



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

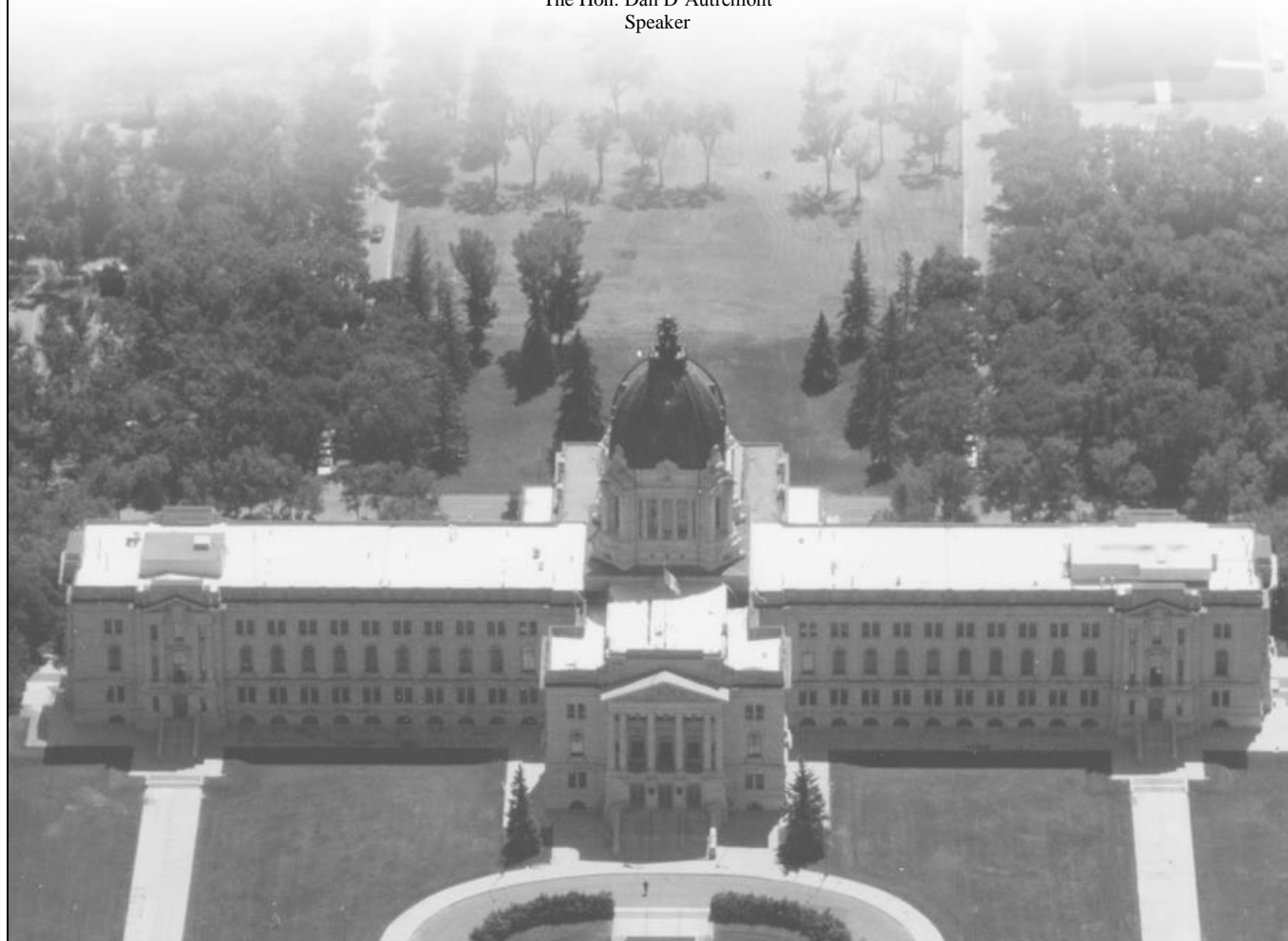
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
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The Hon. Dan D'Autremont  
Speaker



## MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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| Marchuk, Russ            | SP                    | Regina Douglas Park       |
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| Wilson, Hon. Nadine      | SP                    | Saskatchewan Rivers       |
| Wotherspoon, Trent       | NDP                   | Regina Rosemont           |
| Wyant, Hon. Gordon       | SP                    | Saskatoon Northwest       |
| Young, Colleen           | SP                    | Lloydminster              |

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

**EVENING SITTING**

**The Speaker:** — It now being after the hour of 7 o'clock, debate will resume. I recognize the member for Cumberland.

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 145**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 145 — *The Fee Waiver Act*** be now read a second time.]

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 145, *The Fee Waiver Act*.

Just to give . . . I know my colleague earlier made a bunch of comments and he was referring to the bill and giving some details into the bill. And I guess part of it, of this bill gives provisions for the courts to waive fees. And there's different reasons why you would want to waive fees. And I realize at the end of the day that there is people who, for whatever reason, have an opportunity to go to court and to challenge somebody, whether it's an agency, they want to take proceedings to court. Can they afford to bring that forward, to challenge it? Whether it's an individual wanting to do it themselves or it would be someone who, let's just say, wanted to hire legal counsel, apply to Legal Aid, there's different proceedings that would come forward into the House or in the court. And this provision allows that individuals to have the fees waived.

And the court may look at different circumstances and different criteria it will be outlined. We don't know what that is for sure. It might be in regulations. It might be . . . there might be different reasons why. And you know, when we look at this part of it, and I think my colleague was explaining there are many opportunities where individuals cannot afford to actually, you know, pay for court costs.

So those fees, there's an opportunity for the court in this amendment, gives an opportunity to waive the fees. And I guess, depending on one's circumstances, maybe they want to fight something or someone's taken an action against them, then my understanding . . . Let's say somebody who's trying to make ends meet. And they're a working family, and they're working hard. They're trying to pay their bills. They're trying to make a living for their family. And maybe it's a family person, maybe it's a senior, maybe someone who's on a fixed income who can't afford to hire a lawyer and to actually pay fees when they want to go through, I guess, the Rentalsman, there's different fees.

This court, and I guess this amendment, would give opportunity for individuals to have some fees waived. You know, it gives you an opportunity, again for many people who maybe not go forward or couldn't go forward with a legal challenge of somebody saying they feel they've been, you know, not treated in a fair way by a landlord or, from my understanding of it, by

any other court agency where they wanted to take something in the matters that come before the court, this would give the courts the provision to again waive the fees and to make exceptions for those individuals.

So that again, when we look at, we don't know what the numbers would look like. Maybe there's 25 per cent of individuals out there, could be 50 per cent of individuals who for some reason cannot afford the fees that are required in order for them to bring forward. So you know, so I guess we'll look at this and they're going to make some changes.

And again, I talked about the courts having the power. And this would give the courts and the judges the opportunity to say, looking at the circumstance and depending what it is, like I've said it could be, you know, from cost, that they can't afford the cost because they're a working family. They don't have the dollars. So this is part of that provision.

And I guess my colleagues have talked about this and, you know, gave some . . . he did some reading of some of the Acts to try to, you know, come forward and express the concern. And I know there is opportunity that we have to go forward and actually I guess consult, and we want to make sure. And maybe it was lawyers, maybe there was individuals, families that were asked for this provision and for this amendment because they wanted to bring their, you know, their cases heard and have their opportunity and their chance in court. So many people say they would like to have their opportunity and their chance.

When I talk about the challenges, I guess that many people will have . . . and there are people out there that, you know, they try their best to make ends meet. They do everything they can. But this is giving a provision and a waiver for, like I said, the courts to do that and to give . . . a judge to give some.

And the also thing in this bill, it talks about taking . . . and I notice it goes in English and it's also in French, as of course is our second language, official second language. And that provision's in here. When you go through the Act you can see both sides of it, and it makes sure that those individuals can understand it and those that are comfortable with French as their second language. And some of them, you know, individuals, that is their language that they speak and they're comfortable with that. They have the provision here to speak the French, the language they want. So this Act also gives them a French translation and a French language so that they can read, understand, and make sure of that provision and that they're covered by it.

So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I have no . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh anyway, okay at this time, Mr. Speaker, I will continue to go on here and have a . . . [inaudible].

Now I want to talk a little bit, and I had said this earlier, talking about some of the challenges that some of the individuals, I want to get into that. Some people in northern Saskatchewan, and I look at the challenges that many people are faced with the cost of living. You look at the cost of highways, you know, that when you look at the highways that people want to travel on. You look at northern Saskatchewan, the housing issues that we talk about, affordability. You look at the cost of groceries. You

look at the cost of utilities. Everyone's talking about the cost going higher and higher. And people and families are struggling and they have those struggles. And there's, I guess there's reasons why they have the struggles whether they're working.

Maybe some people have good-paying jobs where, you know, they can provide for their families and they can provide to hire a lawyer and seek legal counsel when they need that. And they don't have to have a waiver to waive, you know, any of the costs if they want to bring an action forward. They hire a lawyer, and some individuals can do that. But when you think about those, the elders, and I talked about seniors, people of fixed income, maybe they don't have that opportunity, Mr. Speaker, you know, for whatever reason — the struggles that they're facing and some people you know, with medical costs. They struggle. So you look at the cost. And if they're struggling with medical costs, if you look at the cost of living.

And you know, you're trying to provide for your family and then for some reason you have an action or you have to go before the Rentalsman and you have to . . . some reason. This order and this Act would give the judges an opportunity to waive fees that would maybe cause a hardship to somebody who wants to bring forward an action or to have, you know, their issues dealt with in the court.

And I know everybody says that you have your day in court, and individuals want to do that and they want to feel comfortable that they can do that. And I think as a Saskatchewan resident, a Canadian citizen, individuals have that right and should have that opportunity at all times to come before, you know, our courts. And you know? And this is where it is.

And having said that, Mr. Speaker, I move that the House proceed to government orders, adjourned debates, item no. 10, Bill No. 146.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved that the House move to adjourned debates, Bill No. 146. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 146

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 146 — *The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée *The Fee Waiver Act**** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again a pleasure to join debate on Bill No. 146, the fee waiver consequential amendments. Again in terms of providing access of people to the justice system, particularly low-income people, this is consequential amendments from 145 but adds new sections to *The Court of Appeal Act*, to *The Queen's Bench Act*, *The Small Claims Act* to include them under *The Fee Waiver*

*Act*. It will give judges the ability to waive fees at and in each of these courts, and of course amends the Acts in English and in French where appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, before supper there was a report that I was referencing from the Law Reform Commission — great reports on this particular bill — and it talked about the different sort of cases brought forward to groups like CLASSIC [Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc.] or PLEA [Public Legal Education Association] or that sort of derivatives of the Legal Aid Commission, Mr. Speaker. But it talked about a case that had come before CLASSIC where:

Ms. W. is an elderly woman whose only source of income is her pension. Her adult son has a brain injury and lives in a care home. Ms. W.'s daughter-in-law is her son's Personal and Property Guardian, but she has left the country and been neglecting her duties.

Ms. W. wished to pursue Guardianship for her son to access the funds in his bank account to pay for his medical needs. Her application had a high probability of success. All of their family members indicated that they would consent to the application, and a hearing would not be necessary.

When CLASSIC advised Ms. W. of the costs associated with the application (which included a \$200 filing fee at the Court of Queen's Bench), Ms. W. instructed us to drop the application. She said she would not be able to find the funds necessary to proceed. Ms. W. was forced to abandon her application because of the costs involved. She advised that she would continue caring for her son on her limited income as she could not afford to become his guardian.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there are many compelling needs in the community in terms of the barriers that exist between people and the legal system, and being able to avail themselves of their legal rights. We're glad to see measures coming forward that should result in better access of individuals like this elderly woman that was brought to the attention of folks by CLASSIC here.

Again though, Mr. Speaker, these are consequential amendments, and I've already had a fairly lengthy discussion of Bill 145. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 146, *The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 146, *The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek leave to make an introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The member has requested leave to make an

introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased tonight to introduce, in the east gallery, my sister Michelle is here, Auntie Mich who many of you have heard me speak about on many occasions; my niece Madigan Chartier who is a grade 9 student at Holy Cross and is an accomplished athlete and pretty neat babysitter and kind of pseudo big sister as well; and last but not least, Ophelia Chartier-McDaid who is my almost seven-year-old. She will be seven tomorrow, December 3rd, at approximately six in the morning, Mr. Speaker. So this time seven years ago, I was in the process of having Ophelia, not unlike speaking to bills sometimes at night, Mr. Speaker. Anyway with that I would ask my colleagues to give Ophelia, Michelle, and Madigan a warm welcome to their legislature.

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 144

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 144 — *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues for giving me a moment to make an introduction. I'm always very happy when my family's in the House. It doesn't happen very often.

I'm happy to wade into the debate on Bill No. 144, *An Act to amend The Victims of Domestic Violence Act*. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak a little bit about what the bill will do, but I'll also speak . . . I'd like to define what exactly domestic — or in this case it's being changed to interpersonal — violence is, Mr. Speaker.

So when we talk about domestic violence, just a common definition, and actually this is . . . And this particular organization is called domesticviolence.org. And the definition of domestic violence, according to this organization, is:

Domestic violence and emotional abuse are behaviours used by one person in a relationship to control the other. Partners may be married or not married; heterosexual, gay, or lesbian; living together, separated or dating.

Examples of abuse include: name-calling or putdowns, keeping a partner from contacting their family or friends, withholding money, stopping a partner from getting or keeping a job, actual or threatened physical harm, sexual

assault, stalking, intimidation.

[19:15]

The website goes on to define and say that:

Violence can be criminal and includes physical assault (hitting, pushing, shoving . . .), sexual abuse (unwanted or forced sexual activity), and stalking. Although emotional, psychological and financial abuse are not criminal behaviours, they are forms of abuse and can lead to criminal violence.

I think that that's an important point, Mr. Speaker.

The violence takes many forms and can happen all the time or once in a while. An important step to help yourself [as an individual] or someone you know in preventing or stopping violence is recognizing the warning signs . . .

Mr. Speaker, and the reality is, anyone can be a victim. So that's one definition of domestic violence, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's important to note when we have this bill in front of us here today, the term domestic violence with respect to this particular bill will be changed to interpersonal violence, and I will explain that in a moment, Mr. Speaker. But interpersonal violence and abuse that occurs . . . What is interpersonal violence and abuse? It is violence and abuse that occurs between people who know each other. It may happen within or outside of a family.

Violence is defined as an unlawful use of force or threat of force that may result in criminal charges of physical and/or sexual violence. And abuse can be defined as when someone in a relationship does or says things to gain control over you by hurting you or causes feelings such as fear, anxiety, nervousness, guilt, helplessness, worthlessness, or shame, Mr. Speaker.

So this Bill No. 144 before us is doing many things. As the minister mentioned in his second reading comments, in broad terms he says the purpose of this new Act, this amending Act, "is to provide an additional tool to a responding police officer to separate individuals who represent an imminent risk of injury to each other." And he points out that "It's critical to the functionality of the Act that police and victims are able to immediately seek an emergency intervention order by telephone."

So when we look at the bill, Mr. Speaker, and in the explanatory notes, we can note that, Mr. Speaker, one thing that's changing is, as I said, the name. The long title of this Act, we're replacing victims of domestic violence with interpersonal violence. And the minister points out why that is important, Mr. Speaker. It extends beyond the traditional domestic violence scenario to protect a broader range of victims of violence, Mr. Speaker. So it's not just when we speak about spousal or partner violence or intimate partner violence. Interpersonal violence covers a whole gamut of things, Mr. Speaker, whether it's a caregiver or a married couple or a common law couple. There are many different scenarios under which it can occur. So that's an important thing.

I think it's important to comment that these are very positive changes. I believe Saskatchewan was the first jurisdiction in Canada, in the '90s, to have a bill on domestic violence. And as other jurisdictions came on board they included, as all legislation evolves, they included things in their legislation that are relevant and pertinent to our times now. So I think it's important that we continue to evolve and improve our legislation as well.

So one of the pieces that's being added, Mr. Speaker, is, aside from the name, is that one of the following subclauses is being added, that "persons who are in an ongoing caregiving relationship, regardless of whether [or not] they have lived together at any time." And that's important, Mr. Speaker, when we think about, when we think about elder abuse or abuse of perhaps an adult living with a disability, Mr. Speaker, who has a caregiver who doesn't in fact live in the home, but still needs protection, Mr. Speaker. So changing that, adding that definition is very important, Mr. Speaker.

And I know in the explanatory notes it goes on to say:

The definition of "cohabitants" is expanded to include persons who are in an ongoing caregiving relationship, whether or not they have lived together at any time. This reflects the need to recognize that abuse by a caregiver is a serious problem.

And the explanatory notes go on to say in this particular bill that:

The definition of "interpersonal violence" is expanded to include harassment and deprivation of necessities as categories of interpersonal violence for which an order may be sought. Harassment includes stalking and other forms of electronic or personal harassment. The deprivation of necessities will allow for an order to be sought where an individual, such as an elderly family member, is not being provided with the support required to stay healthy.

So this broadens the definition and protects more people, Mr. Speaker. And when you think about changing with the times, you think about electronic harassment. There's been some very high-profile anti-bullying cases, Mr. Speaker, where, and this piece doesn't address this specifically, but the reality is, abuse and harassment can exist, Mr. Speaker, electronically by email, by Facebook. So I think this is an important part to cover, Mr. Speaker. And again, recognizing that vulnerable adults, whether it's a senior or perhaps as I said an adult living with a cognitive disability or a physical disability for that matter, is now covered, Mr. Speaker.

Another change as I go through this bill, Mr. Speaker, we now, when it comes to a Justice of the Peace being able to consider determining whether an order should be made . . . And I should stop and say what an emergency intervention order is, Mr. Speaker, because this bill speaks directly to that.

An emergency intervention order is an order that . . . It's a court order, Mr. Speaker, that orders the suspected abuser not to talk to or contact the individual or the individual's family. It gives the individual the right to stay in his or her home right now

without the suspected abuser being there. It directs a police officer to remove the suspected abuser from the home. An emergency intervention order directs a police officer to go with the individual or the suspected abuser to supervise the removal of personal belongings from the home. It includes any other conditions that may provide for an individual's immediate protection.

So that's what we're talking about, Mr. Speaker, an emergency intervention order here. So in order to get . . . There's been some added materials to that, Mr. Speaker. And talking to my colleagues who are lawyers, obviously Court of Queen's Bench, some of these things could already be done but in speaking to my colleagues, with the Justice of the Peace some of these things are being codified in legislation now, Mr. Speaker. And some of these things that are being codified that a Justice of the Peace can consider is that the new clause provides that the exposure of any child to interpersonal violence shall be considered by the Justice of the Peace in determining whether or not to make an order.

So I think it's very important to consider the vulnerable individuals in a household where interpersonal violence might be occurring, that that would make sense to be able to order an emergency intervention order, Mr. Speaker, if children are being exposed to this kind of environment.

A few other things, Mr. Speaker. The new clause provides that recent changes in circumstance for a respondent that have been proven to act as a trigger for interpersonal violence shall also be considered, such as the loss of a job or release from incarceration, Mr. Speaker. Another clause provides that controlling behaviour by the respondent towards the victim should be specifically considered. And as well another clause provides that where a victim has a particular vulnerability such as a mental or physical impairment, this should be specifically considered by the Justice of the Peace.

So there's some new provisions in there, Mr. Speaker, and as my colleagues have told me, it codifies this so a Justice of the Peace has this to utilize, Mr. Speaker.

Going on further, Mr. Speaker, I will just pull out the bill here. Another section . . . Actually I've got many papers here on my desk, Mr. Speaker. I just need to sort through them here.

I think this is an important discussion to have I think in light particularly of Jian Ghomeshi and other very high-profile cases where, when we think about interpersonal violence, it can come in many forms, as I've spoken about a little bit earlier, Mr. Speaker. It's not just physical. There's sexual violence. There is a broad range of it. But I think this is a particularly important bill and being able to have the conversation . . . In the recent month I think the conversation around violence particularly against women has really hit the forefront, Mr. Speaker, which is an important thing.

There's no shortage of comments on the public record, Mr. Speaker. You can go to a website like *Maclean's* and see that there's everyday new articles being posted from writers on their website, talking of the many different perspectives around sexual violence and interpersonal violence.

We think about the hashtag #rapedandneverreported and the vast number of women who have used that hashtag and explained that they have many circumstances, experienced a variety of circumstances where they didn't feel comfortable. They felt humility, shame, all kinds of things that keep people from coming forward when they have been in a violent situation, Mr. Speaker.

We don't just think about sexual violence. We think about people who . . . Sometimes it's astonishing to those who, where you have a partner who has physically abused someone, and the individual keeps coming back to that same partner. It's a hard thing to understand, Mr. Speaker, but violence and the cycle of abuse can be a very difficult thing to break.

It was interesting in light of the Jian Ghomeshi scandal, and it's important he's been charged. He hasn't been convicted but some of the women who've spoken out publicly about some of their experiences . . . There was an incredibly articulate female lawyer who said she experienced some sexual violence after a date, Mr. Speaker, in going back to his place. And this is a highly accomplished woman, confident, beautiful, all these things you look at a person and you think this person has their life together. She felt good about her life but . . . She was able to stop it but didn't before it went even further than she would have liked, but it was still nowhere in the realm of acceptable, Mr. Speaker, in her description of the events. But she said, if this can happen to me, it can happen to anyone. And she didn't report her experiences to the police, Mr. Speaker, because there are those feelings of shame, or did I ask for this, or did I put myself in that position.

I remember reading another article just a few weeks ago about a woman. She describes herself again as highly successful in her career, moderately attractive. And not that that matters, but this is a person who feels quite good about herself. And she talks about being recently divorced and starting to date, and she talks about in the last few months she has had two experiences, Mr. Speaker, with seemingly very nice men. And she found herself in a situation where she was pinned down with an arm on her neck. And eventually this man let her go, but she didn't report that either, Mr. Speaker.

Again there's all kinds of reasons why women don't come forward, and I think that the discussion that we're having now that's moved much more into the public domain is an important one to have, Mr. Speaker. And obviously this bill doesn't speak directly and specifically to that, but I don't think you can talk about interpersonal violence without thinking about the broader context right now.

It was interesting. There's an article from *Maclean's* written by Todd Minerson who is the executive director of the White Ribbon Campaign. It talks about, "Social norms around sexual assault need to change." So this is an interesting quote to me. He says:

We also need to explore the costs of patriarchy and sexism on us as men. It leads to living shorter lives, it makes it more likely men will themselves be victims of violence from other men due to war, crime, bullying. And men will be more likely to experience the pressures to provide and protect some of the gendered roles that we're told to

embrace. It's not the same cost to men as it is to women, but understanding that there's a cost can also help motivate change.

So interpersonal violence and some of these issues impact women very greatly, Mr. Speaker. By and large it's women who are the highest number of victims of interpersonal violence in Saskatchewan. As a matter of fact, we have a record of which we can't be particularly proud. We have the highest domestic assault charges reported — I just need to make sure I'm phrasing this correctly — the highest rate of police-reported domestic violence of all provinces, Mr. Speaker, which is not a statistic of which we should be proud.

So having some of these conversations around interpersonal violence, our roles in society as men and as women, women don't just need to learn how to protect themselves. This needs to be a cultural shift where men also take responsibility, and not just for women, but as this author, Todd Minerson, points out, for their health and well-being, and to lead full and meaningful lives as well, Mr. Speaker, and healthy lives.

[19:30]

So Bill No. 144, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014*, does bring some very good things to the fore. I think that when we speak about interpersonal violence we can't ignore all the missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada as well. That's an important thing that we need to think about in this situation, Mr. Speaker. Indigenous women, by and large, I think the numbers are quite high in communities where it comes to interpersonal violence.

So coming from community and from indigenous groups themselves, indigenous peoples, people need to come up with solutions at a community level. But having tools, Mr. Speaker, like Bill 144 is a very good and supportive step. There needs to be legislative changes. There needs to be a cultural shift. There needs to be work at the community level. And there's many people doing great work. Our transition houses, our Interval House in Saskatoon, there's many really great organizations doing some very good work.

I'd commend the government a couple of years ago. They put some money into supporting the northeast outreach centre in Melfort, Mr. Speaker. And I understand that just this weekend there was a terrible fire. So the building is not yet, this shelter is not yet open. It was coming very close and it has burned, and from what I understand is all but destroyed, Mr. Speaker.

And I had an opportunity to, prior to the government, a couple of years before the government committed to supporting the shelter, I had an opportunity to speak to the folks up there about some of the needs. And we talk about women being sent from Melfort to the nearest shelter that had a space. P.A. [Prince Albert] was always full, from what I'd been told from folks in that area. So being sent on a bus with you and your kids to Yorkton, being ripped away from your community because you're a victim of interpersonal violence and being sent far away to re-establish your life is . . . Well not even re-establishing your life, just to make the escape in many cases in the first place, Mr. Speaker.

So again, as I said, I've commended the government in the past for supporting this particular endeavour, but I hope to see . . . And I know the government has said in light of this fire that they will help out, but I hope that this particular shelter will open its doors sooner than later, Mr. Speaker.

So there are many, many important parts to this Act, and it's good to see it before us. We will have an opportunity in committee to ask many questions, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to the opportunity to perhaps join the critic in asking some of those questions with respect to Bill No. 144. I know I will have colleagues who will also want to enter the debate, so with that I would like to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 144, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 152

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 152** — *The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 152, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, Loi de 2014 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014*, Mr. Speaker, as the minister pointed out, simply amends the bilingual Queen's Bench Act, 1998 to update the reference in that Act from *The Victims of Domestic Violence Act* to *The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act*. Then I think my comments from its companion bill stand. And with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 152, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 141

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Docherty that **Bill No. 141** — *The Archives and Public Records Management Act* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise tonight to enter into the debate on Bill No. 141, *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*. This is another housekeeping bill that the government has introduced dealing with some changes requested to the Act by groups like Saskatchewan Archives, the Legislative Assembly Office, court services, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and the Ministry of Health. And these are all organizations who are impacted by this Act.

And the minister indicated in his comments in the second reading on November 4th that the changes in terminology that we find in this bill is the result of detailed and ongoing consultation with all these various groups: record managers, government legal advice, and the public records committee.

And certainly I think a couple of the changes that we see will make access to the archives much easier. In particular, earlier, maybe I guess it was a couple of years ago with the previous minister, when I had a constituent who is a professor at the St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan, he's one of my constituents, and he was concerned about the length of time it was taking to access some of the archival information. And part of the reason for that was there weren't enough staff able to deal with the volume.

And what these staff had to do was go through . . . This was historical information they were doing for; I think it was an analysis of labour work force or something like that. And because it involved individuals, the staff people at the archives had to go through each page of each document to ensure that there wasn't private health information or concerns about releasing private information. And so obviously they didn't have enough staff to be able to keep up with the requests. I think there was a number of grad students that were also doing some research. And it was very frustrating for everybody involved.

I think that the proposed changes to this bill are actually going to improve that. And what the minister indicated in his opening comments on November 4th, or introductory comments on November 4th, was that the new changes will exempt certain records from *The Health Information Protection Act* or HIPA. And what's going to happen is it's going to ". . . allow for reasonable access to historical records of the province for research purposes while maintaining necessary protocols to avoid breaches of privacy."

And if I understand correctly what the bill will do will allow archives to pass on this information without going through each page line by line to the researcher. And then the researcher will basically sign an undertaking saying that they will not release any health or private information. So I think what happens and, according to the minister himself, he said, "The proposed exemption will allow for reasonable access to historical records of the province for research purposes while maintaining necessary protocols at the archives to avoid breaches of privacy." And also there are ". . . safeguards to ensure that personal health information of individuals is protected where it exists in the archival record."



So I think this kind of change is something that's certainly going to help the people that need access to the archives when there aren't enough staff and there isn't the, you know, if they're understaffed or short-staffed, they can't actually deal with it.

The minister indicated that they received 67 access requests involving 60,000 pages of review since April 1st this year. So clearly that's a lot of review for individual archival workers. And of course that's something that will, this change will facilitate a much better response for individuals seeking to do the research from the archives.

There's a number of other changes. I think another one, and I spoke to someone who is a professional archivist that's also in my constituency, and he said that changes to the board of directors are interesting. And I'm hoping we'll have time in the intervening break here, coming up, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to discuss this with folks who are involved in the organization just to make sure that all of these changes are appropriate and do reflect the wishes of the groups that were consulted when the amendments were coming in.

So I think, other than that, there's some other inconsequential changes to the bill. They changed the name of the organization to Saskatchewan Archives to reflect the important role it plays. I mean a name is a name, but that's good they're changing it I guess. And there's a few other smaller details in the legislation to deal with some of the concerns and through the consultation of the users of archives.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I don't have much to add. We certainly want to be able to consult with people who use the archives to make sure that this bill reflects the changes that were requested. And so I will adjourn the debate on Bill No. 141.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 141, *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 142

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Docherty that **Bill No. 142** — *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Archives and Public Records Management Act* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course this is just yet another one of those consequential amendment Acts that are required to be separate from the previous bill because it is modifying some bills that are en français, monsieur le Président [Translation: in French, Mr. Speaker]. And so again

we get a chance to see *The Education Act* and *The Evidence Act* are both being amended here by changing the name of *The Archives Act, 2004* for the new Act which is *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*.

So, Mr. Speaker, there isn't anything else to comment on in this particular bill. It's just a consequential amendment and it's of no real consequence. So I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 142.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 142, *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 147

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 147** — *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi sur les recours collectifs* be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on this Bill No. 147, *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014*. I guess there's different ways individuals bring an action like this forward, and I was trying to get some understanding from some of my colleagues on it, you know. When we talk about that, it's numbers, and I guess it sounds like it's a large, it could be a large number of individuals for whatever reason might be dealing with a situation. There may be many of them that all of a sudden, for some reason, a firm or they created a class action lawsuit against, could be a company I guess — different reasons why, I'm not sure — with a product that people are being . . . harm is done to individuals.

And it might be, I guess I think of some of the different ones that have, you know, I think of some of the residential schools. They had a class action lawsuit that went forward. I think about some of the individuals who . . . I guess medical devices and stuff where you heard about that. You see it, you know, people bringing forward an action like that to compensate them. And I guess the courts look at that and it's a process that gives a group of individuals to come together and to say, have a legal counsel represent them, whether it's I assume with a law firm or a number of them.

I don't have all the details, Mr. Speaker, on that, but I do know I've heard of many different cases that have come forward, and it's to deal with individuals who have been harmed. And you know, whether it's the loss of a loved one, it could be that. It could be injuries, it could be out of money. I guess there's different reasons why you would bring a case like this forward.

But this amendment gives the opportunity for the, you know . . . I guess the bill changes the rules for the class action lawsuit but also gives some discretion to the judges when they're awarding cost, damages, whatever. So they have an opportunity to look at

that, and I think the way this . . . And we'll be asking these questions.

Obviously there must have been some homework, and I hope the homework was done on this bill, and I imagine the Ministry of Justice did what they need. The minister, you know, got some input, consulted with individuals. There must be a reason why, you know, we have legislation like this and bring it forward.

[19:45]

They talk a little bit about that so, you know, that gives the judges some discretion. And that's good. And the bill, it also talks about . . . And I guess maybe this is different or maybe this is how some of the . . . The change is retroactive.

So you know, when you look at that . . . And I know that we'll have some clarification in committee and some of my colleagues will ask some tougher questions and share some of their knowledge of this as, you know, we have legal counsel and we have individuals that were lawyers at one time. I guess they'll talk from that point. They'll know and maybe have experienced some of that. So they're going to give some good detail into this to make sure the questions are asked and to make sure individuals were consulted, the legal system and everything else, you know, our judges, legal system, justice system had this opportunity.

So really at this point, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further comments on that, and I know members will ask a lot of questions in committee, so I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 147.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 147, *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 143

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doherty that **Bill No. 143** — *The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter the discussion about Bill No. 143, *An Act to amend The Degree Authorization Act*. Mr. Speaker, it is, despite the minister's quite lengthy second reading speech, this bill is very short. It's a four-page bill. And what it does in essence, this amendment, and this is from the explanatory notes, Mr. Speaker:

This amendment will remove from the Act the specified end date of the grandfathering period, which is the time given to certain institutions to come into compliance with the Act. This amendment also clarifies that an end date

will continue to be specified in *The Degree Authorization Regulations*. These Regulations will be amended in the future and it is anticipated that the amendments will include an extension of the grandfathering period to allow grandfathered institutions more time to come into compliance with the Act and Regulations in ways that will not adversely affect students.

So that is one part of it, Mr. Speaker. And it also “. . . adds a regulation-making power to authorize the prescribing of a date for the purposes of subsection 4(3),” Mr. Speaker.

So I think the one thing to thing about, Mr. Speaker, again as I said, this bill removes the grandfathering clause from the Act and moves the date of the exemption into the regulations. And in essence actually, the grandfathering clause allows particularly Briercrest College to grant degrees.

It's an interesting thing when you think about having to make some of these changes, Mr. Speaker. We've had a couple bills before us in this legislature this session that had just previously, just in the last year or two been before us, and the government seems to have not done all of its homework on those particular bills, as the bills have had to come back to us for changes. And not that fixing legislation is a bad thing, Mr. Speaker, if there's pieces missing or if things have been left out. But I think it's also incumbent upon the government to make sure that they get things right.

So did this government not do its homework if Briercrest still isn't in a position where it can grant those degrees without an exemption, Mr. Speaker? So again, perhaps the government didn't do enough legwork ensuring that Briercrest would be in a position to grant degrees, Mr. Speaker.

So I know that I will have colleagues who have more knowledge in this area who will speak to this bill and will have some questions at committee. So with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 143. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 143, *The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 151

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 151** — *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and it's my pleasure to rise in this wintry evening to speak to Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014*.

We see a lot of changes in professions over the years, and I

think this bill reflects that kind of change as we see the role of pharmacists changing and the function of pharmacies changing. And certainly the complexities of health care and all those things seem to add up to these kinds of things just evolving over time.

When I think back to I guess it was around 1917, my grandfather, Grandpa Belcourt, my mom's dad, was a pharmacist. Back in those days he was able to hang his shingle as a pharmacist without training, but then he went and served in World War I and when he came back, he actually went to the University of Saskatchewan and got his training as a pharmacist.

So I used to . . . I remember going through the Thorvaldson Building, I think was the name of the building on campus, and they had all the old photos, Mr. Speaker, of all the pharmacy students from way back when, and I could find my grandpa's picture on the wall. He took a one-year program, and he practiced as a pharmacist in my hometown of Lafleche for decades and sold it in the 1960s to my uncle who then took over.

And that was in the days when liquor vendors were first being issued. I was talking to my uncle about that a couple of weeks ago, and he was able to apply for the first liquor vendor. And I guess they trusted pharmacists to be able to dispense liquor in a proper way, so that's what happened in my hometown. And I can remember going as a kid to the pharmacy. We were way more interested in the comics than we were in the liquor. But that was certainly, you know, the Rexall drugstore and all the sort of what we think as iconic images now, as I age myself.

But anyways we know that the role of pharmacists have changed greatly. I think when you look at the modern drugstore these days in large urban centres where they're often tucked into . . . There's a pharmacy kiosk in all kinds of larger stores these days, like London Drugs and Shoppers Drug and the Co-op and the grocery store, Safeway. So there's often it's part of a larger shopping place, and those roles are really important as well.

I think what we're hearing about pharmacists in the news these days though, Mr. Speaker, is the concern about short-staffing. I mean obviously that's an issue that we've been raising on this side of the House in a number of contexts in the health care field, but it's one that's particularly concerning with pharmacists. And they've been coming to the media recently and explaining how this is a really dangerous situation, where you have people dispensing in a frantic and often confusing and chaotic atmosphere of an emergency centre in a large urban hospital or in a busy surgery ward or all of those things where those requests for meds are complex and they're voluminous.

So I think there's a lot of concern from the pharmacy profession of making sure, again, client safety, patient safety, which needs to be always paramount. We hear the Minister of Health speaking a lot about that, but I think what more and more is we're hearing demands from the people of Saskatchewan for action on that front. It's one thing to talk about it. It's one thing for the government to rest on the accomplishments that they often cite here in the House, but we know that there's people at risk and people being put in danger because of the short-staffing

that we see not only in the long-term care homes but also in the pharmacies in the hospitals in our province.

This bill, however, deals with some other issues that I think the minister worked in concert with the pharmacy association of Saskatchewan to address. One of the biggest changes I guess that is really important here is the fact that the name is changing to reflect a new way of doing business for pharmacists. And the name is going to be called *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act* rather than *The Pharmacy Act*. And what happens now is we see the College of Pharmacists now being responsible for two streams of the pharmacy profession, so the pharmacist themselves, but also they are adding responsibility now for a profession called pharmacy technicians.

And you know, you think of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, so there's different roles for those two types of professionals. I believe this is similar in this context where we see pharmacists and then these pharmacy technicians who will now be able to do more clinical work, and they will assume more of the technical duties such as dispensing. And currently that's something that only pharmacists can do.

Other amendments in the bill will allow pharmacists to administer vaccines and drugs like flu shots and vitamin B<sub>12</sub> shots. Also they can order, access, and use laboratory tests, working in collaboration with a physician.

So I think it shows there is a much more collaborative approach in including the pharmacist in the care spectrum that individuals are encountering. We know the use of drugs and prescriptions is becoming more and more complex as well, so ensuring that the pharmacist is integrated into the care plan for individuals and that they're working closely with the physicians I think is something that would be desirable.

We're hoping, you know, once we have a break here coming up, that we will be able to talk to people, find out whether or not that consultation was properly done. We want to make sure that these changes were requested.

We know the folks from the College of Pharmacists were here in the legislature on the day the bill was introduced, and presumably they have requested some of these changes. We haven't any indication from the Minister of Health in his opening comments whether that's the case, so we'll need to assure ourselves and assure the public that this is something that's desirable, that it makes more sense for the profession of pharmacists, and also that the pharmacist technicians will be adequately protected as they are now being brought in under the same Act.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I think that's the extent of my comments on Bill No. 151, and I will move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 150**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 150 — *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*** 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. 150, *An Act to amend The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends a number of the clauses in *The Residential Tenancies Act*, and we hope that the proposals are there to make the Act easier to enforce. But there are some things where we'll want to get more explanation about how the Act works when we get into committee.

But the comments that I have now relate to the bill itself. It is interesting how the term social housing program is removed from the legislation and just becomes a housing program. And I'm not totally certain what that means other than it may be that there's no longer a reference to the fact that there's a responsibility of the provincial government around social housing. That's something we need to examine.

We know that a number of the policies have changed as far as the development of housing for low-income people. We know that there are dramatic needs for that kind of housing, and the capital is not always available. We know that we had one unfortunate situation in Regina where a project that was developed as social housing was then at the last minute turned into a regular housing program, and we still don't have the full explanation about that, given that it's important to find places for people to live, especially in our major cities.

Now there's another interesting choice made in this legislation, which is that the minister becomes responsible for appointing the director of residential tenancies. And this is described as a change in statutory drafting. That means that these kinds of appointments are made by the minister rather than by the cabinet or by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and that's an interesting question for those involved in governance.

I know that in previous decades this was always a fine issue because you would end up having people who were appointed by Lieutenant Governor in Council and they had a bit of a higher or more protected status than the person who was appointed by the minister. And I don't think the intention in this legislation is to reduce the protection for that director of residential tenancies, but it may have that effect. And that's something that we need to watch very carefully because clearly the director of residential tenancies has a job to be a person who rules in some fairly difficult situations. And if the minister in charge of the housing program — now not the social housing program — has the power to quickly change that director, it puts ... make some changes, it makes that job to be a little more vulnerable than it has been before. So I think that's a question that we need to ask about that.

[20:00]

Now there are also some other changes around some of the technical rules between landlords and tenants. And I know

some of my colleagues have gone through and described those in more detail, so I will not make comments about that. But the general tenor of the legislation seems to maybe move the balance a little bit more to the landlord's side than the tenant's side. And this is something that we need to watch very carefully because part of the job of the legislature and legislation is to protect those with little power or no power. And it's very clear that landlords are normally ones that have much more power than the tenants. So we need to watch this very, very carefully.

Now the legislation also goes into some of the rules around rent increases. It's notable that section 11 exempts non-profit housing corporations from giving 6 or 12 months notice before a rent increase. I'm not sure what the purpose of that is, but I think that once again it puts much more power into the minister or the ministry puts much more power into sort of the political side of the operation rather than providing a more even-handed basis for this. And so once again it's something we need to look at very carefully as this legislation moves forward.

The legislation itself is legislation which comes to the legislature relatively often, or at least suggestions about how to change it comes here fairly often because of the nature of the disputes that will arise around the tenancy or around the residential issues. And so I know we'll have another, you know, other chances to look at this legislation. But ultimately it's about getting that balance right so that it's fair both to the landlords and their backers who put capital into some very expensive properties but also for the tenants who want to have some security of their place in that residence so that they can build a home and know that it has substantial protection.

We know that our rules in Saskatchewan are not like they are in some of the larger cities in Canada and the United States. We don't have rent protections like they maybe do in New York City, that people can keep their rents at a same level for, you know, 10's and 20's, 20 years, maybe longer. But what we need to do is to make sure that our rules here are fair.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think that I have any more comments to make at this time on the specific details, but I know that a couple other of my colleagues have some comments and that some of my colleagues have already made some quite lengthy comments about this legislation. And we'll all look forward to asking questions when we get into the committee. But at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 150. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 150, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*. 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 Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 153, *An Act to amend the Statute Law*. Mr. Speaker, this is quite an extensive piece of legislation and it has probably even more extensive explanatory notes for the legislation. But I think some of my colleagues have started to call this one the hyphen bill or the bill around putting an "e" in judgment because, Mr. Speaker, it deals with updating a number of words to current and socially acceptable spellings. And practically what that means I think, Mr. Speaker, is they're spellings of these words that don't get rejected when people go and search them in their various search engines on their computer.

So the legislation itself is quite lengthy and goes through many pieces of legislation but this is basically what it does. It changes words that are in legislation now like lunatic or insane or mentally incompetent and then uses the term lack capacity or lacking capacity.

The word facsimile becomes fax so we use f-a-x as the term that covers all of those types of electronically transferred documents.

Electronic mail becomes email, I guess the more acceptable word in the 21st century.

Safe-keeping becomes safekeeping without a hyphen. Once again that's obviously something that computer users have brought forward.

Pipe-line becomes pipeline without a hyphen. Or if it's pipe line two words it becomes one word: pipeline.

Judgment adds an "e" into it, and we understand that that's adopting the *Oxford English Dictionary* way of writing that word. It's probably not the way most people in Saskatchewan or Canada use the word judgment because I think here we use the American spelling more often than the British spelling. So that one's one that I question.

The word chairman becomes chairperson throughout the various pieces of legislation.

The word extra-provincial loses once again a hyphen to become extraprovincial, one long word.

Data-base loses a hyphen to become database, one little bit longer word.

And then subject-matter loses a hyphen to become two words: subject and matter.

And probably the most interesting one of all, insofar, which is one word becomes three words: in, so, and far. And so, Mr. Speaker, for those people who are searching the word far, well they'll now find a few more in the Saskatchewan pieces of legislation.

But all of these changes are part of updating legislation. And I think there were some of them that are a bit offensive but a lot of them are well, not totally understandable or defensible and

maybe even some of the wrong choices have been made. But, Mr. Speaker, I think we're a pretty forgiving lot in this legislature. If they come back next year and decide to have judgment without an "e" I think we'll all probably go along with that because that maybe would make more sense.

But practically this bill is a bill of corrections, of updating, and it's one that we see relatively regularly, but this year it has a special length, quite long, and it has some words that we don't often see being amended in legislation. And so we have that.

But, Mr. Speaker, I don't think I have any more comments on this legislation at this point. I know some of my colleagues will want to put their two cents worth on the legislation. But at this time I would move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on 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:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 154

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 154 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*/Loi no 2 de 2014 modifiant le droit législatif** 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. 154, *An Act to amend the Statute Law (No. 2)*. Mr. Speaker, this bill does what Bill No. 153 did to all of the unilingual, English bills and does the same thing to the 12 bilingual Acts that are affected. So the same words that I described before are being changed in the English version. And I think there are some minor changes in some of the French words that are used, but it's substantially the same piece of legislation as No. 153. And any comments that I've made about No. 153 would apply to Bill No. 154.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments, but I know some of my other colleagues will have comments. But I move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 154, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 157

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 157 — *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'm happy to rise tonight to speak to Bill No. 157. It has a very long name which I think I will read into the record because it's an interesting name. It's *An Act to Facilitate the Donation of Certain Tissues from One Living Person to Another for Transplantation and to Facilitate the Donation, after Death, of Tissues, Bodies or Body Parts for Transplantation, Medical or Scientific Purposes and to make a consequential amendment to The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act*. So it's a nice long Act title, and it sort of indicates what you would find if you were to look into the actual mechanics of the bill itself.

I think when we talk about this type of health care or the changes that are coming up in health care . . . Just a few minutes ago I talked about the changes in pharmacy and the practice of pharmacy. I think this an example of harvesting of human tissues. That's something that would be probably unthinkable many, many years ago. I know when heart transplants first started from . . . And I think kidney transplants is another major change in medicine, and I know this bill deals a little bit with cornea transplants.

I think one of the things that's interesting here is in some of the definitions. First of all, I had to get out the dictionary because the definition of the organ means "a perfusable human organ for use in a transplant." So I looked up perfusable and what that means is something that you can force fluids through, so it's forcing a fluid through by way of blood vessels. So I think in this case when we're talking about organs, it's ones where blood flows through. So you can easily imagine that would be things like your kidney or a lung transplant or even the corneas. And I know we're talking a lot about corneas in this bill as well.

So the definition of an organ is:

a perfusable human organ for use in a transplant, whether whole or in parts, and whose specific function is intended to return after revascularization and reperfusion, and includes any adjunct vessels that are retrieved with the organ for use in the organ transplant.

So the idea is that it's a perfusable organ that can be taken, and then it can be revascularized and reperfused. And I think what that means is it can be brought back to use and then once you've inserted it in somebody else, the blood will start flowing again.

Another very interesting definition in this bill is the "organ procurement organization." And this speaks, Mr. Speaker, to in some ways the privatization of organ transplants because what it does is it allows "a person, a partnership or an unincorporated body" that is properly registered with Health Canada in accordance to the federal regulations "respecting the importation, processing, distribution and transplantation of tissue or other body parts."

The minister indicated in his comments that this is sort of a revitalization of the old human tissue Act. He said it's now outdated. And I think there's some interesting parts to this. The bill is divided into different parts. Part II is about "Gifts for Transplants During Life." And I know, Mr. Speaker, there is a

lot of frustration with people about kidneys, kidney transplants in particular. I have one friend who is living in Manitou Beach right now who's waiting for a kidney transplant, and he's shared with me a letter that he actually wrote earlier this year. I think it was in September, where he wrote to his doctor at St. Paul's Hospital, and he expressed a number of concerns about the delays he was experiencing in the transplantation process. And here's a quote from his letter:

[20:15]

I asked you what the protocol was regarding the transplantation process, and you told me that if I was to present with a living donor, the transplant would be "expedited." Weighing this promise from you, along with my health status, I agreed to start dialysis immediately. This happened in the following week on Wednesday, May 14th, 2014. I'm writing today to inform you that three potential living donors matching my blood type of O positive have come forward, wishing to provide me with a second kidney donation.

I have heard nothing from the pre-transplant coordinator in the time period since my initial referral back in March 2014. I strongly feel that this lack of communication amounts to mental cruelty as I find myself in limbo, awaiting some confirmation of my assessment. Surely after six months this person could have taken the time to either phone or write me to inform me of the fact that I have been referred, and also provided me with a date for my initial assessment that would hopefully lead to a transplant. That would be the compassionate and professional approach. This lack of communication does not strike me as expedited, seeing as how three individuals have indicated they wish to be assessed as candidates to donate a kidney to me.

I am young and healthy, in the prime of my life and career. I do not appreciate being stranded in bureaucratic limbo. While I appreciate the life-saving intervention of dialysis, I certainly do not appreciate the absence of communication from the pre-transplant coordinator.

So you can see some of the frustrations that this individual is having with the system.

I know when I was door knocking in the last election I ran into two or three people who were desperately waiting for kidney transplants. Now the minister has indicated in his introductory comments to the bill that this will expedite people waiting for a kidney transplant. He said that, you know, often it can mean months and years of intense and tiring and time-consuming dialysis. And we all know that, Mr. Speaker. He's saying people wait too long for transplants, and so he's saying that it's because of the legislation, and he wants to modernize it so that the system can respond quickly to innovations.

What you find in part IV, I believe, yes, in section 22 is the regulations. And much of the ability for the minister to move forward on this transplantation innovation, as he refers to it, is found in the regulations itself. And I think what's really important is to look at subsection (f), which refers to section 17 of the bill, and that's where we talk about the privatization of

transplantations, and that's where people can sell these tissue or organs for various reasons.

So section 17 reads, no person shall buy or sell or deal in, directly . . . I'm just paraphrasing it. They shouldn't buy or sell or directly deal with anything for a valuable consideration, which means money, any tissue for a transplant or any body or part of a body other than blood, for the purposes of transplant. So only subject to the regulations can you sell, so it's a prohibitive clause. It says you can't sell any of these except what it says in the regulations.

So let's look at the regulations. In section 22(f) it says, for the purposes of section 17, the Lieutenant Governor can make regulations prescribing exemptions from the prohibition against the purchase, sale, or other dealings with respect to tissue and body parts; and secondly, prescribing the types of people that are exempt. So we're going to be able to have regulations that will say who can sell these body parts. And also the third part of that section talks about prescribing the circumstances of the purchase, sale, or other dealing.

So we now have a situation where, through the executive level of government, they can make regulations talking about who can sell tissue or bodies or body parts and the types of exemptions they will have for the sale of these things plus the circumstances of the sale itself. So I think I feel like in some ways we're moving into a brave new world here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where we can see that we're entering the world of selling body parts. Up to this point it's always been donation, as far as I know.

And I'm not sure how the minister feels that will expedite the transplant process. He's saying that these will remove impediments to getting life-saving treatments for people whose health is compromised, and I'm just really not sure how that's going to be accomplished. So I think this is something we're going to keep a very close eye on in terms of this bill and certainly the regulations that the Lieutenant Governor in Council will make in relation to this type of innovation, I guess you can call it.

I really do see it as a privatization of body parts, basically, where we're allowing people to now enter into businesses, and the definition again in terms of that is the organ procurement organizations. So using the word organization, perhaps it will be more NGO [non-governmental organization] type organizations that will get into this business for importing, processing, distributing, and transplanting tissue and other body parts. Hard to say but it's certainly something that I think we will have to keep a close eye on.

Just briefly before we go, before I conclude my comments, the third part of the bill deals with gifts for transplant and other uses after death. So part II is "Gifts for Transplant During Life," clearly these being gifts, or donated and no money changing hands. And the part III is "Gifts for Transplant and Other Uses After Death."

And so these are ones where . . . And I certainly am one who has signed my consent under *The Human Tissue Act* which will now . . . I guess my driver's licence and my consent form is going to have to change too. But I think it's incredibly

important that people take the time to think about this and to sign that card. If in fact you're in an accident, I'm not sure as I get older how much value my organs will have but they're welcome to it, Mr. Speaker, and I've signed the card and it's in my wallet and I've told my kids. And I think it's very important for everyone to take a moment to think about it. And if you are willing to let those parts of your body go after you're gone, then it's incredibly important. It could save a life.

And we've all heard stories. You read in the *Reader's Digest* about, you know, the amazing stories of these transplant issues. There's very heartbreaking stories where, you know, a young individual is killed in a car accident and then when the recipient of those organs actually meets the family afterwards. I just can't imagine what a heartwarming and human kind of story that is where you can keep somebody alive even after you have, you've passed on.

So in that context, Mr. Speaker, I know we're going to want to really take a close look at these regulations and how the government proposes to get into the economic business of transplanting body parts and tissues. And it's a brave new world out there so I guess we'll have to look for comments from the public and certainly in the intervening months before the spring session we will want to find out who's been consulted and whether there are concerns about this approach that the government's taking.

At this point I would like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 157.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 155

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 155** — *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 sur les directives et les subrogés en matière de soins de santé* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to enter debate on Bill No. 155, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act*. Mr. Speaker, there's not really any substantive changes with respect to this bill. What it is, is turning this particular bill into a bilingual bill, Mr. Speaker.

So it will move from being *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act* to Bill No. 155, *An Act respecting Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers and to make a consequential amendment to The Powers of Attorney Act, 2002, Loi concernant les directives et les subrogés en matière de soins de santé et*

*apportant une modification corrélative à la Loi de 2002 sur les procurations*, Mr. Speaker.

So this particular bill is simply becoming a bilingual bill. But I think I need to put on the record, health care directives are what, for those people who might not be sure what a health care directive is, if they've ever heard the term a living will, a living will is also called a health care directive.

If you look at the Ministry of Justice website, this Act initially came into force in 1997. I know my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana was in law school at that point in time when that bill came into force. I remember her telling me a little bit about, she immediately went out and put together a health care directive, Mr. Speaker.

"Health care directives give directions about medical treatment to treatment providers. It comes into effect when you are no longer able to make and communicate your own health care decisions." So this is from the Ministry of Justice website, Mr. Speaker.

And in Saskatchewan there are currently two kinds of health care directives. "The first gives specific directions to treatment providers as to the treatments that you consent to or refuse, should you one day be unable to make a health care decision on your own."

And "The second names another person (called a 'proxy') to make health care decisions for you if and when you cannot make a health care decision yourself," Mr. Speaker.

The directive "can also be a combination of both these types, including specific treatment directions for certain situations, as well as a proxy named for other health care decisions." So, and again from the Ministry of Justice website.

So why would you prepare a health care directive, Mr. Speaker? And it points out that "The directive lets you make decisions about your future treatment. It makes sure that your wishes will be known and respected."

When we think about health care directives and some of the discussion here we're talking about, we've got a bill before us around organ and tissue donation, Mr. Speaker, which is a very different issue, but again it speaks to the need to make sure that your family, that loved ones who may be making decisions for you both while you perhaps are unwell and incapacitated or deceased, Mr. Speaker, in the case of the donations in some respects, in some cases it's important to have these kinds of discussions with your family.

I think we often put those things on the back burner. We like to think that we are infallible and immortal, Mr. Speaker, until as the older we get, we get a little bit closer, Mr. Speaker. You have to live every day as if it's your last because one of these days you're going to be right. So I think that that is important to keep in mind, that we need to make sure our families know our wishes, Mr. Speaker. And that is the point of a living will or a health care directive.

So who in Saskatchewan can make a directive? So this is interesting, which I didn't realize, that:

Any person over the age of 16 who is able to make his/her own health care decisions can write a directive. A directive is especially useful to terminally ill and elderly individuals who have specific directions about treatment that they would like honoured as death approaches.

And it asks the question, what should be in your directive or what should it say?

You may give specific instructions about medical treatment you would or would not want when you are no longer able to make or communicate your own health care decisions. To help make your wishes as specific as possible — especially if you have a serious illness — you should discuss with your doctor how your illness will progress and what treatments will be offered to you.

And the second thing that your directive should say:

You may name a proxy to make health care decisions on your behalf in the event that you would not be able to make or communicate your own health care decisions, or if you have not provided a specific written directive. Your proxy does not need to be a family member.

So what happens, Mr. Speaker, if you're not able to make a decision and do not have a health care directive or a proxy? So the Ministry of Justice points out:

If you become unable to make your own health care decisions and you have not named a proxy and not provided a specific written directive, the Act permits health care decisions to be made by your nearest adult relative; or, if no relative can be located, a treatment provider.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think if these are things that we think about when we hear stories in the news, I think creating a health care directive is probably a very positive step when we hear stories about other people who maybe haven't taken those steps. And it makes you think about what you would or wouldn't want to have happen if you are incapacitated, Mr. Speaker. I think it's good to think about these things and ensure again that those around you know what your wishes are.

And interesting: how should you write a health care directive? Your directive can be handwritten or typed. It must be signed and dated. It must be clear and as specific as possible, and it points out that it is difficult for treatment providers to follow directions that are not clear. The Act does not require them to follow directions that are not specific enough. So being clear and specific is a very important thing to do in your health care directive, Mr. Speaker.

[20:30]

If you name a proxy, it's a good idea to record his or her full name, address, and phone number. And after you've written your directive, again it says to discuss your directions with your proxy if you have named one, your family or others close to you, and your doctor. You may want to keep a copy in your wallet and give copies to your proxy, doctor, and those close to you.



It's important to note that you can cancel a directive, Mr. Speaker, so you may make these decisions now, and if in a decade from now or whatever time frame it might be, you can change your mind. The best way to cancel a directive is to destroy it or write on the document that you are cancelling it. In an emergency you can also tell another person that you no longer want to follow the directive. And you may also simply write a new directive which will automatically replace your old one. Let those who have copies of the earlier directive know that it has been cancelled or replaced. And you can change the directive at any time, Mr. Speaker, but written changes must be signed and dated by you.

So that's what this bill speaks to, Mr. Speaker, in general, and what a health care directive or a living will is. But with respect to the bill that is directly before us right now, Bill No. 155 and the changes, it's simply moving from a unilingual bill to a bilingual bill, French and English, Mr. Speaker. I know that I have colleagues who will also have some comments about Bill No. 155, so with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 155, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 156

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 156 — *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to speak to Bill No. 156, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is a companion bill for the previous bill to which I just spoke. That was Bill No. 155.

This particular bill, Bill No. 156, makes consequential amendments to four Acts that reference *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act*. This includes *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act*, *The Electronic Information and Documents Act*, *The Health Information Protection Act*, and *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*. So that is simply what this bill does, Mr. Speaker, and I actually have no further comments. So with that I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 156, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### 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 Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's with a certain amount of bittersweet nostalgia that I rise to speak to this bill tonight. We know this is the full extent of this government's legislative agenda as it relates to agriculture and farms in this go-round, and it's a one-line bill that basically repeals a bill that's part of our history.

I guess the nostalgia for me and why this is bittersweet is that at this point in time my two brothers are in the process of selling our family farm, which was established by my grandpa in 1909. So 115 years later, it's going out of the family. And it's, I think, indicative of a trend that is happening across the province and certainly across the prairies, when we see farming becoming agricultural production. And the notion of the family farm is more a romantic notion I think these days, Mr. Speaker, than a reality. Certainly there are a lot of family farms still in Saskatchewan, and my brothers are good examples of that. But their kids, none of their children are interested in taking on the farm, so the intergenerational transfer is coming to an end.

My grandpa sold the farm to my dad in the 1950s. Dad took up the farm just when the war was on. He started farming. He was too young to go to war, but somebody had to stay home and look after the farm. He could have gone to school in Regina because his dad was working in Regina with the Wheat Pool at the time, but he decided to take up farming. He had a wonderful career as a farmer.

I think he told me the other day that he's lived in the best time that there was. He's concerned as an 88-year-old about what's coming for future generations when we look at environmental concerns with global warming, and he's quite worried about that. And he said, I think I lived in the best time. And certainly for me, growing up on a farm with six of us kids running around and a couple dogs and, you know, the chickens and the neighbours, the cousins across, a mile down the road, it's probably one of the most carefree lives I think that a person could ever have.

So that notion of the family farm where you grow your garden, you have, you know, 10, 15 quarters — for us, that was the average size in our area when I was growing up — that's becoming a thing of the past. And I don't think there's any right or wrong to that or any judgment to be had. It just is a reality. We know that the number of grain elevators in Saskatchewan peaked in the 1930s and that they started declining at that point.

So the whole evolution of agriculture in Saskatchewan is a fascinating story and one that I think this . . . this particular repealing bill is part of the story. If you look at the original bill

that's being repealed here . . . And I think the minister was very clear. This bill is no longer in use. It's not being used anymore. It's redundant and therefore it's appropriate for it to be repealed. But I think it reflects so much of our history as a province, in particular in the development of our province as an agricultural, the breadbasket of the world, so to speak.

If you look at the original bill, section 3 is very telling. It says:

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 and conversion of family farms that are uneconomic farm units into economic farm units.

I don't know if this is something that my dad took advantage of when he bought the farm from his dad. I don't even know the economics of that or what happened, but I do know that this kind of notion that was enshrined in legislation tells us how important it was to the people of the time when this bill was passed to see that intergenerational transfer going on. It certainly is a little more difficult these days, when we look at the massive corporate farms that are becoming the norm in Saskatchewan. Again that's neither right nor wrong; it just is.

And so the face of farming is changing rapidly, as I think anyone from rural communities would confirm that. And yourself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm sure you see that all the time, how farms are getting bigger. And certainly we know that investment in farm land has attracted a lot of attention, certainly across Canada, and we know that things like pension plans or the board of the Canada Pension Plan just bought over, I think it's 100 sections of land, a very large land purchase just recently. We see some of these huge corporate farms now filing for bankruptcy protection and creditor relief. That's concerning. And it's just the face of farming since when I grew up as a kid in the '60s is something quite different, and I think the repeal of this bill is just part of that continuum of change on the family farm.

One of the things I found interesting in the original bill is that the company that was entrusted with the lending and the financial arrangements to bring to fruition these intergenerational transfers and the development of family farms as economic farm units was the Co-operative Trust Company of Canada. And again, that speaks much to the history of this province and the prevalence of co-operatives within the development of the agricultural industry here in Saskatchewan.

And I was looking a little bit on the Internet on the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association page and just finding out a little bit about how these co-operatives influenced farming here in Saskatchewan. And I don't know if the member from Saltcoats knows this, but in 1895 a group of dairy farmers in the settlement of Saltcoats formed the province's first co-operative butter creamery. So 1895 was the first butter creamery in Saskatchewan, and that was in Saltcoats, the community of Saltcoats.

The first co-operative to register in the province of Saskatchewan was the Grain Growers' Grain Company in 1906,

and from 1905 to 1929 there was an increase of co-operative organizations across the province. And this was the pool marketing phase of Saskatchewan's co-operative development. Many of the province's farmers began pooling their resources and marketing their products as a group instead of individual farms.

And we certainly know about the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. Again that was an organization that my grandpa was an organizer for back in the 1920s. And back further on they also formed The Co-operators insurance company. And just recently I think The Co-operators celebrated, was it their 75th anniversary a few years ago? My dad and my uncle were invited at the head table of that event and they still have policy no. 8 and no. 9 in The Co-operators insurance company. And that was something . . . when my grandpa was involved with the Wheat Pool, he wanted his children and other people to have access to a co-operative insurance company.

The Co-operative Trust Company of Canada was also formed to help farm . . . what does it say here? The co-operative . . . first general co-operatives Act was passed by the government in 1914 and the Co-operative Trust Company, which was just changed to Concentra Financial I think about five years ago, was formed in 1952 to meet the corporate financial needs of credit unions and co-operative members in Saskatchewan.

So the rich and vibrant history of the co-operative movement in Saskatchewan is something that's imbued in all aspects of who we are as a people here in Saskatchewan. And certainly I think the establishment of this bill and giving the Co-operative Trust Company the responsibility for the management of the financing that was contemplated in *The Family Farm Credit Act* was . . . It's just part of the history of this province, and I think it's something that we need to keep to track of and remember. Because I think, as we've heard other people say, if you don't remember the past it's hard to not make mistakes in the future.

So at this point I think, Mr. Speaker, we've indicated, many of my colleagues have indicated this is a very short bill. It's repealing *The Family Farm Credit Act*, and although I would like to take more time to maybe speak more about the history of farming in this province and the importance of the co-operative movement in that development of farms, and I think many of our colleagues would like to maybe speak more about the importance of that, at this point we have a number of other bills to cover this evening. So I would like to adjourn debate on Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn 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 Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 149

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 149 — *The Health Administration Amendment Act, 2014*** be now read a

second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 149 and make some comments. And I guess at the end of the day, this bill transfers the health registration from the ministry to eHealth. And eHealth is able to now make some of the decisions on how data is stored without going and getting permission from the minister. So the minister is turning over certain powers to eHealth.

And when you look at it, you know, we have a lot of individuals in our province of course, whether you're new to Saskatchewan, you apply for a health card. You used to apply to the Ministry of Health. You no longer do that. You can actually go online and individuals can go to eHealth. And I was just talking to somebody the other day who actually went through and came from Alberta and was here for a little bit of a visit and said, you know, I'm going to come back. And that person said if they do come back, and when they do, they have to transfer their health card. Which is good, you know. But they would just do it online and they could do that with eHealth. And now instead of going through Health it's a process.

So the changes reflect, you know, that eHealth now has the responsibility for taking care of the health cards and making sure they provide I guess the data and make sure that . . . you know the privacy. You know that information is protected when they're dealing with applications for health coverage or replacing a card or, I assume, when you're applying for your . . . When your health card expires and you need a new one, I assume you can go to eHealth and get your actual little expiry date on it that says 2017.

[20:45]

But that's mainly what this bill does. It's giving those powers to eHealth, as the minister made in his comments, to do some of the business. We'll watch it. I know some of us will have some comments and in committee we can ask some clarification if there is something to be cleared. But we'll deal with that at that time. And I know some of my colleagues have more to say, so at this point I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 149.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149, *The Health Administration Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 148

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 148** — *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 2009 sur les services de l'état civil* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 148, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act, 2009*. Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation, according to the minister, modernizes *The Vital Statistics Act* but keeps the original principles of the legislation. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's probably a pretty accurate description of what happens here. What we have in *The Vital Statistics Act* at the present time is a transition piece of legislation moving from a paper-based registry system to an electronic system. One of the pieces that was not fully modernized was the whole concept of signatures on pieces of paper that would then be sent to the registry and then in turn translated into digital information for the registry. What this legislation does is allow for the electronic transfer of signatures as it relates to registrations of births and deaths and marriages.

Mr. Speaker, I think that's what's happening in the banking field. That's what's happening as far as signing contracts in many other areas. So this is fully in compliance with those concepts. One of the further things that the legislation does which is uniquely — or maybe not uniquely, but relates to a province like Saskatchewan where we're a very widespread number of people with not that dense of a population — is the fact that it's going to allow for medical practitioners and other prescribed practitioners to sign these various registration documents.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what this is dealing with is those situations where there's not a medical practitioner or the traditional signer of these documents within easy access of usually a health care facility where a birth takes place or where a death takes place. And so what can happen is that some other person in that institution can be designated to be the official recorder of the vital statistic event. And so, Mr. Speaker, what this will allow the Cabinet to do is describe people who are able to do that particular function. Most often it will be, I think, nurse practitioners who are covering different health facilities and working together with medical practitioners that cover a broader area. This once again is a practical solution to a specific problem that arises in Saskatchewan. And I think it does make sense, and so it's part of this legislation.

Another interesting question that has arisen with respect to our provincial legislation in Saskatchewan was presented by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, the federal-government-appointed commission that was looking for death information on Aboriginal children. And we all know how important it has been for Canada that this information be gathered together and talked about and dealt with in a respectful and organized way. And one of the problems that arose in Saskatchewan is that there was no way that the information from Vital Statistics could be transferred to that commission following the rules as we've had them up to date. And so what this legislation does is allows for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to approve the minister entering into an agreement where large amounts of information could be transferred to something like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the provisions that are put in the legislation

do cover that situation, but they also are a little broader than that, and it may also authorize the transfer of some of this personal information from Saskatchewan for other uses. And so we will want to be asking some very specific questions about the changes that have been made in the legislation because we also know that this legislation may be used to allow for transfer of some of this information to management consultants such as John Black and Associates in the work that they do. And it says that there's to be protections for this, but we need to understand exactly what the process is that is being contemplated by this legislation.

Now it may be that we're just reading more into the legislation than is here, but I think it's an important question to ask is, who else besides the Truth and Reconciliation Commission might be asking for this broad-based information in bulk, and how and when might this be used again? And so, Mr. Speaker, that becomes an issue that we need to look at very carefully.

Now one of the things that the legislation does do very directly is allow for more immediate or quicker access to information through various electronic means. We also know that that also has with it some of the dangers around the protection of electronic information, and we will want to know that the procedures that are being put in place will be very well secured with many layers of protection. And that doesn't necessarily and isn't necessarily in the legislation itself, but it is something that we will want to ask about when we deal with the matter in committee.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think the legislation is the type of legislation that's important to bring forward to the Assembly. And so I know that we will look at the provisions very carefully, but I think that practically it's something that we will respect and want it to go forward in the best form possible. So at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 148. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 148, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 158

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 158** — *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'm happy to be rising to my feet to speak to this Bill 158, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act and to repeal The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013*.

This is a bill that makes a number of changes to the

Saskatchewan Pension Plan. I think the Saskatchewan Pension Plan is an important plan for people who want to contribute and don't have access to a pension plan at their place of work.

I know when it first came in, I remember the bill in the 1980s, and I remember seeing the promotion for it. I don't know why, but I do remember that. And basically for homemakers, people who are working out of their home, this was the first time they had a chance to contribute to a pension scheme without being at a larger workplace that had those kinds of things available. So it's an important pension plan for people of Saskatchewan.

There's a bit of curiosity here because last year the government introduced Bill 82, which was *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act*, but I'm not sure why it wasn't declared in force. The minister wasn't entirely clear in his comments, and we're not really sure why they didn't enact that one. But the way the minister explained it is that this bill is actually incorporating all of Bill 82 plus more. So it's kind of like the new, improved Tide or something like that where, you know, Bill 82 kind of was okay, but all of a sudden in 2014 now the minister decides that he needs to improve it and make it more special, so he is bringing in Bill No. 158.

And I don't know, maybe they just want some more bills, Mr. Speaker, to increase the number of bills. I know this particular government has introduced the least number of bills of any legislature in the history of the province. So it's kind of interesting that that's the case.

**An Hon. Member:** — Don't generalize without fact.

**Ms. Sproule:** — And I actually prepared a spreadsheet for that information. I'll share it with the members opposite because they're questioning whether or not that's true, which is a habit they seem to have. But anyways, happy to confirm that for the members opposite if they want to see the spreadsheet.

**An Hon. Member:** — We'll get into a discussion about assessments and property tax as well.

**Ms. Sproule:** — I think the Finance minister is confusing himself. We're talking about pension plans and not property assessment.

So at this point we want to talk about his bill, and he didn't really explain in his opening comments why 82 wasn't enacted — I know we passed it in the legislature — why Bill 82 wasn't passed and brought into effect . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . So his response at this point in time, maybe I'll read that into the record because he didn't say it in his opening comments, is that they wanted it to be a PRPP [pooled registered pension plan]. And he hasn't exactly explained what that is, but I'm sure he will . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Thank you. Mr. Deputy Speaker, he's indicated it's a pooled registered pension plan. And that is something that I don't know why he didn't do that last year when he had the opportunity to do it but, for whatever reason, he's decided he needed another bill to make that happen.

The minister indicated there's a number of changes in terms of married members of the pension plan. And there's something called a specialty fund which will bring it into lockstep with

what other government pension plans look like and allow the board to do something called unitization, which I have read about a little bit in terms of my meagre mutual funds, but that is something I think that the minister is trying to adjust at this point in time. And I think there's a number of other sorts of amendments that are an attempt to modernize language in the Act, clarify the board's duties and responsibilities.

And so really it's a piece of work, a piece of business that this government has undertaken. We are hoping to be able to check with people who are members of the plan to understand or to find out if this is meeting the needs of the people who are currently using the Saskatchewan Pension Plan. And at that point, Mr. Speaker, I think that's the extent of the comments that I would like to make on Bill No. 158, so I would like to move that we adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 158, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 162

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 162 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*.

I guess about two years ago the minister introduced the bill, and now he's coming forward I guess with . . . And we'll talk about a little bit about he's making some amendments to the bill that was introduced I believe about two years ago.

[21:00]

The bill will make it easier for those who owe money to collect their debts. Now I'm not sure why this is needed, if there's trouble with collecting debts for different reasons. And we'll get into some of the issues, the amendments that they're going to give, and certain provisions will be there and changes that are, you know, amendments that are going to be introduced to the Act, I guess to make it easier. So people, I assume whether it's . . . I guess you could get a vehicle. I don't know if this refers to a home, if it's small loans, if it's personal loans. You can take . . . [inaudible] . . . if there's the work, you can take the loans from your paycheque. I hear people do all . . . There's all different things.

And I don't know if this is the reason why the amendments are being introduced, because certain companies are saying they're having trouble, at the end of the day, you know, retrieving the

money that they've lent out, or they've sold something and they're trying to get their money. So I know we will ask more questions about that, you know, get details. Some of us will comment.

But when you look at this overall, you look at some of the . . . to collect the debt. And when I say that it makes it easier for the agency or I guess to bring forward a claim that if you owe money, the amendment is that there will be an opportunity for individuals to I guess use the courts, use the sheriff to I guess collect some of the . . . whether it's land.

And they refer to some of the changes in here and I mean if I look at one part of it, they talk about going from your wages. Like right now you can garnishee your wages. If you owe money and you go through the proper procedures, then an institute, an agency that lent you money, whether it's a business, a bank, a loan . . . I guess there's many different things, ways that you borrow money and, you know, might have incurred some debt. I guess it could go as far as doing work on a vehicle, on your house. There's so many different things you could look at this, if there's debt. I don't know if this is credit card, bank loans.

But having said that, even going to garnishee your wages from your job, and they can actually not only now . . . This amendment is changing it from one year to two years where there's a provision now by this amendment that instead of garnishing your wages for one year, they can garnishee your wages for two years. And I think that's, without reviewing it, I don't know what the conditions would be with it. And I know we're going to have more questions. I know we will. We will ask more questions about that.

It also talks about simplifying seizing your bank account. You know, a simple process. They're going to actually go ahead and actually seize your bank account. Now I don't know who, if it's the courts, if you have an action put on you by the courts, or if it's your register. And I mean that's interesting to see. I mean I've never dealt with that side of it, with a lending institute where you're lending money and seeing that provision come back. But having said that, they're going to make it . . . simplify a way of seizing. And I know we're going to have questions on that and we'll want to make sure we have clarification on that.

It also talks about in parts, in section 30 creates a director of sheriffs. And appointed by the minister, he would develop new forms for the Act and take the responsibility to determine . . . So by the minister. So the minister will have powers to appoint someone to be I guess in charge of the sheriffs and to direct them how they're going to carry on and how this amendments and this legislation will be used. And it's a tool they're saying that they need to collect more money, you know.

And I mean you'll have people saying, well there's different ways. I mean some people might say well, you know, pay your bills and you won't have to worry about that. You make your payments. I guess some people for whatever reason, maybe they're running into job or there might be they're sick, they get sick. They're struggling to make ends meet and maybe they run into some problems that they can't cut the, you know, make the payments that they needed to or pay the debt in the agreement that they set. And I'm hoping that agencies or banks, whoever,

would make some accommodations. I know some places do that. You know, they make it easier. And they'll work with people. I'm hoping at the end of the day, in committee, we can ask some of the details. We can find out, you know, who asked for this and what was the reasons why this was brought forward. Was it the institute, banks, whoever?

So I guess, you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't have any more further comments on this amendment to this bill. So at this time I'm prepared to adjourn debate.

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

### Bill No. 161

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Moe that **Bill No. 161 — *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to enter the discussion on Bill No. 161, *An Act to amend The Wildlife Act*. There are several changes in this bill, Mr. Speaker, that when it comes into force it will do here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I think, when walking through the bill, the first thing we see is there is a new definition, an amendment to section 22, that references a new term licence issuance agreement, which requires a definition. And that definition, Mr. Speaker, a licence issuance agreement is being added.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, as we go through the bill here, there are amendments that broaden the scope of wildlife research activities that will now require a licence. The bill specifically adds "provisions that unobtrusive wildlife surveys such as detection, observation or presence/absence surveys may require a licence." And in the explanatory notes of the bill, Mr. Speaker, it explains that:

Current legislation only mandates licence authorization in cases where wildlife is taken or killed. [And the reality is that] Wildlife research activities especially those dealing with species at risk require a variety of passive techniques to determine the presence, or absence, of an animal in a given area. This [particular] amendment will allow the ministry to regulate these activities ensuring that these surveys are conducted responsibly, follow approved methodology and meet information submission standards.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, when you undertake any research you should make sure that whether it's people, animals, all those kinds of things, there are ethical requirements you have to undertake, Mr. Speaker, before you embark upon those. And

this bill is putting those in place for more passive activities, Mr. Speaker.

"This [particular] licencing requirement will only apply to surveys being undertaken for academic, scientific or commercial purpose and will not include recreational wildlife viewing activities."

Another change, Mr. Speaker, currently the existing licensing and vendor provisions were developed for the good old days, Mr. Speaker, "for the previous process of paper based hunting issuance."

But we know now that:

Hunting and trapping licence issuance is now outsourced to a single vendor, [not in Canada] who provides an automated licensing system which is delivered through a private licence issuer network. Proposed amendments . . . support this model of licence delivery detailing the powers and duties being delegated as well as the provisions and limitations of a licence issuance agreement.

So again that's the definition that we've had to add to this bill, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important.

Another amendment, Mr. Speaker, is the increase, the limitation period for prosecutions for an alleged contravention of this Act or the regulations. Right now the existing provision is:

No prosecution for an alleged contravention of this Act or the regulations shall be commenced more than two years after the day on which the minister becomes aware of the alleged contravention.

But now the amendment will increase the limitation period for prosecutions to three years. And one of the challenges here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that wildlife investigations are, from my understanding, harder to conduct particularly because they occur in remote locations and away from witnesses and are often seasonal in nature. So undercover operations can be required to collect sufficient evidence to support prosecutions and this type of investigation can require an extended period of time. So that's from the explanatory notes that accompany this bill, Mr. Speaker.

Another change, Mr. Speaker, a new section is being added that . . . And currently an individual who's been convicted of a wildlife offence is able to lawfully purchase a hunting licence once his or her suspension period has expired, whether the prescribed fine has been paid or not. And this amendment will extend the suspension period until the fine is paid. So previously, Mr. Speaker, you could be fined and have a suspension period and sit that suspension period out and still be able to buy your licence even if you haven't paid the fine.

And when you think about legislative tools, those things that we do — the carrot-or-stick approach — how do you keep people from behaving poorly or sort of contrary to the social norm, Mr. Speaker? In this case, this would be hunting and trapping infractions, Mr. Speaker; the fact that you could not pay the fine that you are obliged to pay and still be able to continue to hunt after you outlasted the suspension. I think it's a good move to

ensure that those who are convicted of an offence do in fact complete that to its entirety, Mr. Speaker.

Another change, Mr. Speaker, existing suspension periods right now include one-, three-, and five-year provisions, dependent on the severity of the infraction. So an amendment will create a two-year suspension period for offences which carry significant risk to public safety like hunting while intoxicated. I can't even imagine, Mr. Speaker. I'm not a hunter. My dad was a hunter; he hasn't hunted for several years, Mr. Speaker. But there are many things you shouldn't do while you are intoxicated and carrying a firearm is probably one of them, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So again as I said, this amendment will create a two-year suspension period for offences which carry a significant risk to public safety or are of serious resource impact in nature. So poisoning wildlife, chasing wildlife with a vehicle, or hunting from an aircraft. Those again, as I said, I'm not a hunter, Mr. Speaker, but I have lots of good friends who are. My assistant, her family, they only eat wild meat, Mr. Speaker. Their freezer is full of wild game. I can remember her being eight months pregnant and still being in my office and her brother had just shot a bull moose and had . . . Eight months pregnant and cleaning and prepping the moose, Mr. Speaker. I can't imagine doing that at eight months pregnant.

I think when you think about hunting and whether it's for sport or for in fact food provision, which would be my preference, Mr. Speaker, I think that personally is my preference. If you're hunting, you should be hunting to feed yourselves, Mr. Speaker. So the idea of poisoning wildlife, chasing wildlife with a vehicle, or hunting from an aircraft seems completely unfair if you think about . . . Even if you were a sport hunter, Mr. Speaker, that sport to me is when you . . . That's not an even playing field at all, Mr. Speaker.

Another amendment to this section will establish a reciprocal hunting suspension provision, which individuals who have had their hunting rights suspended in another jurisdiction will be prohibited from purchasing a Saskatchewan hunting licence. That makes good sense, Mr. Speaker, and when we talk about sort of seamless legislation across jurisdictions, I think if you've committed an offence elsewhere, you shouldn't be able to come to Saskatchewan and do what you've done illegally somewhere else, Mr. Speaker. So that's I think a very positive thing.

And another amendment to this section will establish a lifetime hunting ban if a person has been convicted on three separate occasions for serious wildlife offences.

So those are some of the changes to the bill, Mr. Speaker. I know in the minister's second reading statement or speech, he talked about consultation with hunters which took place in the spring of 2012 which was for the government to do more to conserve our wildlife resource. So I think these measures will in fact support that, Mr. Speaker, and I think these changes are by and large good, Mr. Speaker.

I know there was a CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] story on November 18th after this bill was introduced where Ken Aube, the director of compliance and enforcement with

Saskatchewan Environment, said that, "If it's a world record set [of antlers] I've heard there's been blank cheques for people trying to get a hold of those."

So the market for animal parts like antlers can kind of incentivize people to operate outside the rules for hunting. It's important. Their incentive might be the trophy antlers, but the disincentive is many of these amendments, which is good: longer suspensions, having to pay fines, not being able to hunt if you have . . . not being able to get a licence if you've committed offences in other jurisdictions. Those are all positive things that should support some of this, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, with respect to this particular bill, Bill No. 161, *The Wildlife Amendment Act*, I know that I have colleagues who will have more to say about this bill, and we'll have an opportunity to ask questions, further questions in committee. So with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

[21:15]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 161, *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 163

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 163** — *The Education Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There's really only one word that is possible to describe this bill, and that is oops. This is a bill to correct a big mistake that this government made when they introduced changes to *The Education Act* a couple of years ago when they decided and took it upon themselves to fix the beginning day of school.

In particular clause 5(1) of this bill amends subsection 163(4) and adds a new subsection which establishes that:

For any school year in which Labour Day occurs on or after September 5, the minister may, by order, set a date in September that is earlier than Labour Day as the first instructional day for the school year.

So they dropped the ball when they passed the bill in a hurry a couple of years ago, and this is just another example of this government rushing things through without really thinking through all the consequences and too busy getting their own agenda on the record rather than making sure the bills are properly drafted.

The minister indicated there was a couple other pieces to this

bill that he managed to fit in in terms of other than fixing the mistake that they made when they first passed the changes to the school year.

One of the things he is doing is streamlining the borrowing powers of boards of education and the conseil scolaire [Translation: board of education]. So I think this was dealing with a particular situation that the school boards were finding themselves in when they had to retender for loan rates and get new resolutions passed by the boards when interest rates changed. So this was something that was needed. It's a good change.

The other change is to rename an education scholarship fund based on a Premier's announcement from 2012.

And then there's a couple expressions in French that apparently needed fixing. One was the changing . . . In English it's a "home-based education program," and in French they're changing it from "programme d'études à domicile" to "programme de scolarisation à domicile." So that was something apparently that was identified by some of the legislative drafters, and the goal was to capture the nuances of the language of the Act so the roles and responsibilities laid out are clear and properly representative of expectations. Another French change they made, the phrase is "pupil with intensive needs" and they're changing it from "élève bénéficiant d'un programme de soutien intensif" to "élève à besoins particuliers."

So that's basically the changes in this bill. Again, it's to fix a mistake that this government made when they were in a hurry to change the beginning day of school, and they didn't take a close look at the calendar and realize that when Labour Day was later on in September, that the start day would be way too late and cause significant problems for schools, school boards, students, parents, and the whole bit.

So basically that's about all there is to talk about in this bill. It's just fixing a problem that they created. And it certainly ups their numbers in terms of bills, so I guess that's one thing we can say about it. But other than that, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 163.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 163, *The Education Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 164

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 164** — *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my

pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 164, *An Act to amend The Health Information Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill No. 164 maybe could be called the dumpster bill because it comes directly from the problems that arose when the Privacy Commissioner, assisted by a few members or a member of the legislature, discovered medical files in a dumpster in south Regina. And, Mr. Speaker, as that issue became I guess unravelled or unpacked or whatever you do with things you find in a dumpster, it became clear that the rules around medical files for trustees who presently had the responsibility of taking care of those files were not as clear as they should be.

And so, Mr. Speaker, what this bill does is to make sure that the rules that apply to former trustees also apply to present trustees. And the legislation puts into place a means whereby the government can appoint someone or some body, some institution, to be responsible for collecting or gathering medical records or other health information and keeping it in a safe place when a person who is in charge of it no longer is doing their job.

And so, Mr. Speaker, what we're hoping to see from this legislation is a whole new system that will have the Government of Saskatchewan, in its role as protector of the public's information, have appropriate procedures in place to protect the information. Now what it may mean when we look at the material that we have with the bill is that, together with the College of Physicians and Surgeons and other health professionals, it may be that there will be a new institution created or a new place created where these materials can be collected and protected and then eventually disposed of appropriately. We hope that it will mean that there will no longer be files found in inappropriate places like dumpsters.

So, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is good legislation. It's in response to a report that has been prepared by a number of the people who are involved. We'll want to make sure, when we're looking at this in the legislature and in committee, that the various suggestions that have been made will be all in the legislation. A substantial number of the provisions are I think placed into the regulatory power, so we'll have to look at how that plays out as the legislation goes forward. But ultimately we all want to know that health records in Saskatchewan are protected when they're in the care of your doctor or the hospital or health care institution, and that when they're no longer in their care that they will be put into a place that is safe.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we know that the legislation will . . . We'll have a number of questions around how it practically will be brought forward, and we'll want to have a better explanation of how that is going to be done. It'll also take revenues from the government, so we're hoping that the Minister of Finance will be including funding for whatever process they put in place in next year's budget. And practically we hope we have a solution to this particular problem.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments on this bill. I know some of my colleagues may, but at this point I will move adjournment of debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of



debate on Bill No. 164, *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 165

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 165 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill is an interesting little bill. It's basically being used to support one of the Premier's cheerleading efforts to bring about freer trade of alcohol in Canada. I think it follows an announcement he made in August when he was at a premiers' conference to allow people to have alcohol shipped directly to them.

I think, you know, this is probably a natural continuum along the trend that we see for alcohol, obviously a number of arcane rules back from the days when there was a temperance movement to a much more liberalized attitude towards alcohol in our society. So I think this is a reflection of those, that liberalization, and certainly a soapbox for the Premier that's in charge of the province right now.

So it provides opportunities for consumers to seek out and purchase unique products and demonstrates Canada's . . . He said, the minister said it ". . . demonstrates Saskatchewan's continuing commitment to removing barriers to interprovincial trade within Canada." So specifically it's going to allow Saskatchewan to enter into agreements with Canada and other provinces regarding direct-to-consumer alcohol shipments. I think that's something that's pretty straightforward.

We see a couple changes to the Act. There's a new section 19.1 which talks about how Saskatchewan can enter into arrangements with other provinces to allow this kind of activity where people can get direct shipments to their homes, of alcohol.

We see a change to clause 107(2)(e) which allows . . . That's the actual change right there when you look at the repeal of 107(2)(e). If you look at the original Act and see what it says on that section — I'm just going to pull that up quickly here, Mr. Speaker — 107(2) says the minister may prohibit . . . 107, I have the wrong section, 107(2)(e), and for whatever reason it's escaping me at the moment. Anyways it's been repealed. I know where I can find it. It would be in this section here. It says 107(2)(e) currently says:

A person who is not a minor may:

bring into Saskatchewan beverage alcohol legally

purchased or acquired in any part of Canada other than Saskatchewan . . .

This one says, ". . . bring or import into . . . [Canada], for personal consumption, beverage alcohol legally purchased or acquired from another part of Canada," subject to the regulations.

And then there's a new section in the regulations which is section 185(1)(y.1) which allows the Lieutenant Governor general to prescribe:

the kind and quantity of . . . alcohol that may be brought or imported into Saskatchewan;

the jurisdictions within Canada from which . . . may be purchased or acquired;

the vendors or classes of vendors from whom the beverage alcohol may be purchased or acquired;

any other term or condition pursuant to which the beverage alcohol may be brought or imported into Saskatchewan.

So basically that's the extent of this bill. It's a very simple bill that just attempts to achieve that goal that the minister identified when he made his opening comments, allowing Saskatchewan to enter into agreements with Canada and other provinces regarding direct-to-consumer alcohol shipments, allowing individuals to import alcohol for personal consumption from other provinces where such agreements exist, and then create regulation authority regarding types of alcohol, type of seller, and the province from which the product originated.

It was interesting, Mr. Speaker, when I looked at the section 185, regulations section. And this is something that I'm often interested in. It's actually four pages long, the types of regulations that the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the executive arm of government can make regarding liquor and the use of liquor and the consumption and sale of liquor in our province, again I think reflecting the intricate and historical connection governments have had with the sale of alcohol in our province. And certainly that's not unique to Saskatchewan. So other than that, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 165.

[21:30]

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 2014 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 166

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 166 — *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*** 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. 166, *An Act respecting Elections in Municipalities and School Divisions and making consequential amendments to other Acts*.

Mr. Speaker, this is quite a long bill and there are a number of interesting issues in the bill, but in many ways it's an updating and a consolidation from previous bills with some changes that are necessary over the last few years, especially in light of the 2012 municipal elections. And as happens on a regular basis after elections, local officials, both in municipalities or in the school elections, identify problems that should be corrected in the legislation.

But, Mr. Speaker, this type of legislation, this bill, and we've had a few others in this session, are a perfect example of where the Ministry of Justice and the legislative draftspersons who are working on this bill should follow the precedents that happened in a number of other provinces. If this bill was brought forward in Alberta or Ontario, it would come forward with explanatory notes like we have but also the side-by-sides which are used in the department to prepare the bill. And so my suggestion would be to the Minister of Justice that he see whether he can provide those for the pieces of legislation that we have this session and that on a go-forward basis, the ministry would do like other provinces and provide the full side-by-side descriptions of the legislation. This would be helpful for the government as they proceed with the bill, but it also would be helpful for the opposition and for the public to identify where changes have been made which are ones of great importance or where changes have been made that are purely stylistic or punctuation or removing hyphens or other things that happen.

And so this is a very good example of that kind of legislation, because it makes it difficult for the minister and officials as they present the bill to not have the appropriate questions being asked. I know that we'll be looking at a whole number of areas. I mean one area that it would be helpful to understand is how the changes that are made in this legislation relate to the changes that have been made in *The Election Act* that's used by the province. There's a reference in the minister's notes, I think, that says that there are some parallels, and you can see some of the parallels in the legislation.

But I think practically, this is a situation where Saskatchewan should join the practice of other jurisdictions in Canada and have for the public and for all of us more information. The information has been prepared already, and it wouldn't take too much to transfer the digital version online so we could all take a look at it. So that's my suggestion for this evening.

Now the legislation itself has been prepared in consultation with SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], the Association of City Clerks, and some of the other municipal organizations. But, Mr. Speaker, when it's as dense and as long as the legislation is, it's not very possible for others to decipher what in fact has been done. And so I know that we can ask or we could speak for many days on this legislation in the legislature, but practically we can identify some small changes that are in here.

But the overall import of the legislation and the changes that are there will have to be dealt with in committee. And I guess I give notice to the minister and to his staff that one of the questions will be for the minister to show us where the changes have been made in the legislation. That can be and should be done by sharing of side-by-side comparisons and we look forward to that in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the election legislation is always some of the most important legislation that we have in this legislature because it goes right to the heart of what democracy is. And we don't want to be supportive of legislation which restricts or causes people not to go to vote. We know that the participation rate in local government elections, which this legislation applies to, is abysmally low, and we would rather look to legislation coming in this area which makes it much simpler for people to vote rather than create more hoops which maybe some of this does. There are some aspects of this bill which do make it easier including the advance voting rules, but there's a whole number of ways where it could be a lot better.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to spend much more time talking tonight, but I do give notice that we'll be asking questions about how this legislation compares with the other previous legislation, and the simplest way to respond to that will be by providing the side-by-sides that the Department of Justice lawyers already have.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act*. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 167

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 167 — *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée *The Local Government Election Act, 2014**** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise to speak to Bill 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*, and this is the bilingual version of the legislation. It's very short. It only amends one Act, *The Education Act* of 1995, and that particular legislation refers to *The Local Government Election Act* so now it will be amended to refer to *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. I think, Mr. Speaker, I don't have to make any comment. It doesn't do anything more than what was there before. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of

debate on Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 168

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 168** — *The Government Relations Administration Act* be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To join in Bill 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act*. The Act sort of repeals four Acts, *The Northern Affairs Act*, *The Rural Development Act*, *The Rural Affairs Act*, and *The Urban Affairs Act*. Repeals it and gives certain powers. And I guess in this Act, I know our critic will want to go over this. He'll be talking to a number of different municipalities seeing, you know, what the reason.

But one area I just want to make a point of. I guess it gives certain powers and provisions for the minister where there's disputes with municipalities, I guess, to deal with that. We're not sure if that's going to be out in regulations or how they're going to work through that process and exactly what's in the details. And I mean we'll have to go through that, and in committee we can do that. We can research it and, you know, maybe individuals that have talked to already our critic or to the minister have expressed why.

And obviously there's reasons why they're introducing this changes, and giving, you know, the minister some powers to where he can, it sounds like . . . And let's hope that it's something that's been requested from municipalities, whether it's New North, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities. There's a number of different municipalities are represented. Hopefully that their issue, and this was brought forward by them, or we're not sure why it was brought forward, but obviously to repeal the four Acts. The minister has done that. It gives him different powers and provisions as I set out in this provision.

So having said that, I know we'll have lots of opportunity. And I think our critic will do his work to make sure he asks the municipalities and the people that he's in contact with if this Act and these amendments and, you know, repealing this, and the changes are giving the minister maybe too much power. Like, I'm not sure. We'll have to go through that. But at the end of the day, there's some things that are being changed. There's some stuff that will stay, some stuff that he wants to change that won't be brought forward in the new Act, from what I can get from the comments the minister made and the Act itself.

So at that point, I have no further comments. So I'll adjourn debate on this bill, and we'll wait for it to go to committee and the good work that needs to be done.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 21:42.]

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