, this is a case that I'm not familiar with all the details on. I'd be happy to meet with family members after question period ends. This is obviously something that is a great deal of concern for the province, for the government — not just a case, as it's been described by the Leader of the Opposition.

But any time that we can make improvements to seniors' care in this province, whether they live in long-term care or whether they are among the vast majority of seniors that do not live in long-term care, certainly we look to improve the care that we're able to provide and the supports that we're able to provide to the seniors.

So again I would make the offer to the family that I would meet with them afterwards.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the family informed me that they did in fact email the minister with information about their mother's tragic and horrible case.

It's heartbreaking to hear how awful Margaret's last few months were. She had an extremely painful illness caused by being malnourished and largely confined to a bed. She also had multiple fractures to her vertebrae caused by a bad fall while she was being transferred using a lift without a safety belt. For 48 days after her fall, Margaret experienced increasingly awful pain. But, Mr. Speaker, instead of figuring out what the cause was of the pain, they just kept pumping her full of narcotics. Finally on October 3rd Margaret was taken to the hospital. That's when they discovered the fractures and the horrific effects of her malnourishment. Mr. Speaker, Margaret died three days later.

My question is for the Premier. How can he assure this family that this kind of neglect will stop happening in seniors' care facilities here in Saskatchewan?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I'll be responding in the absence of the Premier on behalf of the government. Mr. Speaker, again I would just offer to meet directly and personally with the family. Certainly I would offer my sympathies and my deepest condolences to the family on the loss of a loved one, somebody that's obviously very important to their family, Mr. Speaker.

We consider seniors' care in this province a priority of the

government. That's why we have made improvements in terms of not just the number of staff and the equipment that we have in our long-term care facilities, but also trying to, Mr. Speaker, replace those aging facilities where we can, where we're able to do that.

But again, Mr. Speaker, I would be . . . I would offer to the family to personally meet with them afterwards.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, contrary to the minister's words, this government has made seniors' care worse, and we saw that with the elimination of minimum care standards.

Mr. Speaker, when Margaret got to the hospital, the nurses discovered a bedsore they described as the worst that they had ever seen in 20 years of nursing. I've seen the photo, Mr. Speaker, of Margaret's back, and it is absolutely shocking. It is appalling, Mr. Speaker, that a seniors' care facility would let that happen to somebody. It shows, Mr. Speaker, that Margaret was indeed neglected. It shows the horrible pain that she experienced as a result, and it is not in any way acceptable, Mr. Speaker.

This kind of treatment of vulnerable seniors is happening far too often, and it absolutely must stop. My question is for the Premier. What specifically will he do to put a stop to this and ensure that all seniors are treated with dignity and treated with respect?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again in the absence of the Premier, I will be responding on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Certainly we have tried to make improvements in long-term care. Members will know that in 2007 November, when the government changed, there were roughly 8,700 long-term care beds in this province. That would be roughly the case today. But in fact over that time this government has added resources to the regional health authorities to the point where there are more than 700 full-time equivalents working in direct front-line care and long-term care, Mr. Speaker.

But we know that more work needs to be done. That's why this government took, in this case, the unusual step last year, mid-year, to invest \$10 million in urgently required equipment into long-term care facilities, whether that be new lifts, new baths, new tubs, new beds to help with those pressure sore issues, Mr. Speaker. But we know that there's more work to do. That's why we've also added over \$3 million in ongoing funding, Mr. Speaker. But again, I'd be happy to meet with the family.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it was this government that refused millions of dollars worth of urgent requests from health regions to improve senior care, all at the same time, Mr. Speaker, as they pour untold millions into their US [United States] consultant.

Margaret's family told me that even as Margaret was deteriorating from malnourishment and dehydration, her family says that she did not get the help that she needed. They repeatedly told the facility to use orange juice instead of apple juice, but nearly every time they visited, Mr. Speaker, at mealtime, they would find an untouched plate with apple juice in front of their mom. Even in the simplest ways, basic ways, Margaret's most basic needs were neglected. And she suffered terribly as a result, Mr. Speaker — malnourished, broken bones, horrible pain, and awful, awful bedsores.

Mr. Speaker, Margaret needed an assurance of a good quality of care, of clear minimum care standards, and of proper staffing. My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Premier. Will he promise that today? It's too late for Margaret, but it is not too late for thousands of seniors here in Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, again in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the government. Mr. Speaker, what we endeavour to do is provide appropriate and timely care for all of our patients and residents within the health care system, certainly for residents, Mr. Speaker, who are within our care.

Mr. Speaker, we have made investments over the last number of years to not only try to enhance the services that are already within existing long-term care facilities but also look towards planning for the future and replacing aging facilities. Many of our facilities, people will know in this province, were built prior to the 1970s, Mr. Speaker, when the model of care was different for long-term care. That being said, Mr. Speaker, even within the facilities, we have tried to enhance front-line staff to the point where over 700 more full-time equivalents exist.

We've also provided additional resources for training, such as purposeful hourly rounding, which Regina Qu'Appelle is utilizing; gentle persuasion in other cases, in other health regions, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some of that \$10 million is still being accessed by health regions. It's not quite yet in place. And so we'll be evaluating once those dollars have been received.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this government is coming nowhere close to providing appropriate care for seniors here in Saskatchewan. We have Roy Armstrong, a 95-year-old veteran, being refused care, Mr. Speaker. We have Margaret's story. I don't know how the minister could look at the photos that the family sent to his office, look at those photos and then claim that this government is providing appropriate care. It's not credible. It's not believable. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, it's offensive.

Clearly a lot of things went wrong with Margaret's case because her family believes that clear minimum care standards and proper staffing would have made a difference for Margaret. We know, Mr. Speaker, that this government chose to scrap the regulated minimum care standards instead of strengthening them. And we know, Mr. Speaker, from the CEO [chief executive officer] tour last year that the Santa Maria facility was

struggling with short-staffing, just like so many other facilities throughout Saskatchewan. Margaret and her family were let down by the seniors' care system, and they were let down by this government.

But it's not too late. It's not too late for the many other seniors who are in care today. To the Premier: what will it take? How many stories will it take for him to agree that we need clear, regulated minimum care standards for seniors' care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the government, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do want to say that it would be incorrect to say that there are no minimum standards when it comes to long-term care in this province. Certainly there is a document that all health regions and all facilities must follow that runs in the neighbourhood of about 160 pages that clearly lays out the expectations not only, Mr. Speaker, of the health regions but also of the individual facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I don't, obviously I don't have all the details at hand in terms of this particular case, but again I'd be happy to look into this case and happy to meet with the family afterwards.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The quality of seniors' care in our province is awful, and shockingly the Health minister has said there is nothing that the government is planning on doing this year to improve it. The only thing he keeps pointing to is the woefully inadequate one-time payment fund from last year. That's it. No commitment to anything new, despite the fact that seniors in care facilities are still not having their needs met. To the minister: how is that remotely acceptable?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well certainly, Mr. Speaker, I do want to correct the member who does suggest that it's the position of the government that nothing will be done when it comes to long-term care this year. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the member will know that this government about a year ago took an unprecedented step to allocate \$10 million in in-year funding that wasn't originally budgeted for that would go to the regional health authorities to make some desperately needed enhancements, urgent enhancements to regional health authorities.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, which obviously is just 1 of 12 that's receiving dollars, but they are receiving dollars: \$500,000 to implement purposeful hourly rounding so that that will assist staff to be more proactive rather than reactive and organize their workload to provide more reliable care; \$1 million in funding to provide staff with gentle persuasion approach, which is going to educate and train staff on how to deal with patients in a more healthier manner, particularly those that have issues related to dementia and Alzheimer's; as well as \$430,000 in one-time funds for

equipment upgrades and enhancements to meals.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Let's review some of the urgent needs that were brought to this government's attention last year. In Saskatoon Health Region they actually need 450 more care aids but modestly requested 38. This government gave them just 19 additional care aids. They need about 1,700 lifts, modestly requested just 100 lifts. But this government gave them just 56 lifts.

Last year's one-time payment fund was terribly inadequate, yet this government has no new plans to address the desperate needs in our care facilities. To the minister: did he forget about all those urgent requests he rejected last year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — No, in fact, Mr. Speaker, what I had indicated in the past is that, once the \$10 million had been allocated and once it had been fully utilized, that we would do follow-up work with the regions to determine what effect that enhancements had had. Mr. Speaker, I can report that over half of the dollars have been actually spent and the equipment has been delivered. But obviously when you're dealing with 12 health regions, over 700 pieces of equipment, multiple different suppliers, Mr. Speaker, it's going to take, Mr. Speaker, it's going to take some time to allocate the dollars.

Mr. Speaker, at the time when the members opposite indicated that we should just fund everything that had been asked for, I would note that *The StarPhoenix* editorial, in an editorial March 6, 2014, it says, "For Mr. Broten to say that the government should have forked over 18.5 million in order to meet every request suggests he's simply trying to pander to public sentiment in a sensitive area."

Mr. Speaker, we're going to work very closely with our facilities and our regions to ensure that the care is enhanced for the people of this province.

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

Ms. Chartier: — In Prince Albert Parkland Health Region, care facilities requested 10 new full-time front-line workers, but the government gave them just three. P.A. [Prince Albert] needs 131 lifts, but the government delivered just 53 urgent needs, Mr. Speaker. Five Hills Health Region urgently requested 19 bathtubs and 14 lifts, but the government gave them just 11 bathtubs and five lifts. Five Hills also urgently requested nine nurse call systems, but the government gave them none. Zero, Mr. Speaker.

These were the most urgent and pressing requests from health regions last year, and the government did not fill them. To the minister: does he think those urgent needs have disappeared over the last year? When will he finally fix the basics in seniors' care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly what was left out of the premise of the member opposite's question is the fact that all of those health regions within Saskatchewan, 12 in this province, and the facilities that they operate have had a share in the 700 full-time equivalents that are now working in long-term care, as opposed to when the members opposite were the government. Keep that in mind, Mr. Speaker.

The number of residents and the number of beds in this province hasn't changed dramatically in seven years, but the number of full-time equivalents have, which would leave one to believe that if the members opposite believe that the staffing levels are an issue today, Mr. Speaker, what did they think that the staffing levels were like seven years ago when they had responsibility for administrating the government in this province?

Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert Parkland Health Region receives \$320,000 for 53 track lifts: 3 in Big River, 29 in Canwood, 17 in Leoville, 20 in Hafford, 2 in Kinistino, 22 in Spiritwood, 28 in Leask, and 10 in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. That's just one example of the work that we're doing in long-term care in this province.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a family here today, when they sent photos to the minister's office, all the minister's office does is tell the family that the photos are logged. That is this government's approach to seniors' care and addressing serious issues, Mr. Speaker. When will this minister start to take seniors' care seriously?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has taken seniors' care issues seriously since the day that this government was elected to office in this province when we inherited a government in this province, Mr. Speaker, that had seen 1,200 long-term care beds closed in this province. Mr. Speaker, there are 19 communities in this province that had a long-term care facility that today no longer have long-term care, Mr. Speaker. So we've had to dig ourselves out of a deficit when it comes to long-term care.

Mr. Speaker, almost initially when this government was formed, we dedicated ourselves to rebuilding long-term care in this province, starting with 13 long-term care facilities in this province neglected by the former government, Mr. Speaker, that didn't have maintenance dollars when they needed it to the point where they are on the verge now, today because of this government, of being rebuilt, Mr. Speaker.

And we've also invested in the front lines. And I can tell the members opposite, 2,400 nurses now in this province, of all designations under this government. Seven hundred full-time equivalents in long-term care. Is there more to do? Absolutely, Mr. Speaker, but we're making tremendous progress compared to the members opposite.

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Second Bridge for Prince Albert

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've heard nothing but excuses from this government when it comes to a second bridge for Prince Albert. Nothing but excuses, Mr. Speaker. This government has repeatedly claimed that Prince Albert doesn't actually need a second bridge. To the new Highways minister of that tired old government: does she think Prince Albert needs a second bridge? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we will all recall, just this last August the Premier announced that when the city of Prince Albert is ready to build a second bridge through a P3 [public-private partnership] process, the province will be there. We are fully prepared to stand beside the city of Prince Albert as their full partners in getting a second bridge for Prince Albert.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the new study showed that a second bridge for Prince Albert is absolutely necessary. The study found that if traffic were disrupted for even just one day, the city's economy would lose almost \$2 million per day. And the study also showed that 75 per cent of the bridge's traffic is not local traffic, Mr. Speaker. It's people either travelling through Prince Albert or to the city from elsewhere, Mr. Speaker, 75 per cent of the traffic flow.

This is very much a provincial bridge. So once again to the minister: does she agree with this study or does she stubbornly dismiss it? And does she expect the city of Prince Albert to pay the whole cost?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the member opposite didn't catch the announcement that the Premier made this August. We are not expecting the city of Prince Albert to pay the full bill. We said we will be their partners, as opposed to what the NDP did, Mr. Speaker.

In 2003 when the bridge needed to be repaired, the current bridge, the then-Highways minister said, and I quote, "We have a law in terms of municipalities and what we are responsible for. And no, I don't think that is something that we would be accountable for at this point."

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite when they were government had nothing to do with the P.A. bridge. They made the city pay for it, Mr. Speaker.

As I have said, as the Premier said in August — and again maybe I'll get him some newspaper articles so he can educate himself on what we've said, Mr. Speaker — we will be full partners with the city of Prince Albert when they are ready to build a second bridge through a P3 process.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, this is the same government, in fact that they've spent \$2 million in six months to replace a culvert, Mr. Speaker, so they're good at giving excuses.

And once again, the question or not of whether Prince Albert needs a second bridge shouldn't depend on what model is being proposed. It either needs a second bridge or it doesn't, Mr. Speaker. The opposition believes in this study. We believe that a second bridge is necessary, and we stand with the people of Prince Albert and the entire area in demanding a second bridge for Prince Albert.

So once again to the minister: how many studies does she need to look at and to see before she will admit that Prince Albert needs a second bridge, and when will she finally commit some solid provincial support instead of sloughing it off on a P3 model, Mr. Speaker? When will she do that?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what part of yes the member opposite doesn't understand. We announced in August that we would be full partners with the city of Prince Albert when it comes time to build a second bridge, Mr. Speaker.

And I would point out to the member opposite, when they released a press release prior to the Throne Speech and had their 25 top priorities, the must-haves that they had to have in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, and you know how many times highways was mentioned? Zero. Not a priority when they were in government; not a priority when they are in opposition.

The Speaker: — Well members, you've only got one more day left after today, so that you have the weekend to maybe relax a little. So it would be nice if we could actually hear the questions and answers. I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Government Procurement Procedures

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Saskatchewan steel fabrication businesses are still laying off workers because they just don't have enough work. They say a big part of the problem is that this government keeps giving contracts to companies from places like Ontario, Quebec, Texas, and California. These ongoing layoffs should be a loud wake-up call for this government.

We shouldn't have to wait until these businesses shut down or leave the province before we see some real action from this government that starts putting Saskatchewan's interests first. To the minister: when will this government stop dragging its feet and finally agree to fix its flawed procurement policy?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, we've heard from the construction industry. We've heard from the steel industry with respect to some of the issues they've had. That's why last June we created Priority Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Their mandate, their mandate, Mr. Speaker, is to look at what kind of obstacles are in place for

Saskatchewan companies to compete, Mr. Speaker. We've had through Priority Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, over 75 meetings with many members of the construction industry, with many chambers of commerce and other business groups, Mr. Speaker.

We hope to get a report with respect to the ongoing consultations from Priority Saskatchewan early in the new year, Mr. Speaker, and that will inform the discussions and the decisions that this government needs to make on this very important issue.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan businesses say that government's current approach to procurement is lazy, and it's not getting best value for Saskatchewan taxpayers. Businesses have been pressuring this government for well over a year and a half, but they've received nothing but delays and excuses.

We've listened to these businesses, and we've introduced legislation for a more sophisticated procurement policy to ensure fairness for Saskatchewan businesses and get better value for taxpayers. We're happy to work with government on this front. We're happy to discuss any amendments that they may want to propose. We just want a much better procurement policy in place this session. To the minister: will they agree to work with us on that front, and can we get this done?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've said, we're being very, very active on this with, through Priority Saskatchewan. We've already had 75 meetings. Mr. Lionel LaBelle, who's leading the discussions on behalf of Priority Saskatchewan, who's well known to members of the legislature as a businessman in this province, Mr. Speaker, has been very, very active.

We know that there's some issues that need to be addressed, Mr. Speaker, not only in executive government but across the Crowns, to make procurement more clear, to make it more consistent, Mr. Speaker. So we're certainly interested in having the discussions with Mr. LaBelle who's going to inform the discussion, Mr. Speaker.

But I will say just reading from Mark Cooper who said in 2014, just earlier this summer after we formed Priority Saskatchewan, he says:

We have a faithful partner in our government MLAs in the legislature who are committed to seeing enhanced procurement practices within government and are very supportive of the work that we are doing together.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're very clear about moving this forward, and our decisions will be informed by the work that's being done by Priority Saskatchewan.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 162 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act, 2014* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved first reading of Bill No. 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 609 — *The Residents-in-Care Bill of Rights Act*

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 609, *The Residents-in-Care Bill of Rights Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Riversdale has moved first reading of Bill No. 609, *The Residents-in-Care Bill of Rights Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 610 — *The Public-Private Partnership Transparency and Accountability Act*

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 610, *The Public-Private Partnership Transparency and Accountability Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Rosemont has moved

first reading of Bill No. 610, *The Public-Private Partnership Transparency and Accountability Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the chairman of the Private Bills Committee.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Mr. Steinley: — Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Private Bills met earlier today and considered compliance of the rules for the petition for private Bill No. 904 praying to amend *An Act respecting Mohyla Institute (1958)*.

Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Private Bills to present its fifth report. Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Private
...

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Can we hear what the member is moving please? I recognize the member.

Mr. Steinley: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the standing committee on private members' bills to present its fifth report. Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Private
Bills be now concurred.

The Speaker: — The fifth report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills is now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The motion is carried and, pursuant to rule 102, the private Bill No. 904, *The Mohyla Institute (1958) Amendment Act, 2014* is deemed to be read the first time and is ordered for second reading on the next private members' day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 159

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 159 — *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 159, *An Act to repeal The Family Farm Credit Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is probably the shortest bill that we have in the legislature in this session. It effectively is just one sentence: "*The Family Farm Credit Act* is repealed." But practically, Mr. Speaker, we need to understand what it is that we're repealing.

And so what we have is legislation that was created in 1979 to add another tool to the financial world to assist family farms in getting finance. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we understand what kind of legislation it is that we're repealing and why it's being repealed now. And also I think we need to understand what the context of the family farm was in 1979 and what kind of the context is here now in 2014.

Mr. Speaker, when this legislation was brought forward, it had a longer name, if I can put it that way, and I think it's important to read this, *The Family Farm Credit Act*, and it was Chapter F-5 of the *Statutes of Saskatchewan*. And the long title for the bill is *An Act to provide Assistance to Farmers in the Establishment and Development of Family Farms as Economic Farm Units*. Then it goes on to say that the short title can be called *The Family Farm Credit Act*. Now effectively what this piece of legislation did in 1979 was to add another lender into a situation where a number of family farmers were having difficulty getting credit.

[14:30]

Now some of our members don't have a lot of recall about what was happening in the late '70s, but what we know is that the ability to borrow money was quite difficult on a whole number of levels. We know that for example in the beef industry in 1978 and '79 and '77 as well, there was legislation passed and programs introduced called the beef industry assistance program, because farmers were having a difficult time overwintering their cattle. They did not have sufficient funds to provide food for them over the winter because cattle prices were in a very difficult spot.

The sense was that if they could get enough money to feed the cattle over the winter, they would be able to keep the operation going. There were similar pressures in many of the smaller family hog operations that were causing difficulty. And on top of that, the grain farms were also in a tight situation.

What we know is that the interest rates were starting to rise. And I think all of us recognize that some of the mortgage rates peaked somewhere just under 20 per cent annual interest rates, compared to the 3 to 6 or 3 to 5 per cent that we see presently.

And there was all kinds of financial pressure on the family farms, and especially on those people who were going to try to establish or develop a family farm. And often these were the next generation of farmers who wanted to purchase their parents' or uncle's or aunt's or other's farm so that they could then continue in the farming operation.

But what happened was that the banks were willing to lend this kind of money to them but it was at a very high rate. So part of the thinking behind this type of legislation was that there would be an opportunity for the company, which is defined under this family farm credit Act, the Co-operative Trust Company of Canada, that this company would have the ability to make loans to farmers who were part of a farming operation which would be called a family farm and that there would be, the whole purpose would be to create economic farm units at that stage. And so the purpose of the legislation at the time was stated as this, in section 3:

The purpose of this Act is to make long term credit available to farmers to assist in the establishment and development of family farms as economic farm units and in the transfer of family farms from members of one generation to members of a later generation and to assist in the enlargement or conversion of family farms that are uneconomic farm units into economic farm units.

Now that paragraph encapsulates much of the history of farming in Saskatchewan over the last 50 years because you end up having the discussion about how can farms be transferred over to the next generation. We have the situation where there were uneconomic family farms that were to be converted into economic farm units and it was clear that large amounts of capital were necessary to accomplish this purpose.

This legislation, *The Family Farm Credit Act*, was a piece of the puzzle that was there to attempt to assist people in that process. And it's quite interesting to look at the legislation that we're repealing by the bill we have now to see what kinds of things were able to be done. One of the things that the legislation did was to authorize the minister of Finance to guarantee on behalf of the province the payment of the principal and the interest on the securities issued by the company so that money could be raised for the uses under this Act.

So in other words, this was backstopped by the provincial government. It was seen as important financial legislation, an important political decision to support the ability for young farmers to get money to do some of the intergenerational transfer or develop some economic farm units.

But it's also quite interesting to look at the legislation and see how much money was involved. I mean it wasn't huge amounts of money, and in fact the loans under this legislation were up to a maximum of \$25,000 to one borrower. But what we know, in 1979, '80, '81, those years, often having that amount of money as . . . It was available for people to make some of these changes, do some of the transition that was necessary to have the intergenerational transfer of the farm.

And so what we had was then the power of the company, which was the Co-operative Trust Company of Canada, to make loans to farmers. And the purposes for which the farmer could borrow

the money was as follows: it was available for purchasing of land by the borrower; it was available for construction, repair, or alteration of or making additions to any farm buildings on land owned or purchased by the borrower; or it could be for the making of permanent improvements to farm lands owned or purchased by the borrower for the purpose of increasing the productive value of the land and promoting the conservation of the soil thereof — and that probably involved rock picking, cleaning and clearing some land, or doing things like that. The money was also available for the purchase of farm equipment. It was available for the purchase of livestock. And probably most importantly, it was available for the paying off and discharging of mortgages, encumbrances, or other charges or liens against or on the land owned or purchased by the borrower.

So effectively this was to be money to be used to try to solve some financial situations that were sometimes there in the, especially, in the intergenerational transfer, the transfer from parents to a son or a daughter, and this would give some extra cash that would allow for the transfer to take place and for parents or grandparents to retire. And so what the legislation did was give this extra tool to the family farmers, if I can use that term, in Saskatchewan as they looked at how they would make this transfer between the generations.

Now what we know also is that earlier in the 1970s there was an introduction of a concept called a land bank, which also was to be used in a way to allow for the intergenerational transfer of land. It did provide that service for a number of years and some families were able to use that quite successfully; other families, it didn't work as well. It ended up causing some complications.

But the sense was among the leadership in the province that the family farm was changing. It was changing quickly. It was changing dramatically. And many of the local communities were suffering because of the loss of the family farms and suffering because of the consolidation of family farms. So this legislation was introduced obviously as a method of getting to assist in some of the options that were available.

Now what happened when the number of these options that had been entered into in the late '70s and early '80s, often it was a combination type of a financing. It would include a bank or a major credit union maybe as the first lender. Maybe Farm Credit was involved with some of the land. Maybe there were some of the provincial government loans through what was then called FarmStart, and that included the beef industry assistance program loans or other loans like that. You'd have a whole array of liabilities that were a problem when somebody wanted to leave the farming business. And, Mr. Speaker, the challenge was always to see if there was enough cash available to pay off some of the creditors that would be difficult in the longer term process.

Now in 1979, this type of legislation provided some of that extra cash and it had the backstop of the provincial government with this guarantee. Over the next few years, especially into the middle '80s — '82, '83, and '84 — the interest rates started bumping up when the farmers ended up trying to rewrite or renegotiate their loans. All of a sudden, what was a 6 or 7 per cent mortgage was jumped up into the 15 to 20 per cent mortgage and basically it looked — and it was — impossible for people to continue.

What we know at the time is that some of the national banks designated Saskatchewan farm loans as no longer desirable in their portfolio. And so you had actual situations where banks were telling all of their farming customers in the province, we're going to try to ease out of lending you any money. Go and see if you can find some money somewhere else. Well that caused a lot of difficulties as well. And so what you had then was increased pressure on a whole number of levels. This was around the time where this pressure increased and increased.

I know that just this past weekend when I was at a funeral, I talked with a man and a woman who had been involved in this whole issue about 30 years ago, where they had to do a farmyard stand on their farm out in the Moosomin constituency to keep the bank from taking all of the farm machinery that they needed to put in and harvest their crop. And it became a major issue obviously in the province and in the newspapers, and it also went into the courts. But with a lot of support from neighbours, from lawyers, from others, they were able to hold onto their farm, and they reported that they're still working and dealing with and farming the land, and the next generation of their family is farming that same land.

Mr. Speaker, this type of legislation that we're repealing today was legislation that was created to help in that kind of a situation, and I think it did provide some help. The minister in his speech, his second reading speech, explained that probably most of the loans under this legislation, or all the loans under this legislation, have now been satisfied, repaid, and probably the last one was dealt with in 1996.

But I think it's important to keep going back and understand why this legislation was there and remind ourselves that we need to be vigilant. We need to be careful because things can turn very quickly in the financial world and in the farming world.

In 1985-86, and maybe a little bit earlier, '83-84, this was a time also when the provincial government ended up expanding their mediation services right across the province because there were so many disputes between banks and farmers around farm debt. And a number of the . . . The provincial mediation office that we now have in the province that deals with all kinds of mediation actually arose out of the farm debt crisis of the early '80s.

[14:45]

And what they learned in that process was that communication was absolutely crucial. The banks ended up with decisions coming primarily from down east that in some ways mimicked the kind of trouble that had hit Saskatchewan during the '30s where nobody who was in charge of making the decisions understood what was happening on the ground in Saskatchewan.

The credit unions obviously were owned and operated by the local people and they had quite a different take on much of this, but they were also very careful managers with money. And there were a dramatic number of tense situations where local credit union boards were trying to deal with some of their customers and neighbours and friends in a reasonable fashion. And, Mr. Speaker, I think this legislation then comes into that

context as well because this was authorizing the Co-operative Trust Company, which is a co-op but part of the whole credit union system, to add some more dollars into this settlement process.

I know that I was practising law in these years and there were many times when the solution did not seem to be on the horizon, didn't seem to be possible. I can recall speaking as a professional mediator. I was a lawyer-mediator, one of the very first ones in Saskatchewan in 1985. And it was at Moose Jaw and I was on a panel with a former member of the legislature, Lynda Haverstock. She had just completed her Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] in psychology, and she was doing a lot of work around what was happening to farm families as a result of farm debt. I was there talking about the role of a lawyer-mediator in dealing with farmers and the relationship with banks.

And people were uncertain what the longer term solution was going to be. But what they did know, everybody knew that it took a lot more communication, a lot more discussion, a lot more talk about how and where one would go in getting help to work on and deal with these family farms.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this legislation that repeals *The Family Farm Credit Act* is legislation that has a long history, and it points to a time where there were some substantial difficulties in dealing with the family farm. One question that may be asked is, was this legislation successful? Well that's quite a tricky question to answer.

But what we do know is that, if you talk to the people who live from Davidson west to the Alberta border, the size of the farms in that area have gone from 1,500 acres to 2,500 acres to 5,000 acres, and now, you know, there's really large limits. And they have challenges right across all of those communities in having sufficient numbers of people to staff the businesses in the smaller towns, the schools, the care homes, the health facilities. And basically the farms are so large that family really isn't part of the discussion. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure whether we totally know what the long-term consequences of that are for Saskatchewan.

It reminds me of some of the people who are looking at our province from outside of the province and think that we should have kept the original name for Alberta and Saskatchewan as a province, which was buffalo. But basically this was a big buffalo commons that should be prairie grass and let herds of buffalo, herds of cattle run and take care of that. I don't hold to that kind of perspective, but it does raise a question about, where do we as people, as families fit into the newer, modern agricultural system?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that the ingenuity and the abilities of many people have allowed for the transition to much larger family corporation farms or much larger unit farms. But I'm not sure we've seen the end yet of where we're going in our agricultural industry.

And this particular legislation actually gives some hints as to where we are now. It's kind of interesting to think that this is already 35 years ago that *The Family Farm Credit Act* was introduced. But it talked about, very clearly, this whole role of the establishment and development of family farms as

economic farm units, and in the transfer of family farms from members of one generation to members of a later generation, and to assist in the enlargement or conversion of family farms that are uneconomic farm units into economic farm units. Mr. Speaker, that clause “uneconomic farm units into economic farm units” I think has been very much the underlying perspective on development of agriculture in Saskatchewan.

We now have in Saskatchewan a very different way of looking at how farms are built and how they operate. And to put it in some of the terms — the financial terms that were described in this legislation — we’ve separated the ownership of the land from the farming of the land, from the marketing of the product. And some units will do all of those things. They’ll own the land. They’ll own the machinery and have the staff or family to do the farming, and then they will end up selling their own crops.

But very often we see a situation where there’s an absentee landlord living in Regina or Saskatoon. They have a leased or rented farm team that does the farm work for a cash basis or on a crop share basis, and then when the product’s available after harvest it immediately goes into another company, a marketing company or something else that does that kind of work. And the capital or the ownership of the land, the capital for the purchase of farm land, that role has been dispersed greatly.

We know we have the situation where the Canada Pension Plan owns a whole big chunk of land in a way that none of us would have anticipated even 10 or 15 years ago. We know that we have investors from overseas who see the value of land in Saskatchewan as a good thing to invest in. We know that we have situations where the farm land is basically devolved into a corporate ownership so that family members and descendants can have a share over the longer term. All of these things mean that on that capital side or that building side on the land, it’s a very different situation than what this family farm credit Act anticipated back in 1979.

We also have the same question, the same issue, on the farm machinery side. We know that some individual units of machinery are now costing between 400,000 to \$1 million for some of the operations. These things are often then owned by leasing companies, which are other banking facilities or the capital back behind some of the farm manufacturers, or they’re providing financing there. So you end up with the machinery that’s doing the work not owned locally or in Saskatchewan at all.

So you end up with an industry that is becoming more efficient. You also end up with very different fertilizers or resources that are needed, and the types of seed, so that some of those costs are actually owned or leased from international corporations. And so you have this transition to economic farm units, which are economic farm subunits owned by a whole number of different entities or primarily corporations around the world. And frankly, it’s the imagination and the skill of the lawyers and accountants and business people to further develop how the cash flow will be used from the farming of land in Saskatchewan.

And so I don’t think we’ve seen the end yet of the kinds of changes that we have described in this legislation. So we have

this repeal bill here which repeals this family farm credit Act and says, okay, that’s something that’s not necessary in the longer term. Now I know the minister in his second reading speech comments that the type of lending that was necessary under this particular legislation isn’t needed anymore because producers . . . Note that you don’t use the word farmer anymore. But producers can get that through regular lending institutions which includes banks, credit unions, and Farm Credit Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the list of the types of lending or borrowing activities that were under this old legislation, what we will see is that even our credit unions and banks and Farm Credit aren’t going to be the main lenders as it relates to the capital around land, capital around machinery. It’s going to be a whole different, different world.

Now on the world market, we have banking institutions that are looking for loans that are secure, that are long term so that they can be securitized, I think is the word. Some examples of that are covered bonds. Those are bonds that consolidate a whole number of loans from an institution and then sell them to a bigger institution. With the great financial difficulties in Europe, many of what had been the long-term bonds that provided a solid base of investment for pension funds throughout the world no longer are felt to be as safe as they were, and so people are going to other jurisdictions. Canada is one of the number one jurisdictions for that — I think also Australia, some of the South American countries — to find regular loans that are long term where the money’s going to be paid back, may not come very quickly.

Well loans around farm land in Saskatchewan, around machinery, around grain, around fertilizer, all those things are prime examples of the kinds of loans that can be securitized and put into the world market in a covered bond form. And so all of a sudden what seemed like some simple legislation back in 1979 around how you get money to finance farming becomes much more dramatic.

And this raises another issue in Saskatchewan, this particular bill, and it relates to the issue of the Securities Commission. Basically Saskatchewan has had its own securities legislation that’s worked like a passport. It’s worked so it’s available right across the country. And that’s the present system we have now, so that we have Saskatchewan legislation. We have Saskatchewan Securities Commission. Basically their job is to regulate the investment or the borrowing of money for specific purposes in a corporation. And it’s worked relatively well because we’ve been able to work closely with jurisdictions across the country.

[15:00]

There is a move afoot, and I know that the minister’s been involved in setting up some type of national securities commission. And the minister has committed that Saskatchewan was going to be part of that. But it once again raises the question of whether a national securities commission, probably based in Toronto, will understand the needs that might be there for Saskatchewan businesses in agriculture. And what we can see is that there are going to be large amounts of capital needed in the longer term, especially as the equipment becomes

more and more sophisticated.

We'll have a chance to see some of that next week when Agribition is on in Saskatchewan, as it relates primarily to the livestock industry. But what we know is in Saskatoon they have an automated milking station at the university so that our students training there know how to operate the robot milking system, which requires very few people in a very large barn. We'll see some of that with the beef industry and handling of cattle and how that's changed as well.

All of these kinds of ingenuity that are used to work in the agriculture industry take money to do that particular work. And, Mr. Speaker, the change around going to a national securities system does provide a concern that we won't have the same kind of local understanding and expertise around how we should borrow money and invest in companies to deal with specific Saskatchewan problems.

The issue always with a national securities commission is that they're interested in financing the big mining operations or the big commercial operations, maybe the 25 or \$50 million borrowings and higher. But in Saskatchewan we have many businesses that need some amount of money between 5 million and 50 million or 5 million and 25 million. And so the question becomes whether that issue is going to affect our farming industry. Quite a contrast with what we had in 1979 with *The Family Farm Credit Act* where they were talking about a maximum borrowing of 25,000, backstopped by the government to assist in the transfer of uneconomic farm units into economic farm units.

But, Mr. Speaker, that's how we need to think in this province, is to think in the longer term about where and how we will get the capital needed to do the farming that we want. And the more that we push the borrowing and the lending away from our local institutions, our credit unions, our other local places, into the world banking market, the less control, if I could put it that way, or the less reach we have here as this particular legislature, as that kind of lending all goes into the federally regulated banks primarily or the federally regulated credit unions.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we can be proud of and what this legislation that we're repealing is obviously proud of is the credit union system and their company, the Co-operative Trust Company of Canada, and which I think now we would call, is now named Concentra.

And practically in 2014 our Saskatchewan credit union system has 51 credit unions, and those credit unions are spread at 283 locations. They serve 252 communities, and there are 186 surcharge-free ATMs [automated teller machine] for credit union members. The number of members is just under half the population of the province, 491,095 people, and there are almost 3,500 employees working in this system. They have total assets of about \$18.2 billion, and their agricultural loan part is 2.1 billion. The commercial loan part is 4.2 billion, and their consumer and residential loan portfolio is 8.2 billion. This is as of the end of 2013.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that it's important to recognize that our Saskatchewan credit union system, the system that's involved with Concentra or with the Co-operative Trust

Company of Canada, is one of the largest in the country, and we need to be proud of the work that they do. We were pleased the last while to have the special rules around taxation of the credit union system to continue here in Saskatchewan even though the federal government has made some changes that we don't agree with.

But I think the important thing is to recognize once again in this whole farm lending area that we have a major asset, a major tool which allows for our own people to have their money safely invested in credit unions which then in turn are able to provide financing in this new farming industry that we have in the province. And, Mr. Speaker, it's always interesting to see the changes that have taken place and how once again we'll have to make sure that we're going to respond in the long term.

I know that Saskatchewan was quite smart or the legislature was quite smart during the '30s in coming up with solutions to some very difficult financial times that took place in those years. And often it was the Saskatchewan legislature, the Saskatchewan government over and against the national government and the banks that were headquartered primarily in Ontario and Quebec. And the legislation that was created in those years has provided protections that we have in Saskatchewan which continue but they're slowly and surely being eroded as, well we haven't used that for a while; we don't need that kind of thing for a while.

I think that when we look at this particular repeal bill here, we need to make sure that it is accurate, what the Minister of Agriculture says, that the financing options are available for our producers. Because what we don't want to have is a situation where some of the options that are available all of a sudden are no longer available when financial times change.

Now we've been in a situation for the last 15 years probably where there's been all kinds of issues around the basically monies available for farming, for agriculture, for that transition from one generation to the next. But what's clearly happened in that time is that there are fewer and fewer of what we would describe as family farms and that there are more and more of larger operations that are financed in many different ways, both locally and internationally. And, Mr. Speaker, as the farming situation becomes bigger, becomes more economic, then we start looking as a province at what are some of the bigger issues that may affect the farming industry.

And one of the things that has happened in Saskatchewan, and it's been developed over a number of years and it's building towards this question, but it directly relates to this particular bill in the sense of it's about that transition of the family farm, is the whole issue of water and water security and climate change and the importance of being ready for dramatic hits to how and where farms are financed and some of the family farms that are still there.

And it's important, and I applaud the work that we have at the University of Saskatchewan with the Global Institute for Water Security. And that's come out of work that's happened both within the federal agency, the *Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act*, PFRA [Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration], and their work from the '30s up until just recently; comes out of the work in Saskatchewan around SaskWater; and it comes now from our

Ministry of Agriculture and our ministries of Environment. And we see that this whole issue of water security . . . in other words making sure there is sufficient moisture for the agriculture industry to work in Saskatchewan.

And that relates to this legislation which is being repealed because it's about how we go from the uneconomic farm units to economic farm units. And you can do all you want with your financing with your Securities Commission, your banks, your credit unions, co-operative trust companies, all those things, and if the climate change causes or the issues that arise around supply of water change, it will affect everything.

What we know is that we have, the water towers of the prairies are the glaciers in the mountains in the Rockies. And basically the glaciers — Banff, Lake Louise, that stretch up to Jasper — supply the water for the Columbia River that goes down out into the Pacific Ocean at Portland; supply the water for the Fraser River, goes out at Vancouver; supplies the water for the Mackenzie River going north; supplies the water for the North Saskatchewan River going through Prince Albert; and then the South Saskatchewan with the Bow River through Calgary and then up to Saskatoon. The South Saskatchewan River provides almost, I think, 85 to 90 per cent of the water of Saskatchewan, and a huge amount of that water also relates to agriculture and the things that are happening there.

And so by having the Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan, we have a research base that allows for primarily science and engineering research, but I think also social policy research on a broader basis. And I think it's helpful to look at their main four interdependent research themes as it relates back to this whole issue of the financial long-term security of family farms or agriculture in general in Saskatchewan.

And their four themes they've developed now are number one, the climate change and water security. What are we doing around adaptation? The second one is land water management and environmental change. And the third one is the sustainable development of natural resources. That's obviously use of water in potash mining or in the oil and gas industry, other places. And then the whole issue of socio-hydrology, which talks then about how water fits in with our societal use. They also are looking at some broader themes around, that haven't been fully developed yet, around water and health and water and wastewater treatment technologies.

But all of these things there at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] in the water security area also affect back on to this whole concept of the family farm, and how are we going to do that transition from uneconomic farm units to economic farm units.

And, Mr. Speaker, we're looking at much different issues than they did in the early years of the University of Saskatchewan when the agricultural outreach work was about very practical things about raising cattle or what kinds of chickens that you should have; how you develop a safe water source, a well or a dugout on your farm; to now looking at some of these worldwide issues and how they affect our world-class and world-scale agriculture in Saskatchewan.

[15:15]

And, Mr. Speaker, this particular bill that repeals *An Act to provide Assistance to Farmers in the Establishment and Development of Family Farms as Economic Farm Units* points out that we have some major issues that we still need to think about as we move forward. And we can't just allow that simple statement that, oh the banks and the credit unions and Farm Credit Canada are going to have all the money available for our producers here in Saskatchewan. I think that it takes a much bigger perspective, a much bigger point to describe what's happening here, Mr. Speaker.

Now a lot of what this Act is about is the family farm. And I think in many ways, the only place that the family farm or that place of memory or, as I like to call it, the virtual history of Saskatchewan is still really alive is in the arts. It's in telling the stories in the province. And I want to read a poem from one of my favourite authors, who just died last year: Andy Suknaski from down at Wood Mountain. We had a memorial for him in Moose Jaw. I think it was just last year. But anyway, he writes a little bit about what it means to be in a place that I think is a bit of a recognition that this type of financial legislation is really about preserving some of these kind of images.

So I'm going to read a poem from *Number One Northern: Poetry from Saskatchewan*, published in 1978. And it's by Andrew Suknaski and it's called "Dunc and Babe McPherson."

we notice so little in our lives
i think
looking again at their photograph taken
that sunday afternoon last fall
they standing arm in arm before the flower box
nailed beneath the window
and they cast a single shadow across the wall where
the washtub hangs next to the hammer on a nail —
i now notice in the foreground
the large flat stones half the length of a man
and try to imagine the energy it took to place them there
(something in the picture turns the mind to the visit
and how we entered their house — dunc saying:
*the smell of your pipe makes me lonely for the old days
when i smoked my pipes*

sitting down in his easy chair
dunc gazed a moment at the floating particles moving
through a light shaft angling down to the floor —
then he recalled their first experiences
when he and philip well were blacksmiths east of the old
post:
*i was shaping shoes when i heard horses whimmying
i looked up and there was babe
holding the reins of her father's team
that moment i said to myself "this lil lady's my wife"
and i tell you the honest God's truth andy
i've never looked at another woman since — yes
it was pure and simple as that
babe chuckled while she poured coffee: yes, and
i was so afraid of him then
all I could say was "my daddy wants you to shoe
these horses
please."*

dunc talked about the tire crimping the old forgotten craft
 and the way he heated iron tires red hot
 to crimp them with the two huge vices
 how in busy times babe often helped him
 throw the hot metal rings back
 on wooden wheels
 suddenly immersed in a water trough to keep the
 wood from burning
 dunc remembered how once a year
 news arrived about a certain horserancher coming to have
 his team shod:
*they would jump half their height straight in the air —
 the night before he arrived
 i smoked myself hoarse andy and I even loaded a pipe
 to calm myself in the middle of the night
 when I woke up shaking from nightmares about them*
 dunc compares shoeing horses to tuning a banjo
 and says one can tell by the sound of the nail
 if one is doing it wrong and hurting the horse)

returning to their photograph
 i notice how the garden has been extended
 beyond the old fashioned well . . .

The Speaker: — I wonder if the member could relate how that refers to the bill other than simply reading a story to put the opposite members asleep. And I don't need any assistance, thank you very much. I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I know that members who are listening to my speech understand that how this particular poem fits and this story fits with what we're talking about here, is that this legislation is about family farm credit. It's about the whole issue of how the Act that's being repealed was set up to make long-term credit available to farmers to assist in the establishment and development of family farms as economic farm units, and in the transfer of family farms from members of one generation to members of a later generation, and to assist in the enlargement or conversion of family farms that are uneconomic farm units into economic farm units.

So, Mr. Speaker, this poem is about the blacksmith who works with farmers and ranchers in the Wood Mountain area and about how that world no longer exists except in poetry and in photographs. And it's about looking at a photograph and remembering that old time and remembering how the change and the financing for farms has been absolutely hard there.

So I will finish with the last paragraph of the poem:

returning to their photograph
 i notice how the garden has been extended
 beyond the old fashioned well
 note how they extended their boundaries
 to include the abandoned house turned into a guest house
 and i praise their full happy life here
 where they found everything they ever needed
 here in wood mountain where the stars are still distinct

And, Mr. Speaker, it's that last sentence about the praise by this writer about our ancestors, all of us I think in this place . . . who

he praised:

. . . their full happy life here
 where they found everything they ever needed
 here in wood mountain where the stars are still distinct

And, Mr. Speaker, what we have here is legislation about financing family farms, which were the backbone of Saskatchewan. We're repealing that legislation which is part of the transition or change of Saskatchewan from a place where families were very much a part of agriculture to one where agriculture is big business where there's huge amounts of money involved, where it's pension plans. It's where it's international corporations that are involved in the financing. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that that's the type of issue we should be talking about in this legislature more often because it's the type of thing that people are concerned about.

We have some other pieces of legislation on this docket this time that talk about archives, that talk about the memories or the photographs and things like that, that I was just referring to in this particular poem. But all of these things relate to a changing place, a changing province.

We know that the health care issues that we hear day in, day out are about how the health care in the big cities is having to provide the health care for the whole province as people move away from the family farms, they move away from the small towns, and they live in a very different place.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know that one of the fundamental questions that all of us will be asked who are in this legislature and have been for the last couple of decades is, what did you do to deal with these changes in our society? How did you respond? What did you talk about? What did you see? And I, what I'm saying here, Mr. Speaker, is that this particular legislation just repeals a form of financing for preservation of the family farm. It doesn't talk about what kind of other support is going to be there. It just says, oh let the banks, credit unions, Farm Credit do that. We're not concerned about that anymore. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's fundamentally wrong. I think we all need to look at and talk about how and why our province is changing and do it in a way that looks to the long-term future.

I think, and I've said this before many times, that Saskatchewan is a green place on earth. We all love the colour green in Saskatchewan. We have the job as stewards of one of the least populated places on the planet, and we need to understand that role is just as important as some of the other things that we do.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that this particular legislation is about the family farm. It's about the history of our province. It's about how and where we come from. And we can't just set it aside. We can't just get rid of this type of part of our history without reflecting on what's happening to our province as we move forward.

And I think we also need to be ready to deal with changing financial times. It doesn't look as if interest rates are going to change very much in the next few years, but I think there will be times when we will be challenged with the same kinds of issues that were challenging the province and the farmers of Saskatchewan in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to be able to add my comments about this particular bill, and at this point I would like to move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 153

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 153** — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much. It is a pleasure to rise today and enter into this debate on this legislation. It's a hefty piece. It's some 27 pages long. And while it may seem relatively straightforward, that when we talk about legislation and modernizing our statute law, it really is interesting. As I've read through most of the explanatory notes, I have to say that I have a lot of questions, and I will take some time this afternoon to raise some of those because, you know, it's important we get our legislation correct.

It's important that it reflects the common language so people can understand it, that it's written in clear language, whether that be in English or French, because we are bilingual. Some of our bills are in both languages, and we see that, and that's an important function of our legislation. And every once in a while we have to take a look back and say, is it as current as it might be? But I will have some questions about this particular bill because of the way the process goes.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will remember that a few years ago I had the privilege of introducing the R-word private member's bill because it was clear that not all the work was done in removing the R-word. Now the R-word is a very offensive term that is used, that was used in the past to describe people who had capacity issues in terms of developmental issues, cognitive delays. And it was offensive and it was . . .

It had actually gone through a process. In fact actually I think it was in the early '90s that the statutes were reviewed to make sure that they were current both in terms of modern language but in terms of gender identification, that it wasn't solely written from a masculine point of view but both reflected if possible a neutral gender and so that it reflected more of our society norms. But at that point, we found that across the world there were still offensive terms being used in our legislation. And so whatever we can do to make sure those offensive terms are removed, it's important to do, and this was one.

This initiative actually came up from America because the initiative, the drive, the impetus of this initiative that . . . Actually it was the People First organization of Saskatchewan, related to the community living. And we're all very familiar with that. I know you are, Mr. Deputy Speaker, very familiar

with the good work that they do. They want to make sure people live within their communities and they feel whole and they feel respected.

So language that would be offensive should be removed. And so this is the intent of this legislation: to modernize the language.

[15:30]

And I'll show you a few interesting examples as we go forward in this debate today about this legislation. Because as I will go through the legislation, and there's some 126 pages of explanatory notes, now one suggestion I would say that would be . . . You know, I did a little work here preparing for this speech because it is important. Because as I've said, I've had experience where we've gone back and we've said, so how many times was a certain word used?

And we found that in fact in this case we had to go back to 1929, a rare piece of legislation that actually wasn't online. So I think that's why it wasn't found. When you do the google search for the word, you couldn't find the word because it wasn't on the government legislative website, I think. I don't know why it escaped that.

But interestingly, interestingly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we did find when we did a search — and I shared this with the Minister of Justice at the time — that in fact the R-word was used several times in day-to-day government work, that whether it was the Ministry of Education, whether it was the Ministry of Health, whether it was the Ministry of Justice, the R-word was still being used.

And it's really important that, not only when we change legislation and what we're talking about here today, that if the government is serious about updating its language and making it current, that it happens right across the board. And that means in terms of any documents that come out, any circulars, any bulletins that explain legislation. I mean it was really interesting, and I do feel it was a bit of a negative slight on the state of affairs when we found out that actually many people who should know better were actually still using the R-word.

And so we hope in this case, when people do this review of this legislation, that they take a look and say, okay, so we are changing some of the language. We are all changing some of the language, just not in legislation. But you don't have people on one hand using certain words in the Ministry of Justice when it comes to legislation, but out in government-land they don't use that language. They use another term.

So I hope everybody's on board with this, and it's critical that they are because, as you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the point being, if we're going to do legislation, there's no point doing legislation if it's not enforced, if it's not carried out. And the unintended consequences are that, at the end of the day, you have confusion because here you have a certain language used in this Chamber because of the new statutes that the government has seen fit to bring forward. And I'll explain some of the concerns that I do have about some of them because I think that actually they're vague and they're without meaning. And in fact I think it's going to add to some problems.

And one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I go through my remarks, you'll find for example the meaning becomes more and more strayed. It's like a stray dog, you know. If it's in your backyard, it's not really a stray dog. It's just a dog off a chain. But if it's in your town, then it's a bigger problem. It's a bigger stray dog, and then you've got problems.

So this is what I'm worried about with some of the language here is that in fact I don't know if we're solving problems here. And I have some real concerns about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because as I said, we don't have a lot of resources that, you know, people say, well you should do a good job. You should do it right the first time. Make sure you do the job right the first time. And if there's problems, we don't want to be coming back in just a few months later to have an amendment to say, wow; we didn't really understand the implications of our first go-round.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — To ask for leave to introduce guests, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member has asked leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce three special guests of mine in your gallery. First is Anton Yanko, and his grandmother, Shirley Michalski. Anton is a grade 5 student at Walker School. He's an amazing young man. He's into baseball, basketball, recently got involved in curling, and enjoys participating in Hungarian dance.

With him today is my mom Pat Ottenbreit who I think — full disclosure, Mr. Deputy Speaker — 51 years ago today, right now, she may have been in labour with me. So it's great to have them in the Assembly visiting. So I'd ask all members to help me recognize Anton and our other two special guests and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 153 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014* (continued)

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I welcome as well the guests here, from this side of the House, and recognize the family relationship. Maybe birthday wishes are in order as well. We won't ask the House to break

into song, but today or tomorrow we wish you happy birthday, and that's a good thing. But anyways, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I digress here, but I think it's good when we can take a break and introduce family and friends. So welcome to your House.

I was saying though, in terms of *An Act to amend The Statute Law*, how important it is to get it right and how people look to us and look to the Ministry of Justice to make sure they are doing the best job possible, that we're not revisited later on in months to come with revisions because some of the language they thought was being introduced is not right, and that leads to bigger problems, unintended consequences.

And we don't want to see confusion. We absolutely don't want to see confusion. Because you know, as we've debated a lot in this House, especially from the Ministry of Justice, people want to see justice served and they want to see it served well and they want to see it served quickly and efficiently. You know, we don't want to have misunderstandings. We often hear that saying: justice delayed is justice denied. So if there's confusion that we're creating and we're not flagging right up front, then we have some issues.

So I do want to take a minute to review the minister's comments, and then I do want to talk about some stuff that, you know, as I said, I did some work to prepare for this because if we are . . . The intent of this legislation I understand and I hope would be to make legislation better for all of us in Saskatchewan. And we're doing a broad stroke here with many pieces of legislation. I have some suggestions that the Minister of Justice or maybe some of us should be thinking about how we could do that when it comes to this kind of thing. So I will be putting some of those points forward in the few short moments ahead.

But I do want to take a moment and talk about the minister's remarks. And actually it was just introduced just a few short days ago, when he talks about, "This bill will make amendments to over 100 Acts to update outdated language, ensure gender-neutral language is used, and correct grammatical and reference errors."

He talked about how the ". . . last general statute revision occurred in 1978." And I stand corrected. He would know. I thought it was in the early '90s, but clearly it was 1978 because as I was saying earlier about the work we had done on the R-word, that I thought it was in the 1990s. But he talks about how as time progresses, certain terms have fallen out of favour. And it is interesting.

One that we'll talk about is the whole issue around Internet and websites, whether it's helpful to have those two words together. I'm kind of in the camp that it is. I don't know where else you'd have websites. You might have intranet websites, but I think when you're talking about Internet websites for example, you're really talking about public websites that anybody can access. But if you're talking about intra-websites, we know that's limited to only a few select people with access either through hard-wiring or through passwords. And so it's not a public portal at all, but it's actually something else.

And he talked about how:

In 2012 an inter-ministerial committee with representatives from the ministries of Justice, Social Services, and Health provided a report with recommendations on potential amendments . . . affecting adults in vulnerable circumstances. One of the recommendations was to update antiquated and offensive language in Saskatchewan . . .

And I applaud that. That's a very important issue.

And I know that the term that they will use is capacity, and that's one that I really want to explore in a few minutes ahead, is really what does that mean? And when I look at the legislation, and we'll take a look and we'll review it, but we don't see the definitions of what capacity means. Often we think of capacity meaning, how much does this glass hold? How much does this tank hold? We also know capacity means the ability to do something. But as I'll show in the explanatory notes ahead that actually there's a whole range of what capacity can mean. And I think this is something that's maybe a problem, maybe overreaching too far to one side because they were very much explaining some very specific situations where capacity . . .

You know, we can have range of definition of capacity meaning somebody who has a difficult time, say, chairing a meeting. You know, somebody who likes to talk too much should not maybe chair a meeting because they're always interrupting. You've probably been to those kind of meetings. They don't have the capacity to chair a meeting. Well then you have very much the other extreme where someone doesn't have the capacity due to developmental delays, that type of thing where clearly, clearly we're talking about two different kinds of capacities. And so I'm curious about what that means.

He talks about amending “. . . four Acts to remove the term lunatic and another eight Acts to remove reference to mental incapacity or incompetence in favour of lacks capacity. Similarly as technology advances, terminology used in relation to technology also changes.” Fair enough. Because you know in '78, we were sure not using the Internet. We weren't using email to the extent that we are now. But as we go through this, we'll have some questions about that as well.

“What we previously referred to as telephone or facsimile transmission, [I'm quoting here] electronic mail and Internet website are now commonly referred to as fax, email, and website.” And again I think that may be problematic. We know that a facsimile comes from the word . . . A reasonable facsimile means a reproduction. And so you really understood when you were reading the legislation what you meant. Electronic facsimile meant that it was a reproduction sent electronically. I am disappointed that we're using the word fax. I know what a fax is. But it's, you know, we talk about . . . So where did that language come from, and what are we using for a basis for that? It's commonly used, but I think that something may be lost in translation here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And so I have some concerns about that.

So he talks about updating “. . . this terminology in 18 Acts. This bill will also amend over 40 Acts to repeal the terms chairman and vice-chairman in favour of gender-neutral chairperson and vice-chairperson.” And that's fair enough, you know. I mean I do have a little story here to say actually, with

chairman, that actually . . . It's interesting that I've heard debates about where the word chairman came from. And I know you're a historical fan. That actually might be related to the Latin *manus*, referring to the hand, the hand of the Chair as opposed to the gender of the Chair. The hand of the Chair controlling the meeting; that's where chairman came from.

Now I don't know if that's true or not, or whether that's an old myth. But I find it very interesting that it's actually not a gender term. It's an old Latin term from manual, hand, hand of . . . [inaudible] . . . So I found that very interesting that sometimes we react to it. But the common understanding is chairman comes from, is a gender-based term. And so it's fair enough that we move to chairperson, and that's good. And so we'll see if all the pieces of legislation are doing that.

[15:45]

And one I might have an interest in, you know, the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board. Will that go to a chairperson? I'll have to take a look in the statute law and see if that is in fact the case, because it's pretty critical. You know, some of these terms, the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, is just part of our lexicon. So if we take it . . . And we can. We can change it. It's fair enough. We know that it has come to be in society really accepted that we should change it. So that's fair enough.

So and “. . . also repeal and replace words that have a variety of spellings such as extra-provincial, in so far, subject matter, safe keeping, judgement, pipe line to work toward more consistency. [And] this will assist in more accurate electronic searches of Saskatchewan's legislation.” And that's fair enough and I think that's great.

But you know, in many ways, and I think this is an important piece of legislation, but I do have to say that, you know, when we think about important pieces of legislation that's before the House, you know, as we're coming up to an election, that in fact this is the extent to the priority of this government, is how you can make sure you have hyphens in certain words and other words are joined together, that it really does show that maybe this government is getting a little tired, getting a little weary, getting a little . . . running out of ideas. If the best thing they can do is go back and do a spellcheck or maybe this . . . Maybe they're all researchers over there.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, maybe you've been . . . People have just been sending you notes about how I cannot operate after seven long years. We cannot operate search engines to find out pipelines. Now I don't know if that's a problem over there. But you can put in two or three different versions of how you spell pipelines. You might find that out. Maybe it's an issue over there. Maybe they're running out of ideas. I think this is an example of them running out of ideas and this is the best they can come up with is how to make sure you spell insofar or safekeeping.

This is where we've come to, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Is this where we've come to? Is this where we're at? This is the height of the best legislation the Minister of Justice can put forward? Is this the best work they can put forward? I'm not sure. In the year before, in months before we come to an election, in the

months we're coming before an election, this is where we're at.

You know, and I see the two pieces of very good legislation we had today before us, and just in comparison, here we have this piece where we're correcting the right way to spell pipeline and insofar. And what are the other words? Safekeeping and judgment. Don't put an e in judgment. That's for sure. Don't put an e in judgment. That's the best this government can do? I don't know. I don't know if they've been laying awake at night worried about how to spell judgment. I don't know.

Is the court system falling apart over there because they . . . Is this government falling apart . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I don't know. Campfires, is that one word or with a hyphenated? I'm not sure about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I won't sleep. I am going to lie awake tonight, and I think we're going to have to have a debate on that tomorrow.

But campfires didn't make it into the top 10 words here that this government . . . I don't know. I wonder if the, you know, member from Watrous, whether he was worried about pipelines, whether he was worried about safekeeping, or subject matter. That would be a . . . Is that one word or two words? You know, and so I've got to tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if this is the best that we've got from this government in this term, this is a sad state of affairs.

In comparison, in comparison, two bills that came before us today, you know, for example *An Act respecting the Transparency and Accountability of Public-Private Partnerships*, now I have to tell you, public-private has a hyphen in it. And so I think that will be searchable, so it will be good. But here is a good piece of legislation. Here not so much, not so much. And I don't know if not so much is one word or if it's hyphenated or if it's all together, but really . . .

Or insofar. Well when we get to committee, when we get to committee in May or June, I tell you, we'll have lots of questions for this. We'll have lots of questions for this.

But here is a good piece of legislation that these folks on the other side should be laying awake thinking about how are we going to get our best value from our P3s, not about whether pipelines has a hyphen or not. Here we have . . . This shows where we've come to. This is where we've come to, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I think it's a real shame.

And today we had great questions. We had great questions about senior care. Unfortunately we had a family come, and it was a very sombre moment. It's always sombre in the House when we have people who feel they have to come to the House.

Here we have another bill. We should be really considering it, and I hope this government considers this. They should be laying awake at night, and I hope the Minister of Health is laying awake thinking about that, thinking about that as opposed to whether insofar is one word or is it three. You know I mean, really I think we have to have some . . . We have to think about priorities as we're coming into an election.

This is a tired, old government that it sort of, you know, it sort of reminds me of the old teacher in the school, and you know, who would make sure . . . Yesterday, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I

don't know if you remember me talking about legibility, legibility. We had the Minister of Culture, you know, saying and he's going to legislate that the ministers have to have legible cursive handwriting. And the Minister of Education chirped in and said he was going to standardize handwriting . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Just the cursive part, just the cursive. And here we are standardizing words like this. This is something else and they're all after consistency.

So this is what we've arrived at. This is what we've arrived at in this House, Mr. Speaker. This is a shame, Mr. Speaker, because . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can always tell when I hit a nerve when the member from Moose Jaw wakes up with his, you don't know what you're talking about. I clearly have hit a nerve, Mr. Speaker, when I've hit that note, Mr. Speaker. It's unbelievable, unbelievable, unbelievable that you know so . . . I don't know. I bet it was the member from Moose Jaw who is laying awake at night or couldn't find these words like subject matter, insofar, judgment. I wonder if that's the one that got him.

So here we have bills before the House that really show innovation, vision, leadership, commitment to people. And we're talking about the public-private partnerships, transparency, accountability, and *An Act respecting the Rights of Residents in Special Care Facilities and Personal Care Homes*. These are bills that really show vision and integrity and, you know, the issues that people are talking about in Saskatchewan. And then we have this bill before us, Bill No. 153, *An Act to amend the Statute Law* which really I have to say, while there is a place for that, I have to say it should be like Bill No. 75. How many bills do we have before us today? About maybe 20, of which five are consequential bills. We really have a pretty lean agenda, pretty lean agenda. And this is the best that this government could come up with, you know.

They take, you know, and we often hear about they take a lot of pride every summer going out and having conversations with their constituents. And I'm not sure. I mean which member came back to their huddle, their conference in August to say, do you know what we've got to do? What we've got to do is improve the language in our statutes. And so this is something that we really have to think about.

So anyways, Mr. Speaker, I have not yet got to the explanatory notes, and I do want to go through that because they are pretty significant. They're about 126 pages, and I do want to review some of those pages. But I have to tell you that I do have some suggestions, and I told the minister earlier that I would. I did some homework, and I did take a look at what are people talking about. How can they improve people's access to fully understanding the statutes that we have before us? How can we more . . . How can we meet that in a better way?

And of course, you know, one thing I have to say: hats off to the people across the way and how we work together in terms . . . And I hope one of the things we never see . . . And one of the things that I would really would have liked to see, if there's a way of doing this, but we did do the directives, and that was around the whole issue of the omnibus legislation. We won't see that kind of stuff here in Saskatchewan. That's really, really important, so we both have agreed to that, the directives. And I know the former House leader worked very hard on that, and

that was a good thing.

And when we come to people understanding . . . Now I don't know if those members over there are saying no, repeal that, that we actually want omnibus legislation. I don't know. You know, I don't think they could . . . It would be a poor imitation of Mr. Harper's omnibus legislation when he can do bills that are hundreds of pages long, hundreds of pages long, and ram them through the House. So I'm not sure if the opposite side, when I heard them chirping over there, if that's what they're calling for. Now the Minister of Health is weighing in on this debate here. Is he looking for . . .

An Hon. Member: — Not on this debate.

Mr. Forbes: — Not on this debate. I won't bring him in, fairly, if he's . . . But I am concerned because that's a good thing we don't get in omnibus legislation because then speeches would get really long. And that would be a problem; we don't want really long speeches. We don't want long speeches because, you know, yesterday we had concerns about the fact that we're not doing our homework. But I got to tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're doing our homework. We're doing our homework. But you know when we go out and knock on doors and say, so what do you think about this word or that word, we're going to have a hard sell. But some of them are good. Some of them are fair, you know.

And as I said earlier, around the R-word, and I have to say to the Minister of Justice that he was part of that conversation I had about the R-word, and he was really, he was really appropriate to that.

Now I am in debate right now, so it's very hard for me to read this. But oh yes, so here we go. But what I am saying, I am agreeing. I am agreeing. But no props in this. No props are allowed, right, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

At any rate, I do want to say about the omnibus bills that it's good that we don't have them, that they're not part of the process here. And we have worked together to do that, and that's a good thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Quite often people say we don't work well together. But you know what? That's not the case. Sometimes we do work well together, and this is one. And so I appreciate the member opposite for sharing that piece with me because it is the fact here. And we won't be seeing that kind of thing.

The other thing that I saw — you know, it's interesting that the minister talked about technology and the importance of that — but we're seeing . . . And I just went online, just before I came back in here to say . . . So what are people calling for when it comes to improving statutes and improving the circumstances around how people can best respond to legislation? And there's a movement afoot in North America — and you may find this interesting, other members may find this interesting that we can do this — that actually that they're looking forward in the States to have a 72-hour notice, that before any legislation is debated in a House or in a Chamber, it must be online for 72 hours. So essentially that adds a three-day window.

So of course what we have is, they're introduced in the House here. I think it's appropriate that it would be here. But there's a

72-hour window where it must be online so any concerned citizen can have a chance for reviewing that. I think that has a lot of merit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because then you can have input. Things are not rushed through. And we're seeing that, we see that in the States too much.

And I do want to think that sometimes there's an appropriate time when we do put legislation forward, we pass it very quickly. And I think about on Monday when we recognized the new member from Lloydminster. That was quite an appropriate piece of legislation to push through. The people have spoken, and I want to welcome her. And that was the right thing to do. So in those cases it would not be right to delay.

[16:00]

But sometimes I think we should strive to make sure that we do our best to make sure people have the information before them. And then they could put ideas forward because, you know, sometimes the government, especially at the beginning we don't have a lot of legislation before us. And that's the case before us now. We're halfway through the fall session and we should be seeing the bulk, if not almost all of the government legislation, except for those budget bills that will come in the spring obviously because they're budget bills. But we're not seeing bills to the same extent that we would have seen a year ago or two years ago or three years ago.

So just to reiterate my point, you know, it really does seem like the government is running out of ideas because we're not seeing the legislation. They're not bringing it forward. And we're getting the kind of housekeeping legislation that, while it has merit, really clearly has not the impact it should have on people here in Saskatchewan.

The other thing, there's two other points I want to make in terms of good ideas. And I really want to see, actually this government hasn't done it, but it's again the thing the federal government has done an awful lot of. And I really hope we don't see this happening with this government here, is the rise of private member bills from the government side that really is government business. And we see that federally around justice bills that really should be coming from the ministry of Justice, or we saw labour bills federally that really should have been coming from the Minister of Labour but they were coming from private members. And it was a way to go around a process of checks, checks and balances.

You know, we do value, and I think both sides of this House value public service. And I'm not sure completely when those folks did their 16 or their four-by-four cutbacks. I mean that's an odd sign to say, we value you, and you're cutting back. Here's your pink slip. But we do need to have our public servants scrutinize our legislation, if not only to make sure insofar is spelled correctly. That's an important one. Or judgment's spelled correctly . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . All words. Well we're singling out one or two words because there's seems to be a top 10 words that this government is fixated on.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's not me who made that list. It's not me who made the list. You know, if I had my way, there'd be many other words on that list. But of course there are foreign

words to these folks like, you know, social housing. That's one that's not on that list. Transgendered rights is not on that list. You know, we need to have those words on that list. We need to have gay-straight alliances. It's not on that list. And so we need to make sure this is . . . Seniors' care, that's not on that list, you know. Public-private partnerships, transparency and accountability, not making that list. So those would be the kind of words I would want on that list.

But, Mr. Speaker, I digress just a little bit, not much because I do think this is an important piece of legislation. But I do want to say about private member bills, I have a lot of respect for private member bills because, you know, they are an important tool. But we do see some governments misusing them.

And we see in Saskatchewan that they, I believe, that they're used quite well. I can remember when the Minister of Health introduced his private member's bill about reservists, and we were glad to work with him, in opposition. I do want to acknowledge the Minister of Labour, when we worked both on Jimmy's law and the asbestos registry. We can work on these things, and it's an appropriate way to see things move forward.

I am concerned, and I want to put a flag out right here right now, that they can be abused by a government who doesn't want to use the scrutiny of their own public service and put forward bills that they know will get passed. And we see that in Ottawa where there was completely inappropriate labour bills, questionable justice bills, bills that should have gone through those departments but would have been vetted much stronger if they had gone through the appropriate way.

But before I go on to the part that I really want to talk about, and that is around the explanatory notes, because I want to go through this and I want to explain about how some of these words are problematic, I want to raise the whole issue around explanatory notes. And that is the fact that online we don't have . . . And I could be corrected on this, but bills are posted online but the explanatory notes are not posted online. And that's a problem.

And I would say to the government and to the Speaker and to those who might have . . . Minister of Justice, that if they really want to have an impact, here we have a bill that's 27 pages long, but the explanatory notes, 126 pages, are not accessible to the public, are only accessible to the members here.

Now I don't know if somebody came in off the street and asked for them whether they would get a copy. I assume they would, but for some reason they are not online. And I would think that would be a good idea, and if we could correct that, that would be great. Because I know I've been home in Saskatoon — and you know, we're all from all over Saskatchewan — and if we could access those explanatory notes from home, that would be a big improvement. So I hope that's something that we can take back, particularly in this case. I've just noticed that, you know, I've often looked for explanatory notes online and they're not there. The bill is there, but not the notes that go along with them.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I get into the explanatory notes discussion — because they are 126 pages and I know other people have other bills they want to get to today — but I

want to talk a bit about them. I want to illustrate the point about some of the language I'm not sure is appropriate, or not so much appropriate, but appropriate in the meaning that it doesn't help a lot. And not that it's offensive or anything like that; there are no offensive terms that were used in the making of this bill.

But I have to say that one of the things I was hoping that the minister would have cleared up, you know, when you listen to CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] every once in a while they'll make a reference to where they . . . what guide they use for their pronunciation guide or their spelling guide.

I think if you went to CBC you could say, so what guide do you use? What is your standard? Is it the Oxford dictionary? Is it *The World Book Dictionary*? What dictionary do you use? Is it the Winston school dictionary that I used, you know? The Wikipedia, we often use Wikipedia. Wikipedia is good. They have a dictionary as well.

So what dictionary are they . . . What is their standard, and where is that, if I were to ask the minister in a written question, what is the standard book that they're using for this . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now I will have to . . . I heard something there, so I'm glad that there seems to be a standard, but I would have liked to have seen that in the book. OED [*Oxford English Dictionary*] is the, apparently, standard. OED. And so this is something that was missed out in this.

And I think, as I look through this, it does list the different bills and how they're amended, whether it goes from *The Accounting Profession Act* and what's . . . It was a tabling part that needed to be upgraded. And then we're talking about telephone transmission facsimile and substituting fax; safe-keeping, taking out the hyphen and putting them together, and going through like that. And I will talk about some of these: him and hers, how we've dealt with that.

But what I did not notice in the, as I said, the whole issue around these terms, I would have appreciated what the definition is. And I would have thought that it would have been appropriate to be in the legislation what the definition is. And it is interesting as you go through this and what it means. You have pipe line and, you know, with that then you take out the space and it looks like a double space and now you have no spaces. I would have thought there would have been definitions and that would have been helpful. Especially, as I say, some of them don't need definitions. But I think fax needs definition because when you are going from the word facsimile, which means a copy of, and one has a telephone transmission copy, then we understood what it meant. But now we have fax and so what is a fax? You know, and there is no definition of what a fax is.

As I said earlier about the word capacity, we had the whole thing about what does capacity mean? And it's quite a range, and I'll take a few minutes to talk about that. But going from, you know, the ability, what is the capacity, how much does a glass or a tank hold, or the ability to do a certain task or something much more than that. Now where are those definitions coming from? Particularly in terms of the word capacity, is it the American Psychiatric Association, their definition of capacity? Is there a Canadian equivalent to that definition of capacity?

These are legal documents, and so what does capacity mean? Is it just simply the inability to carry out a task? Or is it a much deeper, deeper meaning? And relating to a person who has an ongoing disability, is that what we're referring to? And that's not clear in the new legislation because they're just taking out one word and substituting another word, and I think that may be problematic down the road. I'm not a lawyer but I can say that I think we could have done better in that, you know.

I understand I've got some lawyers who've got my back here, and I've got them in the front too. I'm surrounded by lawyers here. I'm glad I am looking this way here. But I'm just saying, you know, our job here is to see problems and say, so in this case it's a little bit more complicated than that, you know.

We see a whole range of what we're assigning to one word through many pieces of legislation. And in the old legislation, it was very clear about what it meant even though now that term — and I'm referring to the term lunatic — is offensive and is not helpful. But at the time, it really set the stage of what it meant at that time because of a certain mental health or mental condition or state. And so I have problems with that word in that it's not . . . I can see how we're going to have issues as we go down the road here. And maybe I'll just take a minute to highlight that.

And so we were talking about *The Business Names Registration Act*. And again, you know, we're talking about fax. They've taken out the word "telephone transmission, facsimile". But clause 16(1), and this is clause (c)(b)(11), and it's amended that:

(4) Clause 16(1) is amended by striking out "mental incompetence" and substituting "lack of capacity".

And then the next clause:

Clause 18(1)(e) is amended by striking out "becomes mentally incompetent" and substituting "lacks capacity".

And that's what they're doing there. That's fair enough if that's what that means in that situation. But again there's no definition to say, this is what the parameters are around capacity.

The Cities Act is also amended. And *The Cities Act* is a fairly important piece of legislation. Again it goes through the "facsimile or electronic mail" and substituting "fax or email." And it goes through that. And I mean I don't think that's going to be a huge, huge problem, but again I don't think it's as clear as it might be.

But section:

309(9) is amended in the portion preceding the clause (a) by striking out "a mentally incompetent person or a person of unsound mind" and substituting "or a person who lacks capacity".

And so now you have that same word capacity, but now you've added person of unsound mind, and maybe that seems . . . And I'm not a psychologist, but I don't know if that means the same as a mentally incompetent person.

[16:15]

But here, when we get into *The Companies Act* section:

. . . 108(1) is amended by striking out "lunatic" and substituting "a person who lacks capacity".

So you're starting to add a dimension, several dimensions to the word capacity that I'm not sure capacity means that, and is there a better word for meaning, you know, in today's language? What is the modern meaning of the word lunatic, and what do the psychologists and people in the professions, in the field, what do they say a better word for that is now? Is it people who lack capacity?

And because you have that range — mentally incompetent, person of unsound mind, now you're introducing lunatic — so you're getting a pretty wide range of what does it mean to be lacking capacity. And again:

. . . *The Conservation and Development Act* is amended by striking out "a lunatic or person of unsound mind" and substituting "or a person who lacks capacity".

And, Mr. Speaker, this goes on in several examples, and I could go through some of these. Well, and this is another one here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is from *The Municipalities Act* and *The Municipalities Act* is amended . . . Oh no, sorry, my mistake here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's *The Provincial Lands Act*, section 57(1) is amended by saying a person who has become insane or mentally incompetent now lacks capacity.

So now you have four, you're taking out four words that lacking capacity means: you can have becoming insane, you could have lunatic, you could have mentally incompetent and mental incompetence, all of those, or unsound mind. Is that the definition of lacking capacity?

So I think I'm just saying that, you know, I look at this Act and I say, so those four phrases — granted it's inappropriate language now, very inappropriate language now — but I think that we need to think about maybe there's a bit of . . . it could be . . . There should be more clarity here, more clarity. I'm looking for the right word. I'm looking for the right word, especially in this debate. It's important to have the right word, you know. Maybe I'm not spelling it right but I . . . this is not lacking, this is lacking clarity because you have four dimensions to the word capacity, or lacking capacity, right from becoming insane to mental incompetence. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a real issue. This is a real issue and we could do better. We could do better. And I have some real concerns about that.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I say, if this is the best this government's come up with and they couldn't take the time to say, okay, we have these four words. Are there four words that mean in today's language, lexicon, that really hits that spot clearly so we don't have . . . because . . . Oh.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Why is the Minister of Health on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce

guests.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and to members for allowing me the opportunity to introduce a couple of guests. Seated in the west gallery we have four guests that have joined us to watch the proceedings this afternoon. And I think they're very excited to be here this afternoon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, they are two daughters of one of our Pages, Leslie, as well as a niece, as well as the girls' grandmother's watching them here.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have Verra, if she could give us a wave, and Arraya, if I said that right, Arraya, yes, she's the younger one. I think she's two years old. And, Mr. Speaker, Brie who is Leslie's niece, and Brie, today is Brie's fifth birthday. And, Mr. Speaker, they wanted to come to the castle as a part of the birthday party, and they're here with their grandmother. And so I would ask all members to help and join me in welcoming these four lovely guests to their Legislative Assembly.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 153 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014* (continued)

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into the debate again, and say hello from the opposition side to the guests in the gallery as well and wish Brie a happy birthday. This is our second happy birthday person in the House today. We have somebody from Yorkton, but he's not in the House. But anyways it seems to be a good day for birthdays, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And while I had a chance to sit down, I did want to thank the members opposite for sending over this piece about the rules in the House here and section 74(1) about omnibus bills. And that really, I think this is an important piece, that we don't have omnibus legislation.

And it's important that we do all that we can to make sure that we have legislation that is clear, straightforward, so it can be debated in a very meaningful and pithy, straightforward manner. That we don't have situations where we have people going on and on. It's very important that we have legislation that is straightforward.

So as I was saying though, Mr. Speaker, as you're joining us here today, that I do have some questions about some of the work that's before us and how I would have liked to have seen more thought put into this. And I do have a lot of tags on my explanatory notes. As I was saying though, my biggest concern was just the issue around capacity and the fact that we have some real issues about definitions, and how will this add to clarity or will this cause more problems?

And what about the definitions of some of the language and whether they're by the professionals in the field of psychiatry or psychology or the World Health Organization? That's an issue, because particularly as I've illustrated with the word capacity, it's a well-used word and many of us have different ideas of what that means.

But when it comes to legislation, we really have to say what we mean and mean what we say. And then we have these four circumstances where capacity can reflect on somebody who, the old term was somebody who's insane or somebody who's a lunatic or mental incompetence or unsound mind. Are all those four words interchangeable? I'm not sure they are. And especially when it comes to, you know, if someone has a permanent disability, or is it just a certain situation, you know. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that we have to really, have to think on this.

Now I heard members opposite talking about this the worst piece of legislation they've heard, but I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker. You know, we had a discussion earlier about how this seems to be a tired, old government because if this is one of their flagship pieces of legislation that they're bringing forward . . . They're bringing forward this piece of legislation and really what it talks about . . . And the minister talked about how we spell certain words correctly, and they have their top 10. And I understand the member from Moose Jaw gets really kind of worked up about these kind of things, about making sure that we spell extraprovincial correct, insofar correct, subject matter correct, safekeeping. Is this the best we have? We're seeing really good pieces of legislation come from this side talking about issues that are really important, like seniors and senior health care, transparency and accountability in P3. But here we have from this side their top 10 spelling words.

And I think this is something that, while it's very important, that at this point where we should be seeing 30 or 40 pieces of legislation — because we should be seeing the bulk of their legislative agenda by now — I am really concerned that we're actually not. We're not. And if this is . . . Is this sort of how we're wrapping it up? This is not a good sign for people of Saskatchewan, except for those who are using search engines to search for certain things.

And we're talking about certain words that we would like to see in the legislation but we're just not seeing them, Mr. Speaker. But I did raise . . . And some of the things that we think we should be doing that would improve access and people's ability to . . . And talk about search engines. You know, there is a movement afoot that we had talked about that bills should be posted 72 hours prior to debate in the House so people could search and find them and talk about issues that are important, and make sure that people are up to date on those issues.

So one of the things that we talked about earlier, Mr. Speaker, we talked about how some of the stuff that's online right now . . . The bills are online but unfortunately the explanatory notes are not online, and we think that could be something that could be improved. So, Mr. Speaker, I want to go through some of these bills that I think are very, very important in terms of the explanatory notes. And I will tell you that this is something else, because while the bill's 27 pages, the explanatory notes are 126 pages.

And they talk about certain pieces of legislation that are important. And you know, when we are changing this, this is really, you know . . . The language really shows who we are and, you know, what are our priorities. And as we said earlier, there's certain words that we would like to see more in the statutes. And we're talking about whether that would be gay-straight alliances, transgender rights, affordable housing, that type of thing that's really important.

So we look through the business . . . You know, there's Acts that are amended like *The Accounting Profession Act*, and we think that's a hugely important thing. But that's really around updating the language from faxing. Also *The Archives Act*.

Now here's an interesting one, *The Archives Act*. So mark my words, Minister of Justice, mark my words. Here we are amending *The Archives Act* of 2004 to update the spelling of safekeeping. But are we not dealing with *The Archives Act* to get rid of it? Aren't we getting rid of *The Archives Act*? And now it's going to become *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*. So why are we updating an old piece of legislation that is going to be repealed? So we're already in the business of setting up for another piece of legislation. So if you want to credit me with that amendment, I don't know why we're updating *The Archives Act*. Mark my words, we'll be back to do that one. So don't think we don't read these things, Mr. Speaker. We read these things, and I think it's important. So I don't know why we're doing that.

But you have the automobile insurance Act, and it's amending the spelling of judgment. And just very clear, at TV and at home, judgment is without an e. There's no e in judgment in the province of Saskatchewan, except for the province of Saskatchewan has an e. We want to make sure you spell Saskatchewan correctly. All right?

So anyways, this goes on and on. There's some really important pieces of legislation that I do want to reflect on. And as I said, we were talking about the . . . Now this is about again when we were talking about updating the language respecting persons who lack capacity, updating the spelling of judgment, extraprovincial, and the language around *The Business Corporations Act*.

And again I'm talking about capacity, and you see the evolution from meeting someone who just may not have the ability to do the work but how we move forward. And again, it goes through this quite extensively. And it's important to do this every once in a while, as I've said, but I want to get to the piece around *The Crown Minerals Act*. Again, you know, what they're updating here is around an Internet website. And it may seem to be a small thing, but there are different kinds of websites. There's intranet websites; there's Internet websites. Now I'm not a real techie type guy, but I know there's internal websites and there's external websites. So you know, we want to make sure that people have access to the public websites for sure.

[16:30]

So in this case are we talking about, and we are talking about . . . And the quote is, if the minister . . . And this is section 27.54(1):

The minister may require specific information or types of information to be provided to the ministry in paper form.

(2) If the minister requires information to be provided in paper form pursuant to subsection (1), the minister shall give notice of the requirement in any manner that the minister considers appropriate to bring the requirement to the public's attention, including posting the requirement on the ministry's Internet website.

So clearly that's the public website. That's not the internal website. All right. So this adds clarity. You take out the word Internet, and you have which website? Which website are we talking about? Are we talking about . . . And I assume, I assume . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. So which websites are we talking about? So this is a problem here. Now I could be wrong on this, and we'll get into committee and we'll ask questions about this, but websites have different meanings, Mr. Speaker. Okay.

And in here, going further on, this is about the Chief Electoral Officer. This is *The Election Act*. And again this is an important piece of legislation that we have. And it talks about 87.1:

A voter who wishes to be considered an absentee voter shall apply to the returning officer or the Chief Electoral Officer by submitting:

This is clearly . . . And this is becoming a bigger, bigger issue all the time, Mr. Speaker.

(a) the satisfactory evidence of the voter's identity and ordinary residence required pursuant to section 72.1 to the returning officer or the Chief Electoral Officer, as the case may be; and

(b) a prescribed voter's declaration form . . . is fully completed.

And then it talks about an application that has to be done at least eight days before polling day.

(3) An application pursuant to this section:

(a) may be made by facsimile or other means of electronic transmission; and

. . . voter's signature in a graphical representation.

So you know, again this is where I think facsimile is a reasonable word. Facsimile means a copy, a representation. What does it look like? You know, a fax. I think that we're in fact cheapening our language by saying we use shorter words. But a facsimile means a facsimile and I think that's hugely, hugely important.

Well you know, this is an interesting concept when we talk about 3-D printing and facsimile could mean, and I don't know if the ministry has taken into account 3-D printing and 3-D facsimiles. But facsimiles would mean a copy of that. A fax is something quite two-dimensional.

And I think that if we're anticipating new changes, it would be

interesting to hear particularly from those in the know about what are the upcoming changes to language that we should be anticipating. And I think this is an important issue, Mr. Speaker, because I think that as we move forward and . . . Particularly when we talk about voting, I think that we may be moving into a much more electronic world. It's the Old World where you had to go in or maybe you had a thumbprint in this purple ink so everybody knew if you had voted because your thumb was purple. Well we're moving away from that.

We're moving into a much more technologically advanced age. We're moving into a much more technological age where we should be thinking, anticipating the kind of changes in particular that we want to make sure that language does. So I am disappointed to see that we're moving away from using the word facsimile and using the word fax. It just does not capture the meaning of the intention of the words here.

And so again, you know, they talk about *The Election Act*. It's safekeeping and faxing again. Here's a word, safekeeping. What does safekeeping mean? What does safekeeping mean? I mean it could mean a whole variety of things to a certain person. To another person, it's just street money that, you know, doesn't really matter because you've got a, you know, a wide tolerance of what that really means.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just, again I speak about what do these words really mean? And I have some real concerns about that. Now *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act* is amended to remove the word Internet because the current drafting standard is to refer to website, not an Internet website. And you know, I find that interesting because that's not that old a piece of legislation and I think that we would . . . I again, especially when we talk about foreign workers, we want to be clear on what we mean. Is website just an internal portal for the government or when we talk about . . . And particularly in this case where we have people who are coming to work in Saskatchewan and our province, and that's a good thing, of course we want to make sure we follow the rules. And interestingly, interestingly, and I don't know if many of the members over there would know that in fact this piece of legislation is highly regarded by people in the labour world, that if it is followed, it can be a good standard. But the question is, is it followed and is it understood?

So I have a circumstance here where, what does it mean? And I mean we have people coming whose first language, spoken and written language, may not be English, may not be English. They want to be clear when we talk about website, that they can find it on the Internet. Like where do you mean website? Is it the government website? Is it one that it's in the office website? Or is it one that I can go to the library or I can access at home? So this is huge. This is huge. So I have some problems with that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the other one that I wanted to talk about, and this is one that just caught my eye, just caught my eye, and I thought we should have a discussion about this today because it's an important piece of legislation. And this is under *The Funeral and Cremation Services Act*. And I'm thinking, you know, as we're modernizing language, funeral is not a very modern language, is it? I mean people do many things to recognize and celebrate the passing of their loved ones, but it's not . . . They're referred to in a whole host of different words.

So I'm not sure, if you're . . . [inaudible] . . . language, you might — and I see the minister is not able to take a note right now — but he may want to think about that piece of legislation, the funeral and cremation Act.

Cremation is pretty well straightforward. We all know what cremation means and that's straightforward. But what is the word funeral, and is that offensive to some people? Are there different cultures where we don't have funerals? I'm not sure. I haven't had the ability to go back and do the homework on that. That might have been something that I should have thought of a little bit about, but I don't think funerals is a pan-cultural term. I mean even with our own, you know, family, I think that we have funerals, but we have also celebrations. And we have different ways to mark the passing of our loved ones, and it's very important that we use the right terminology.

So a note for the Minister of Justice that I have found yet another problem here on page 49, that I think that we need to rename the funeral and cremation Act because I'm not sure funeral is the best phrase for that event, because it's not a pan-cultural term. People do recognize what that is, and of course when we get into such things as the owner of a funeral home or funeral services, people may not say that they provide funeral services. They provide other services that are appropriate to mark the passing of loved ones. But funeral homes, I'm not sure if they call themselves funeral homes. Wakes is another example of how we recognize the passing of our loved ones.

And of course they were just focusing on, in that Act, *The Funeral and Cremation Services Act*, the idea of faxing and safekeeping. And again, safekeeping in that term, safekeeping when it comes to, especially to human remains, it may be quite different than when we were talking earlier about those in the business community when we talked about records or archives and that type of thing.

So that's an important piece of language. *The Homesteads Act*, which is a huge piece of legislation, when we talk about spouses and their relationships and the one who owns and the non-owner, this is a very complicated but very important piece. This is an interesting one because here again we have that issue is raised again about capacity. Because it talks about the application to dispense with consent, which is hugely, hugely important.

You know, when you dispense of the ability with the consent . . . And there's three circumstances where you can dispense with consent:

11(1) Where:

an owning spouse and non-owning spouse are living separate and apart;

the whereabouts of the non-owning spouse are unknown; or

the non-owning spouse is a mentally incompetent person or a person of unsound mind.

So again here we see that phrase. The word capacity will be

introduced. And so again the dimensions of that word, capacity, will not be defined in *The Homesteads Act*. It probably should be. It should be defined somewhere because we're talking about the four different dimensions of what capacity may mean and again, you know, as I was hoping the minister could have been more clear about what he was using as a benchmark or a definition. Is it the World Health Organization, WHO? Is it a Canadian or an American professional organization that deals with psychological situations such as this? Because we know we have to modernize our language. Again I think this is simply dismissed.

Again you know, *The Hotel Keepers Act*, a very important thing. We're talking about safekeeping there. You know, I think that I would liked to have seen . . . You know, it's interesting when we have standards for drafters of legislation, and they like to have common language so that it can be used across many pieces of legislation. But here you have the hotel keepers legislation, when we talk about safekeeping, and then you have funeral home operators and their world view of safekeeping. I think this is something that we should be looking at very carefully.

And so I think that, Mr. Speaker, there's lots of meat here to talk about, and I really am concerned that maybe . . . And you know, I could go on, but I know that there is other issues that we want to talk about. But I do want to review this because I do think that it goes on and on about the Acts that have been amended in this way, and I hope that we do have some time further on to talk further about this.

But I think it's not just a simple piece of legislation and it's one that we do need to take time to make sure that we've got it right, that people do have the ability to access and understand and utilize, use fully the statutes of our province. And if we don't do a good job of that, if we're just trying to make it easier, then that's a problem. And as I said earlier, I think we do have concerns in a major way that here we are in this week, just one week left in November. In fact if I'm not mistaken, there's only three more government days in November, three more government days in November, and yet this is one of their flagship pieces of legislation.

[16:45]

And it's a situation of woe betide the province of Saskatchewan because we should be seeing some bigger pieces of legislation. Nothing wrong with this legislation in terms of the fact that we should be reflecting on how we can make our legislation the very best that we can. But the fact of the matter is that here we are, and we should be seeing bigger, better pieces of legislation and ones that will affect people so we can get out and talk to our constituents about this, and that we're not just talking about, how do you spell insofar? And not just spelling, not worrying about whether pipeline is hyphenated or not.

I mean that's . . . And it is interesting that on a go-forward basis that we're seeing issues that we talked about, say with *The Election Act*. How do we anticipate and make sure we have the best language here? I don't know. And maybe it would be interesting to hear from the drafters of legislation that they have some real concerns about misunderstandings that may spring up between pieces of legislation if there are inconsistencies.

But I just have a bad feeling that we're going to see some issues here because some of these things can be too broad sweeping, and particularly around words, like I've said, around capacity. Now I've been educated myself now that capacity, not having capacity, can have at least four different meanings here. And I'm not sure, and we'd be very interested to hear from the people in the field about whether or not this is a fair benchmark. Because essentially that's what it is, a benchmark. You're going to be measured, you know. And as I said with the homesteads piece of legislation, when you're dismissing consent, it's just a simple term of capacity. In a law, that might be a harder or an easier thing to justify.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that we do have some concerns. And as I said, and I would hope that some of the people will take to heart some of the concerns that I raised earlier about how we can improve this. And one of them is the fact that we do make our explanatory notes online. We had a bit of a discussion earlier about that and how important it is that we can access complete notes about what does this really mean.

And I do have to say that we have a phenomenal service in the Legislative Service and how they do their very, very best. And this is something that I haven't raised, I don't think, so it's news to them. But I think it is something that would make us . . . It would be a good thing. But we do phenomenal work, and I think *Hansard* does a phenomenal job of helping in terms of people getting to know what the debates are. And I don't know whether anybody will be listening to this speech or not or read this speech. And I won't have an opportunity to do a repeat. I could do it in French maybe next Monday night.

But I think that as we're approaching this, and I am going to wind up my remarks just before we end the day, but I do think it's an important piece of legislation. Because as I said, the other issue really before us, and I've said this earlier, but for some people who are tuning in and maybe some folks in government-land, that not only do we make things consistent between pieces of legislation but consistent about what happens with our forms, with our circulars, with our bulletins, with our other notes, that we're not using different language. But again as I say, words like capacity I think will prove to be a problem because we've tried to reach too far with one term.

Now I don't have a problem with pipeline, whether it's hyphenated or not. I don't think that's a big problem. Or insofar. And I don't know whether the members opposite will sleep easier tonight because they don't have to worry about inconsistency. I would have loved to have heard the debates around their caucus table about whether insofar is three words. And maybe the fellow from Moose Jaw would say, it's a three worder. That's for sure, you know.

The next thing we're going to see: Moose Jaw, is Moose Jaw hyphenated or is it one word? I think this is going to be . . . That will be the debate of the day. Is that the debate of the day over on the other side? I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker. I think that . . .

An Hon. Member: — What about Lloydminster?

Mr. Forbes: — Or Lloydminster. Now you have Lloydminster hyphenated. But why they need two Ls, I don't know. I don't know why they need two Ls. I think this is an issue, Mr.

Speaker.

And I think that once . . . Now I don't know who the keeper of the names, whether it's the Minister of Justice. Maybe the Minister of Education is the keeper of . . . Now I know the Minister of Health's thinking about this. Is he the keeper of the names? How we start to standardize that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . He's in charge of capacity.

So having said that, Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation. It's good that we take a look every once in a while. The minister said it was 1978 when they last looked at this but, you know, as I was saying earlier, we did find a piece, we did find a piece of legislation from 1929 that had escaped the eye of the drafter.

But interestingly that was not where we found the problems. The problems were not in the legislation so much as it was in government-land where certain words we're using were inappropriate. And I'm talking about the R-word. Really I don't know if there may be more, but I was looking only for the R-word. So I don't know if this is a bigger problem that this government has discovered in terms of the ability to spell in government. I've not run into that problem. It's not the one thing that I've had a problem with.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, it was when I was working on my master's, and I was able to do that online myself. It's funny how when you first . . . Now younger folks may not relate to this, but when I did my first degree I had to pay the person 25 cents a page to type it out for me, and I expected great work, right, and to finish the uncompleted sentences and that type of thing. But now when I did my master's, I was able to do it myself, and I was able to do a standard, and it was just great.

But I still would get grief from my supervisor about spelling mistakes or different things, and he would call it white noise. This is white noise. I said, well what's white noise? It's the stuff you hear in the background. It's the traffic. You know, it's that kind of stuff . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, it's like the backbenchers across the way. They're the white noise. You know, you just sort of hear them like the semis going down a road that are either too flat, haven't been inflated properly, that type of thing.

But you know, is this what we're really trying to do here is to fix those kind of issues here, Mr. Speaker? So I would say that, and I do hope . . . And I saw the Minister of Justice, he did take note of the issue around *The Archives Act*, that it is interesting that we're amending Acts that will no longer be with us all that long. So but at least it's consistent, consistent while it's alive. But I do think that it's an important piece that we have the ability to talk about that and that we work as hard as we can to make sure that, as I say, the statutes are as accessible as possible to people, and that we do look online to say, how can we make sure that they are? That's a very, very important piece.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think this is an important piece of legislation before us. And I know others will want to get in and talk about this as I only got to page 55 of the explanatory notes. And I know others will want to go from page 56. But I don't think, I have to really stop the explanatory notes because I don't think it's allowed to read them aloud while I'm going through this.

And I know that we're getting close to the end of the day.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that, I know others will want to get into the debate on this piece of legislation, and I think that it's really important that we take a look at this. And I do feel encouraged. It's good that . . . You know, last week when I got applauded, I have to thank the members opposite for the, you know . . . And I know especially the Minister of Culture is appreciative of the good work that the Archives . . . Now it will be interesting. It will be interesting. I guess what I'll have to, what I may add, what I may add at this point, Mr. Speaker, is the question that, have the . . .

Well and now I have been complaining here a bit about the lack of the legislative agenda, that we're only up to 16 or 20 bills before us. Now you know, has there been a coordinated . . . Have they done a search, or what's up with this? You know, has there been a search for the language here? Are pipelines . . . And what are the terms that we're looking for here?

You know, and I'm curious about this because if we could find out, and I know we've got lots of researchers over there, but in the legislation that's coming before us, is it gender neutral? When we talk about the Archives Board, is it gender neutral? Or do we talk about the chairman, or chairperson? I am curious about that. What are we talking about when we talk about *The Archives Act*? This is really, and so we're . . . I think I may have to come back and talk a little more about this because I'm not sure. I didn't have a chance to take a look at the new legislation. I don't know. I don't know. We have an example of Justice wasn't on the same page as Culture about bringing *The Archives Act* here. Now was Culture aware of what Justice was doing? I don't know. I mean, were they on the same page? Now maybe they were. As I said, it would have been priceless to be in that caucus when they were debating, you know.

It would have been priceless to hear those folks over there because sometimes they're described as dinosaurs. They're the dinosaurs of the political universe over there. And dinosaurs would be quite appropriate. It's gender neutral. So how did that debate go about replacing the gender-neutral "chairperson"? How did they . . . I would have loved to have heard that debate, been a fly on the wall to hear what some of those folks over there had to say about we are changing, we are changing the Archives chairman to the Archives Board chairperson.

What would have happened? What would have happened? Now it would have depended on what time of day we had that debate, you know. But when the dinosaurs over there get revved up, these certain things are really, really important to them, Mr. Speaker. And so here we have, I mean we know what's kept some of them awake at night, and it's really . . . So this is important that we have this kind of debate before us. But you know, and it's important.

But as I said, we could be debating important pieces of legislation like we saw that were tabled today, that were tabled today. We could be debating *An Act respecting the Transparency and Accountability of Public-Private Partnerships*. That shows real vision. That shows real commitment to the people of Saskatchewan. We're heading into an election year. But what are we debating here? The statute law amendment of 2014 that talks about how you spell certain

words in Saskatchewan, certain words that only dinosaurs would think are important.

So, Mr. Speaker, and we could be debating *An Act respecting the Rights of Residents in Special Care Facilities and Personal Care Homes*, but we're not. We're talking about whether insofar is three words or one word. Is it three words or one word? That's the state of which we are.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move adjournment of Bill 153, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate of Bill No. 153, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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