



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

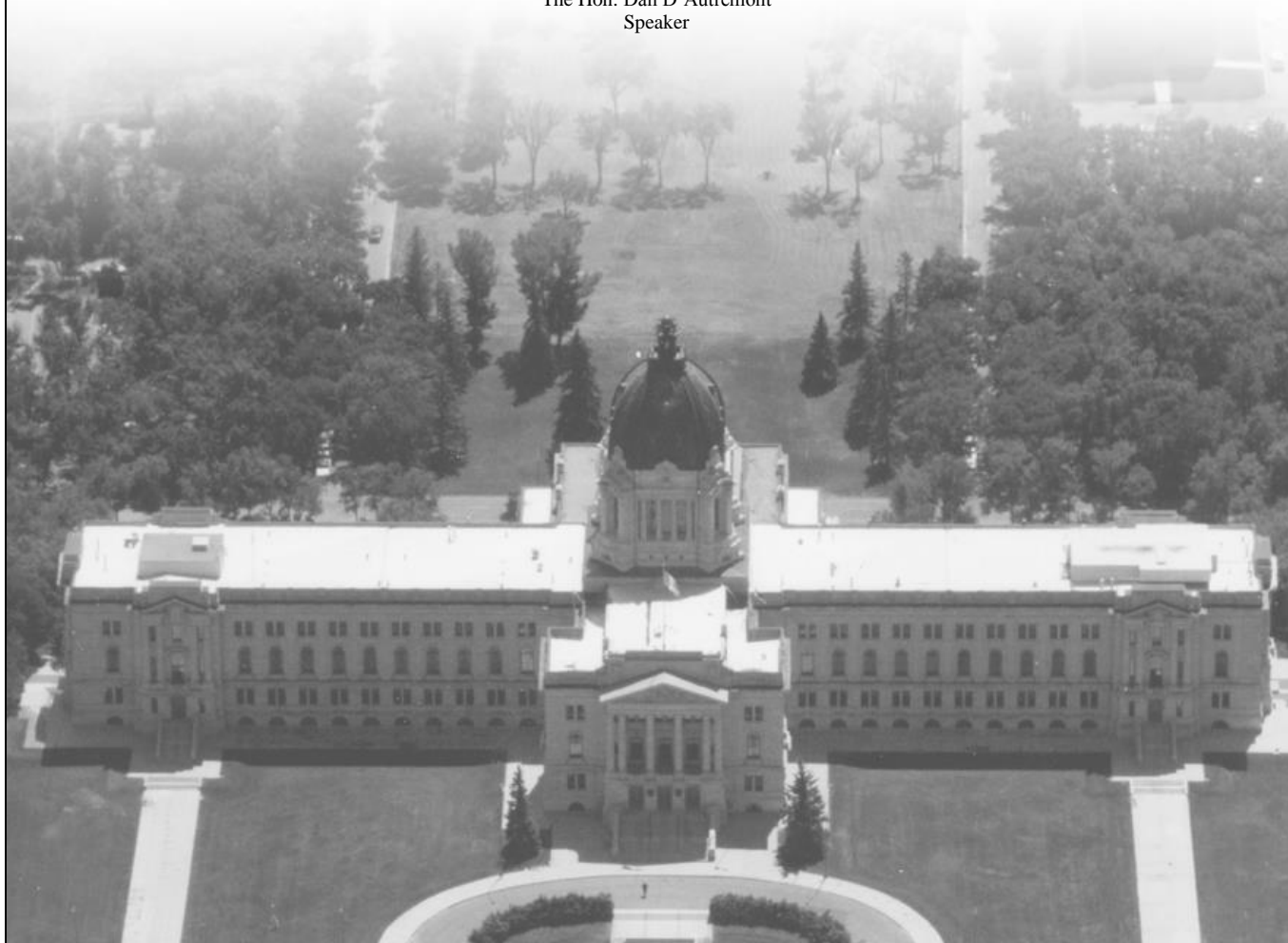
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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The Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



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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: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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.]

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just continue with my remarks I was making before the break, just talking about some of the problems that people are facing with rental situations these days.

I know there's been attempts made to try and have landlords be more reasonable when it comes to rent increases, but it simply isn't working, Mr. Speaker. And we know that a lot of people are suffering as a result of the cost of living and the incredible burdens that the housing market is putting on people, as I said earlier, particularly on fixed incomes.

So you know, legislation, I've often said, is like trying to thread a needle with a bat. We know that these types of bills are designed to promote balance between the rights of the landlord and the rights of the tenants, and I guess it's a continuously ongoing kind of evolving situation, as most situations are in our society.

So the government here is trying to bring a bill to bring some changes to *The Residential Tenancies Act*. I question the utility of some of the changes. One is allowing tenants to claim their security deposit, the time to claim from 120 days to two years. Well, knowing most of the tenants that I know, if people are in a rental situation, they need that security deposit back well before 120 days, so I'm not sure the benefit of expanding it to two years. Even the minister questioned that, Mr. Speaker, but there you go. That's seen as a win for the tenants on this bill.

Another purported win for tenants in this bill is in section 60 where landlords, if they wish to evict a tenant for demolition of the property, of the premises, the notice period was one month, and they're now extending it to two. So instead of having one month to find suitable replacement accommodation, the extension is to two. Again a small win, I think, when we consider the terrible situations that a lot of renters find themselves in, just in terms of suitable and affordable accommodation.

Of course when you give a couple of things to the tenants, you want to give a couple of things to the landlords. And there are a couple items in the bill here that are designed to do that as well, and the minister commented on that in his introductory comments when he gave the second reading speech.

So there's some . . . that's basically the main tenets of what's going on here. We see some changes, just subtle changes to definitions.

One of the things I found very interesting, I'm not sure why the Department of Justice would do this, but we've talked about the hyphen bill, we call it. And that's a bill that's before the House right now that deals with removing hyphens or adding hyphens or making words one word or two words. And one of the things that bill is doing is wherever it says electronic mail or that kind of language, the bill changes it to email. But in this bill, they haven't done that. And there's a new section (1.1) which says, "In this section, '**forwarding address**' includes an address in electronic form," which to me should say an email because that's the change that's being made in the other bill.

So it seems that there's some inconsistencies here, and if we're going to be word cops that we should be a little more attentive to those kinds of issues. But that's just really an aside and something I think that I just find kind of interesting. So there you go.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I know that others of my colleagues are going to want to weigh in on this bill and others. And time is quickly passing here in our final session or date in this session, so I am going to at this point in time move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 150, *An Act to amend The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*.

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 Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into discussion of Bill No. 153, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*. Basically in reviewing the minister's brief remarks and a couple of the points of the legislation, the legislation is actually fairly significant and will require, by way of the volume of it, it will require a fairly thorough analysis. But initial responses to the minister's comments is that this is a modernization of legislation.

Certainly times change, and language that was once used is now recognized as outdated and in some cases inappropriate. And it's a shift towards gender-neutral language and then certainly even correcting grammatical errors. And those are all aspects of course that we prefer to sort of a modernization, and something that we would be supportive of.

We just want to make sure that we have a chance to review the volume of this bill to make sure that there aren't any other changes required. I know the member from Nutana just recently, just identified another potential change. It's important that we make this change, that you're consistent across government and that you capture everything that's needed there.

So certainly we respect the need to modernize language, make sure it's appropriate in what it's identifying, and certainly recognize that times change and what was once maybe considered by some appropriate at one point is no longer appropriate. So we'll be keeping track of this piece of legislation. I might call on all Saskatchewan people that have an interest on this front, stakeholders and different groups, to review the volume of legislation before them, and if there's other changes that are required, then certainly we as the opposition would certainly constructively consider those and see if we can't strengthen this legislation.

At this point in time, though, Mr. Speaker, there's not much else to say on this bill. I adjourn debate on Bill No. 153, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*.

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 Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill simply supports the practical changes made in the previous bill, and it's my pleasure to enter into debate for Bill No. 154, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*.

The changes that have been brought forward, it's been suggested by the minister that these are reflective of a committee that's been working, various individuals and officials who have been flagging inappropriate terms that need to be modernized, and changes as well that reflect sort of our modern state: changing electronic mail to email and changing facsimile to fax, and many other terms. I'm not sure that this captures the potential on social media or otherwise, Mr. Speaker, but certainly we support modernization of legislation.

This Act is the consequential amendment to the one previous. As I said with that first one, it's going to be important that we engage all Saskatchewan people and stakeholders to make sure that those changes are, that they encompass everything that they should. And so actually I urge all Saskatchewan people that have an interest to review their legislation and where appropriate, where it needs to be refined, to connect with us, and we'll do our best to bring forward those sorts of

constructive changes.

So at this point in time I adjourn debate on *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*, Bill No. 154.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of 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 Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As ever, good to rise and join debate here in the legislature, in this case on Bill No. 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act*.

It's an interesting piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and there's some things that on the face of it would seem to recommend the legislation. There are some issues that this legislation raises, Mr. Speaker, that certainly beg further examination, further consideration. And I guess it's in that sort of ambivalence, Mr. Speaker, that I approach this debate.

Certainly in the McCall family household my father was a lifelong blood donor and certainly encouraged his kids to do the same. And certainly that's something we've carried on. As well, Mr. Speaker, I know that all the McCall kids have the different donor boxes checked off on our licences, and certainly it's for some of the issues that are raised here, Mr. Speaker, that those actions are undertaken. Certainly you need blood, you need blood products, and you need organs, Mr. Speaker, in this interesting world of modern medicine.

And certainly in Saskatchewan we've had differing experiences with . . . I can think of recent consideration around the kidney transplant program and the way that that is or is not working for people in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly I think of the occasional signals that the good folks at the Canadian Blood Services send out calling for urgent donation of blood. So first principles, Mr. Speaker, anything that makes it easier, that facilitates or lessens the complexity involved in donating blood or human tissues so that they can be used for medical purposes, Mr. Speaker, that's certainly worth looking at.

And as regards the current process, Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that is made a bit more challenging by this legislation, it's the division between what's in the legislation itself and what is anticipated as coming later on in the regulations. So the questions beg for the questions, Mr. Speaker.

But I guess off the top, allowing for changing the rules around organ donation and allowing for the purchase of tissues again,

Mr. Speaker, there's some pretty significant issues raised by the Act there. It begs the question of whether or not people will be able to buy organs from other people and the ethical questions involved there, Mr. Speaker. It raises questions of class, questions of what dollars do to the public health care system, Mr. Speaker, and it begs the question of whether or not we've done everything within our power to expedite the donation of organs and blood and blood products within the system as it currently exists, Mr. Speaker.

It's again some pretty serious questions. There's been a long-standing approach when you think of other jurisdictions where commerce is very much part of the whole equation around human tissues, Mr. Speaker. You think about the fact that very recently, Mr. Speaker, in the 2011-12 where, and this is quoting from an article dated November 13th, 2014 from Barb Pacholik of the *Leader-Post* entitled, "Province considers allowing human cornea purchases," the fact that, in quoting from the article, Mr. Speaker:

In 2011-12, members of a transplant team in the Saskatoon Health Region allowed patients waiting for cornea transplants to pay \$3,600 for corneas imported from U.S. eye banks. Not only did the move run counter to The Human Tissue Gift Act, but the Canada Health Act, which prohibits paying for an insured service. The 11 patients were reimbursed. Cornea purchases also ceased.

Shendruk [and that is of course referring to the Saskatchewan transplant program director, Diane Shendruk] was unsure Wednesday what the cost of buying corneas might be today, but [said] it will be borne by the health system. "The cost is normally for the processing. There's no market increase or anything," she added.

Again there, Mr. Speaker, we have raised an issue where on the one hand certainly, I'm sure, the difference in the lives of those 11 patients that those corneas made is invaluable, Mr. Speaker, but again issues such as these raise some very fundamental concerns about whether or not human tissues should be part of commerce. They raise questions about what this component does to a public health care system, Mr. Speaker, and it raises questions about the ethics of all of this.

[19:15]

So, Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation raises a great number of questions. It raises questions about whether or not this takes on the most pressing shortages or the most pressing barriers as regards the donation of certain tissues. And I guess we've got certainly more questions than we've got answers at this stage and again, that's further complicated, Mr. Speaker, by the fact that a great number of the issues anticipated by this legislation are not in fact covered by the legislation itself but are anticipated with further regulations.

So suffice it to say, Mr. Speaker, we've got a great deal of consultation we'll need to engage in on this particular piece of legislation. We want to gain a better appreciation of what's happening in other Canadian jurisdictions. I know that very recently, Mr. Speaker, the whole question of for-profit plasma clinics in Ontario has been a matter of considerable debate in that jurisdiction. What is the experience with access to human

tissue or blood products in other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker? And again the fact that the actions undertaken in 2011-12, that they were not just in contravention of provincial law, Mr. Speaker, but the *Canada Health Act* itself raises a great number of questions that we will be seeking answers to as we go forward in consideration of this piece of legislation.

So if I might say, Mr. Speaker, I think the intent of the legislation is good, but we definitely have some very significant questions about the means undertaken to put these human tissues to use in bettering others' lives. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to 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 Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise tonight and enter into this debate, 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*.

And upon reviewing, you know, and listening to the Minister of Justice's remarks just a few weeks ago, it seems that this is a relatively straightforward piece of legislation, and he sets out the reason why. Apparently since the Supreme Court of Canada 1988 decision in *R. v. Mercure*, the Government of Saskatchewan has enacted about 57 bilingual Acts, and it's designed to meet the needs of Saskatchewan's francophone community. And that's a good thing. That's an important thing. We respect the right and the ability for people to read in either in English or in French, and this is a good thing.

So this bill essentially repeals and replaces *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act* with a new bilingual Act, and according to the minister, "There are no changes in substance. The consequential English-only bill accompanies this Act to amend the four Acts that [need to be] . . ."

So it's really relatively straightforward, but I do want to say, and I know my colleague had said this earlier, it gives us an opportunity whenever we rise on our feet to review the existing legislation and have an opportunity to become familiar with the legislation that exists right now.

And so I've had the opportunity to read and review *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers*

Act, and it's an important one, and it's becoming more and more important. We raise issues, and we've talked about the health tissue Act, the gift Act that was just before me and how important it is in our day that, whether it be kidneys or a lung or heart or whatever — the cornea is a really good example — that people can make those decisions and be able to do that in a process that they know is respectful, and all the i's will be dotted and all the t's will be crossed. All the things will be looked after. And in this case you'll be able to understand it both in French and English.

And it's interesting for example that the age at which a person can make a directive is 16 years old. I wasn't aware of that. I think it's important that we become familiar with these things and understand at what point should we be talking about these things. And I know I'll be talking later about a bill around the health cards and how important those things are and how we keep things current so that we can make sure people understand the kind of decisions that we would like to have if in some way we're incapacitated and can't make or communicate that decision, but we have previously thought about that. And we think of that at end of life or a tragic circumstance where somebody's in a coma and they've chosen not to have unnecessary aids to support them to continue on.

This is an important Act, and so whenever we see these things come across the floor here, it's important that we take some time and understand the Act. There is no substantive change to it, I understand. I mean we hope that, and we have all the confidence in the world in the translators that the government would use. We would hope nothing is lost in translation.

We know we've had the statute amendment Act where we have some issues around the language, that in French it may seem like an appropriate translation straight across the board, but in fact something is lost in translation. And we need to change that.

So I hope that that's the case here, that all due attention has been given to this piece of legislation to make sure the translation is in fact accurate and does reflect the intent of the original Act and that nothing has been lost in translation because, as we see, there may be unintentional consequences. And then we'll be back debating another bill where somebody has pointed out from the francophone community, is this what you really mean to say? Is this really the case?

So I do hope, and this would be a question that we have in committee is, what are the safeguards? Has it been double checked, triple checked? You know, and I don't know enough about translation that would protect anyone in the greater scheme of the things except for to ask the right questions. What have you done to double-check, triple-check, and make sure that the language is appropriate and the language is used as the kind of language that is recognized? You know, I mean there's different . . . whether you use straight English or common English, but that you have the right words and nothing is lost in translation because in this sense, it would be really a shame to see some dispute arise because of one person's feeling about what the language, what the words mean in French, and how they don't add up, they don't mean the same in English.

This is not the intent. The intent is to make sure that whoever is

making the directive when they were of sound body and mind, that they had the capacity to make that decision, and in fact they were making that decision and that the intent would be carried out and not thwarted by poor translation.

So this is a relatively straightforward bill, but as I said that it's one that I think it's important for us to review, to understand. And when we meet in committee we will have those questions about, how did you do the translation? What was the process? How did you assure? What is the assurance, the outside assurance that in fact they do match up, if there is a way of doing that? This is really, really critical. And I think that's an appropriate thing to do.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that we have a lot of work before us tonight, and I would like to move adjournment on 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*. Thank you very much.

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 Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And of course this is a follow-up, almost like a part two of that bill I was just talking about, 155, the health care directives and substitute health care Act, so very much along the same line. It's about translation, and it's really very straightforward. As I said that it's really important.

This one amends the four Acts: *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act, The Electronic Information and Documents Act, The Health Information Protection Act, The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*. And because this other one is being repealed and replaced, these need to have the appropriate references in there.

And of course these are not insignificant pieces of legislation. And we know that there's been a lot of work done around this in terms of making sure that adult guardianship and co-decision-making can be as effective as possible. It was at one time, you know, the idea that when you gave up your right to make your own decisions, it was all or nothing. Now there's a bit of a continuum, so there is more co-decision-making. And that's what we want to see, recognize that when people do have the capacity to make some decisions — and that's an important

thing — that's a part of recognizing people for the people they are.

And I'm not just saying, you know, it's either all or nothing. You're going to be completely under guardianship or you're not going to have any responsibilities. I think this goes a long way in recognizing the fact that we want to enable and empower people to be in charge of their own lives as much as possible, recognizing of course that we don't want to get anybody into a dangerous situation or a reckless situation where they have the power to make some decisions that clearly would put them at risk or their ability to manage into the future, whether that's with making sure that they're looking after their money as well as they can and that type of thing. But clearly I think that this is something that we always are needing to be as vigilant on as possible.

But these Acts don't get into the heart of these substances, into the substance of these four pieces of legislation even though they are a part of the same suite. It's just about being translated. But I think it's important again that when we are in committee, we will be asking to make sure that nothing is lost in translation, that in fact they have a strong method of ensuring that the quality and the intention of the first, the original piece of legislation, is coming through in the Acts that are being translated.

We would hate to see and it would be a really unfortunate circumstance, particularly in this area where we're talking about people who are taking on responsibility for others, that something has gone awry and it could have been prevented if we had chosen our words more carefully. And we don't want to see ourselves coming back with better language in a year or two because we could have foreseen this.

So we really are talking about making sure nothing is lost in translation. But it's important to do translation because I think it's important to make sure people can read in the language that they are most familiar with, that means something to them, and that for them, because they are not reading in their first language, that again, you know, that problem of something being lost in translation. So this is good to see.

Obviously we will have some questions about this in committee. But it's not . . . I think it's relatively straightforward and I think that I would at this time like to move adjournment for the Bill No. 156, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*.

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.

[19:30]

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 Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again it's good to join debate today on Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*.

Now as we survey the legislative agenda of this government this fall, Mr. Speaker, there's some interesting features to be noted. Certain of the Acts are being introduced to correct mistakes that have been made in the recent past, Mr. Speaker. Some of them are to reintroduce legislation that's been passed within the past couple of years. And some of them are to do some housecleaning, Mr. Speaker, housekeeping for the different legislation. I think of the statute law Act. Some of them are quite substantial, and some of them are worthy of ongoing debate, Mr. Speaker, and some of them would fall under the heading of repeal.

This particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, is one of those. It of course refers to *The Family Farm Credit Act*. Referring to the minister's second reading speech, having been enacted in February of 1979 with the intent of providing a vehicle for producers to accomplish the intergenerational transfer of land, in terms of the Act at the time enabling the Co-operative Trust Company of Canada to make loans to farmers enabling the CTCC [Co-operative Trust Company of Canada] to issue securities and raise money to lend to farmers. And then furthermore, Mr. Speaker, where "the Ministry of Finance was able to purchase and guarantee those securities under this Act." Now close the quote from the minister's second reading speech, Mr. Speaker.

In the information related by the minister, it's stated that the last obligations under the Act were discharged as of 1994. The minister had assured the House that there are no outstanding actions on the file as regards this Act. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, it would seem to be a prime candidate for repeal.

Where the minister had stated that, "As far as is possible, records should be kept clear of redundancies," the Act is redundant. The initial financial institution anticipated in the Act has even changed its name since then, Mr. Speaker, and certainly there are other financial instruments available to producers to seek out the goals of the legislation.

But it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that in terms of the broader scheme of things in this legislative agenda, that in terms of farm legislation, this is it. There was a surface rights Act that we keep hearing about, but we've yet to see it, Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 169. That has yet to see the light of day. I know that's for certain a piece of legislation that is of a great deal of interest to many producers for the way that they intersect with the oil and gas industry, Mr. Speaker.

I know that producers, particularly coming through the season that we have and the sort of overall trend that we've experienced, they're very interested in action on the part of this

government as regards issues around drainage, that we don't see the action from this government. We know that the whole question of mitigation is going to only take on greater importance, Mr. Speaker. We don't see any action in that regard from this government of yet.

And I guess those are two fronts in particular where the actions of this government, where this government needs to stand up and be counted for producers, for farmers, let alone the kind of asleep-at-the-switch approach that we saw around the whole question of grain transportation last year and how that is or isn't working out across the countryside, Mr. Speaker.

But we don't see the legislation coming forward on *The Surface Rights Act*. We don't see the kind of action that's required around flood mitigation and flood preparation generally, Mr. Speaker. But what we do see is *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*, again, a fair enough piece of legislation in its own right. We've got certainly other questions, Mr. Speaker, as regards to the kind of volumes that were involved in the legislation itself as regards lending. We have questions, certainly, whether or not the assertions of the minister are as they . . . whether or not they hold water, Mr. Speaker, in terms of any sort of need for a similar instrument being taken up by the financial institutions at play in the province currently. But those are questions that we'll be seeking to get some answers to when we head out across the province in the next months and then back when we further consider this legislation come spring. So in that regard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into this debate, *An Act to amend The Health Administration Act*. I understand essentially what this talks about is health registration and what we do with our health cards. So I wouldn't mind taking a minute to review what the minister had to say about this.

Almost over a month ago, he rose and talked about this, and it was very interesting. He talked about 1.1 million people who hold health cards. I think that's important that we understand this is a pretty significant thing, that everyone, everyone has one here in Saskatchewan, and this is a big deal. And we have your renewal stickers, and that's an important thing, and we've got to make sure you put them on.

Now this card, you know, is the thing that makes our health care system work because it's the thing that we've got to present whenever you go to the doctor or the health . . . Any place where you'll get benefits through the government, you need to present the health card. It's a pretty important, important document. And so how we manage that, how we administer the cards are very, very important.

And so essentially what this is talking about is taking it from the Ministry of Health over to eHealth Saskatchewan, and that seemed to be what we want to do. Of course I think that seems relatively straightforward, and they've been looking after that. And so this is the legislation that enables this to happen. This is a relatively straightforward thing, but of course we will have questions. Obviously we intend to have questions about these things, and it's our job as the opposition to ask questions. Is this the most effective way? What is the most . . . What's the current thinking with health cards? What are they doing across the country? You know, and we've just talked about the health tissue gift Act. This was something we need to deal with in terms of how do we be as efficient and effective so that we don't lose any opportunities when it comes to, whether it be corneas or lungs or kidneys or that type of thing. We want to make sure that we're as effective as possible.

Likewise with our health card, and of course there are challenges with health cards, particularly with those who may not have all the pieces of identification that are needed to get a health card.

But it seems that it's the most responsive. It's one that I don't see a lot of issues, I don't hear a lot of concerns about, that they have a system of doing it. But I know we'd be very interested in hearing more about it. I know for example the idea around language. It's interesting, you know. We were talking about human rights today and the fact that if you go to the human rights website you can get services in many languages. So I'd be curious to know in eHealth how they deal with that in terms of making sure people get their health cards in the right way, that all the questions have been answered appropriately.

So nothing . . . Again here we were just talking about translation earlier, that in fact that we have the translation that's appropriate because, you know, as we see, the diversity in Saskatchewan is blossoming and that's a wonderful, wonderful thing. But along with that comes the challenges of administration, and we need to make sure, particularly when it comes to . . . for services in health, I think this is an important thing.

And so I think that we'll have some interesting conversations in committee about this, particularly when it comes to services to make sure people are getting appropriate services; they're getting the cards when they should be getting them, that the answers are given directly, that nothing is lost in translation.

This seems like a relatively straightforward bill, but we all know how important it is to have your health card. So if we get this wrong and we're back yet again in a couple of years, in a couple of years, this is not a good thing at all.

So it sounds pretty well straightforward. You know, eHealth is to help us, modernize us. And I think that in many ways we'll

have questions, because I think I want to know across Canada, what are the different standards? Are we at the top? Are we middle of the pack? How is this all running?

So I know that many of us will want to get into this, in the conversation. And I know there is lots of work to do tonight and so we want to make sure that we get to the other bills. So I won't take long on this bill, Mr. Speaker, but I do want to say, it's an interesting one, an important one, particularly in Saskatchewan. So I would move at this point adjournment of Bill No. 149, *An Act to amend The Health Administration Act*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of 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 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter on debate here for Bill No. 148, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014*. And I've gone through the statements of the minister to ascertain what he's wanting to accomplish with this legislation. Some of it sounds reasonable. Some of it leaves more questions that'll certainly be, you know, require consultation with many in the province, but also clarity from the minister. I know that this bill aims to make it easier to submit birth and death certificates, and that certainly seems more than reasonable, for example, by using electronic signatures.

We just need to make sure that whatever system's chosen that the integrity of that system is protected. You know, and when I think of this government and electronic records and these sort of things, they don't have a great record on this front. Whether it comes to their outsourcing of fishing and hunting licences to an American outfit or on so many other fronts, the camping website that they couldn't run, Mr. Speaker, with the outsourced operation.

So when we're talking about the birth and death certificates, these are important that the integrity of the system is there. And I know this government has a penchant for giving big contracts to American companies and around IT [information technology] and other areas. This is certainly one that the government should be keeping right here in the province to ensure the integrity and ensure the protection of people's personal data.

Certainly it's important to modernize legislation to make sure it meets up with the current pressures, current demands, and we welcome that.

Increasing the use of electronic documents and transactions is certainly reasonable, again just making sure that those documents are protected, because this is certainly sensitive, private information of people and families. And we need to make sure that, as we see this process through, that we, as I say, track this with some interest. Because we know this government seems to have an interest in passing these contracts to largely out-of-country operations, which certainly could compromise the security of that information. Let alone, it doesn't make any sense to be doling out those dollars, public dollars to American vendors.

[19:45]

This bill also allows people to — other than doctors — to sign death certificates. The minister says that this is particularly important in rural and remote Saskatchewan where sometimes access to a doctor is challenged. And you know, I accept that that might be the case. And I certainly think of a grieving family and their ability to move forward in a timely way is something that's very important. But let's be clear that this doesn't take any heat off this government to make sure that the doctors are in place where they need to be in rural and remote and northern communities across Saskatchewan. And I hope what we're not seeing here is a coordinated effort of watering down the needs of having local doctors in place, because we certainly recognize the importance of having one available to families.

I think that one interesting clause here that we need to check and make sure we fully understood, make sure the government knows which controls they have on it, is the provision to share information with a third party, Mr. Speaker. And that's actually a significant and powerful change.

Now the minister suggests that this would have enabled better information flow, I believe, to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and that seems to be something that we would certainly want to support. But I think that we need to just make sure we're fully aware of the controls then on this information: who has access, who's making those decisions, who's the keeper of that information.

Is this available? And this would concern me big time, Mr. Speaker. Is this available to the private health companies that this government's starting to work hand in hand with, the ones that it's looking to work with more, Mr. Speaker? I think that that private, sensitive information of families is something that this government isn't handing over to some sort of company that they could utilize for commercial means or for profit means, Mr. Speaker.

So the sharing with third parties seems to have a valid reason around the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, maybe certain important research to the province of Saskatchewan. But who keeps that? Who manages it? And who else can access that information? Is this something . . . Has John Black and Associates — the American outfit that this government's doled out big bucks to, Mr. Speaker, millions of dollars — have they had their hands on that personal information already and is this a change to address that, Mr. Speaker? These are the kinds of questions that certainly I know Saskatchewan people are asking.

I know this bill as well probably responds to the broken promise of this government and its privatization of a Crown with ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan], Mr. Speaker, because a portion of this registry itself, the vital statistics, would have been managed by ISC and now that's been brought under the umbrella of government. So I wonder if government has fully captured the cost.

We know of course when they sold off, broke their promise, and privatized this Crown, they forfeited an annual dividend, a significant dividend on an annual basis that probably could have helped that Finance minister across meet some of the demands of Saskatchewan people. And I suspect that one-time, quick payment that he took in may not have . . . may have been a tad underwhelming in the whole scheme of long-term budgetary finances. And it may be a reminder to him about the long-term consequences of that sort of privatization and the importance of maintaining protection over information, integrity of our system, whether they be vital statistics or land titles, but also the importance of dividends coming directly back to government.

So there's a few of the questions that we have here. The minister will . . . Certainly we'll take time with him in this Assembly and at committee. But I think this is an important bill that people across Saskatchewan take a look at, whether it's the communities related to gender identity as we spoke with today. Does this adequately respond to some of their needs? Does this put information at risk of Saskatchewan people either to the private health companies that this government is starting to work away with quietly in the back, Mr. Speaker?

And then importantly when we talk about things like, you know, use of electronic signature in documents, these certainly seem to be a modernization and be more responsive to the needs of families, but then how do we make sure that that information is protected, that those systems are protected? We've seen the mess that this government's got into when they've outsourced very simple things like the campsite registries, Mr. Speaker, or the fishing and hunting licences to an American outfit if you can imagine, Mr. Speaker. I know it outrages many fishers and hunters that I know, Mr. Speaker, putting our information in the hands of an American company, potentially subjecting it to the US *PATRIOT* [Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism] *Act* and sending our hard-earned tax dollars to fill the coffers of some private firm somewhere in the American . . . in the United States, Mr. Speaker.

So those are some of the questions we have. Certainly some of the aims of this bill seem reasonable. We'll engage in consultation. We'll engage with the minister and we'll move forward from there. But at this point in time I adjourn debate of Bill No. 148, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of 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 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak to Bill No. 158, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act and to repeal The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this bill is a curious one because it basically takes a bill that we passed last year and totally supplants it and puts this bill in its place. The purpose of the legislation obviously is to deal with the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, which was changed by the Minister of Finance to have a different format than what was originally there to comply with federal laws. And so now what was quite a unique institution in Saskatchewan is just another registered retirement savings plan that therefore can transfer money back and forth to other plans from credit unions, from banks, from other financial institutions.

Now when the plan was originally put in place, it was the plan for those people who didn't have a lot of income in a cash form that would allow them to meet the rules of *The Income Tax Act*. And so what was often used by women or men who were at home where their spouse worked outside the home, it was used by farmers and farm families, and it had quite a substantial following. It's still run out of an office in I think Kindersley, and it ends up providing a service for the province, but it's a different service than was there before.

Practically, one of the issues was that the provincial government was really the total backstop for this plan if there were any issues around its solvency. Now according to the information provided by the minister, that's not an issue at this stage, and I think that's probably accurate because they've been pretty careful investors over the years. But it is a kind of an institution that may or may not last into the longer term because it is not . . . well it isn't different than other registered retirement savings plans across the province. And so what this legislation does is update the plan to reflect modern terms and conditions.

Now what's unfortunate in a way is that this plan reminds us all that both the provincial government and the federal government have stepped away from a pretty practical solution in dealing with the pension plans for Canadian people, and that would be to expand the Canadian pension plan. And so rather than do that quite practical step that would have given the next generation of people who are now contributing to the plan enough money to retire, we're now into a situation where many young people in their 30s, 40s, you know, 20s, 30s, and 40s, have to look at how their retirement is going to be funded in the longer term.

And we know that this became a political issue in Ontario where the Ontario government said, we're going to try to go ahead with something like this on our own. I think the goal there was to see if that would be enough to trigger the federal

government to get back involved in this. It looks as if that won't happen until we have a change of government at the national level, which I guess is looking more and more likely. And so maybe, maybe in Saskatchewan we could have shown some leadership as well around that particular issue.

But clearly the Finance minister stepped back. He didn't push that issue. The Premier didn't step forward in the various premiers' meetings around this issue. And so we have this legislation which takes further steps to move what unique Saskatchewan pension legislation we had closer to this RRSP [registered retirement savings plan] issue and basically steps away from anything that would have a strong Saskatchewan point of supporting an expansion of the Canada Pension Plan.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a marker. It's a step that's taken, but it isn't a bold step and it isn't a step that actually will deal with the issues that are confronting many of our younger citizens as they prepare for their retirements in the long term.

But, Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments on this bill at this time. We'll probably have some questions at various other points. But I think there's another one or two of my colleagues that still want to speak to this, and so I would move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of 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 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to again rise and enter into the debate on the pieces of legislation before us in the House tonight. And it's an important thing that we do. People are at home watching this and have questions about what kind of legislative agenda does the government have, and of course some have been stronger than others. And I appreciate the comments made just prior to me about the pension piece, which is very, very important, and I'm glad that's coming forward. We need to continue to have that discussion.

But this one before us right now, Bill No. 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*, this is apparently a tweaking of the piece of legislation that we had passed a few years ago that came into effect in 2012 in May. But at that point, because it was a major revision, it was really important that . . . And this happens. We understand. You test out some of the pieces of legislation. Some of it works; some doesn't work. You find that you need certain things in place; other things are

problematic.

Drafting legislation is not a perfect science. We wish it was. And this is our role in opposition is to look at some of the inconsistencies that we have. And we saw even if they are things like whether you hyphenate a certain word and they start new standards, but now in *The Residential Tenancies Act* we're going to be seeing the inconsistencies with that.

It's interesting how, you know, it's the Ministry of Justice that looks after the drafting, but you'd think there would be consistencies that would stop these or practices that would stop this. But it is not a precise science, whether that's a good thing or not. But all of this has come through the Ministry of Justice, so this is not one department and another department having problems communicating. It's within the same ministry.

[20:00]

But regardless of that, they talked about lessons learned and some of the ways to address some of the practical and technical issues that have been identified by the sheriff's office and public. So we'd like to know, when the minister refers to the public, who is he referring to? Is it different groups that may have come forward? Because this is a significant piece to make sure that when we have money judgments that they are actually enforced and the money is going to where they're supposed to be going, and that we're not seeing unintended consequences with people not paying their debts because of a loophole. We want to make sure that there is a system of fairness in place.

So he talks about if the notice of a seizure of employment income can last for now . . . will it last for a 24-month period as opposed to the 12-month period before? So we'll see what kind of impact that has. I know it will include a revised process for the sheriff by clear timely title to a third party purchaser of land where they've agreed to judgment out of the proceeds of the sale to address the judgment debt of the vendor. So that seems really straightforward. And so many of these pieces seem straightforward and technical in many ways.

When I look back at the original piece of legislation that came forward in the spring of 2012, it's a fairly significant piece of legislation. And of course it had impact on many other pieces of legislation, whether it be *The Arbitration Act*, *The Assignment of Wages Act*, the builders' lien, *The Cemeteries Act* in fact, *The Cities Act*, *The Condominium Property Act*, and it goes through several, several pieces of legislation. So this is one that reaches out into many other areas. So it's got to be done, it's got to be done well. And we think that it's therefore important to get this right, and then we will have questions in committee about this.

And as I said, when you talked about the public, who was the public? We know for example one of the pieces of legislation is *The Landlord and Tenant Act*. Now I'm not sure . . . This is one Act that I'll have to look up because I'm familiar with *The Residential Tenancies Act*. You know, I thought that's what guided the landlords and tenants. So it would be interesting to take a look at *The Landlord and Tenant Act* — what does that really cover? — and of course *The Limitation of Civil Rights Act*.

And you know, this is what I was saying earlier. It's interesting

when we do these second reading speeches because we uncover some interesting things that we weren't completely aware of. It talks about *The Labour Standards Act*, and of course that Act is no longer with us. We have the Saskatchewan employment code, and so if that's been carried over, that's important.

But again these are the challenges when you're trying to coordinate pieces of legislation. A little bit easier now in the age of technology where a lot of this stuff can be searched, and it's much easier to do. I know the folks in the drafting office have a lot of work ahead of them when they try to do their best with this. But it looks relatively straightforward.

We know this is important. It's important for a lot of people, when debts are . . . when people in good faith enter into agreements, whether it be with buying or selling land, renting or paying rent, that type of thing, paying deposits. And every story has two sides, at least two sides if not more. So we need to know more about this, and we will have questions in committee about that. That is a given for sure. We want to make sure that again we are not going to be back every couple of years.

I understand the challenges here, but I hope that they have done all that they can to make sure that it's as good as it can be and that it essentially will solve the issues that the sheriffs have outlined. That would have been interesting to hear more about that. And also, as I said, the public is a big, big group. Who was it that was raising concerns about this? And what were the issues that were not dealt with, and why not?

Mr. Speaker, I know that again there will be many people who want to get up and speak tonight on other issues and then as well to this bill particularly, so I would move at this point adjournment of *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of 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 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter debate here this afternoon on Bill No. 161, *The Wildlife Amendment Act*. Certainly this is an important, important area of regulation to our province. We have this incredible wealth of resources: the 100,000 lakes and rivers, the bountiful fish that fill those lakes and rivers, and certainly we have world-class angling in this province. We also have world-class hunting, Mr. Speaker, and this is legislation that governs hunting and fishing in Saskatchewan.

I want to thank the provincial wildlife advisory committee first off for their contributions to this. I want to thank the Wildlife Federation of Saskatchewan, Darrell Crabbe, for his contributions. I want to thank those that are involved in all the local fish and game leagues and wildlife federation chapters across Saskatchewan. They really are an impressive network of environmental stewards, and stewards that care very deeply about our resources but also really create world-class recreation and strong tourism opportunities here in our province as well.

The changes that are brought forward, some of them seem reasonable. One of them seems outlandish, Mr. Speaker. The changes around the enforcement of those that are convicted of offences, that's reasonable to make those stronger. I wonder if those are strong enough. I think that's an area that definitely we should be very strong.

The vast majority of hunters and fishers follow the laws and are exceptional stewards of the land and care very much about their resources. I very much support banning those that are convicted or are not able to hunt or fish in other jurisdictions from doing so here in Saskatchewan. It should be a privilege to do so in this province, so that's important. And it seems that the changes around making sure that any wildlife studies and whatnot are done with integrity and don't disrupt the ecosystem or wildlife or habitat in a way that's inappropriate is very important.

But as a hunter and fisher and someone who adores our natural landscapes and has been in every corner of this province doing so, I am very disappointed with changes this government made to outsource the fishing and hunting licences to an American outfit. Sending our hard-earned money to an American outfit, putting our information at risk is unacceptable, and shutting out so many vendors, so many stores here in Saskatchewan just isn't right, Mr. Speaker, and it's a detrimental move.

So what I would have liked to have seen in this legislation were a few more measures working with the provincial wildlife advisory committee to enhance conservation, protection of habitat, making sure we can promote this incredible fishery we have in this province, to promote the incredible world-class hunting we have in this province, to make sure we're encouraging young people from all parts of Saskatchewan to become hunters, to become fishers because I believe in doing so, they become more conscious and more caring about the environmental world around them, better environmental stewards if you will, Mr. Speaker.

But the decision of this government to put at risk Saskatchewan people's information, to contract an American outfit to do fishing and hunting licences doesn't make any sense. It hurts Saskatchewan businesses who have been shut out of the equation. I can think of so many in Regina alone, Mr. Speaker, let alone the network of smaller outfits and gas stations and outfitters across Saskatchewan that are shut out of that activity. And I think in a population like ours that's dispersed across a beautiful, vast province, it's a shame to be shutting out those entrepreneurs, those small businesses who help enrich our communities and provide services, Mr. Speaker.

I've been clear on that on the record. I know there's outrage of many fishers and hunters when they've gone to go get their licence and realize that they can't go to the desk at Canadian

Tire north, as they always have, to get that. And all of a sudden you've got many hunters — I've met with many of them who are seniors, Mr. Speaker — looking for ways to be able to get their hunting licence.

I know so many of the small businesses as well throughout Regina, it's a really unfortunate move of this government, one that exports profits to an American outfit, one that puts our hunters' and fishers' information at risk, subjects it to the *PATRIOT Act*, Mr. Speaker. And it just doesn't make any sense.

But to get back to the positive points of hunting and fishing in Saskatchewan, we have world-class resources in this province, Mr. Speaker. And whether you're in your constituency, Mr. Speaker, in by the Moose Mountain or out onto the plains south of it, Mr. Speaker, for possibly elk, moose, or mule deer or pheasant, Mr. Speaker; if you're out down in the member for Swift Current's for antelope or mule deer or pheasant further south, Mr. Speaker; if you're up into the far North, catching world-class walleye and paddling those incredible rapids, Mr. Speaker, from corner to corner to corner of this province, from big game to upland game to migratory bird, we have an incredibly special resource, one that needs to be managed well, one for which the producers of this province do an exceptionally fine job of being stewards, and one for which I believe we need to continue to encourage and support hunting and fishing in this province.

Because it's those that take up these activities that take a specific interest in habitat in the environmental protections, Mr. Speaker. I think of all the wonderful fish and game leagues. I think of the one down at Weyburn that just released thousands of pheasant again here this year and the fundraising activities to do that. Or I think of the local chapters all across the province that have come together for really meaningful projects, whether that's enabling young people in the high schools to learn how to be safe with a bow and effective with a bow, Mr. Speaker, or whether it's bigger efforts, such as protection of land, protection of habitat. These are very important stewards and ones this government should be working with.

So as I say, I certainly support the stronger enforcement on violations. This is critically important. It's important to note though, Mr. Speaker, that the absolute vast majority of hunters and fishers in Saskatchewan are law-abiding and respectful hunters and fishers who engage with respect with the land they're engaging with, with the animals that they're engaging with, and we certainly want to be cautious when we're looking at this legislation. We want to have firm penalties in place, Mr. Speaker, firm penalties, but we want to make sure that we understand that the vast majority of hunters and fishers are great law-abiding citizens, contributing to our recreation and our economy as well, Mr. Speaker.

And I think of so many of those small communities, Mr. Speaker, that benefit from hunting and fishing activities where the motels fill up, Mr. Speaker, and the restaurants are occupied and the meals are eaten and the gas tanks are filled. It's an important sector for us to support, all while understanding that to make this all happen we need to support good stewardship of our resources, protection of our resources, protection of those watersheds, protection of those natural environments and habitat, understanding of our species and the biology of them,

and making decisions in an evidence-informed way, Mr. Speaker. These are all critically important.

But as an avid hunter and fisher, Mr. Speaker, I could probably stand and tell you fishing and hunting stories all night long. I suspect that's not what the members are looking for. But I am, as I say, I want to put it on the record one more time how disappointed I am in this government for selling out and dishing out big bucks to an American outfit to take over our fishing and hunting licences in our province, in effect shutting out so many small businesses all across Saskatchewan from participating in that activity that they always have and shutting out so many hunters and fishers, many of those seniors, Mr. Speaker, who have relied on those vendors to access those licences, Mr. Speaker.

And the member from Walsh Acres is saying, what's the deal? He's got his hands in the air, and it certainly reflects his out-of-tuneness with hunters and fishers in this province, Mr. Speaker. And it is good to hear him speak, Mr. Speaker. We hear him heckle here tonight, actually quite a bit, Mr. Speaker. And it's nice to hear that because we really don't hear the member for Walsh Acres saying much in this Assembly at all, Mr. Speaker. And it was actually kind of nice because he moved to the front bench, Mr. Speaker, and I think we also learned why he won't likely be in the front bench any time soon, Mr. Speaker. But it was good because we could finally fully understand his heckles, Mr. Speaker.

[20:15]

But what would be nice to hear from that member and many others is a stronger focus on the issues that matter to their constituents. And when it comes to hunting and fishing, Mr. Speaker, I just don't know how any one of those members could support doling out the bucks to this American contractor to put our information at risk, shut out a bunch of small businesses in this province, and put a barrier in place for so many hunters and fishers to access those licences, Mr. Speaker. But with that being said, I'll adjourn debate for Bill No. 161, *The Wildlife Amendment Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of 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 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As always it is a pleasure and a privilege to rise in this House to debate bills. Tonight we're talking about Bill No. 163, *The Education*

Amendment Act, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that's been before us . . . This has actually been a bit of a pattern here this legislative session where we have about four or five bills that have previously, in not-too-distant past were before us and are back before us and being amended. And not that making amendments is a bad thing, Mr. Speaker. Updating legislation is very important. But I think the thing that stands out is that this government clearly with some of these bills didn't properly do its consultation and its homework. And so consequently we've got bills before us that need to be fixed, Mr. Speaker, to address the unforeseen circumstances that they missed, Mr. Speaker.

So with Bill No. 163, *The Education Amendment Act*, I'd like to talk a little bit about what this particular Act does. There's some very simple amendments here, Mr. Speaker. The first change the minister points out in his second reading speech that's being proposed is to rename section 4.1 to the Education Scholarship Fund. And this newly renamed Education Scholarship Fund will include the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall Scholarship, as well as The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Scholarship, Mr. Speaker.

The second change being proposed is to amend two expressions used in the French version of *The Education Act, 1995*. And looking at the minister's second reading comments, he points out that the first one is to change "home-based education program" from "programme d'études à domicile" to "programme de scolarisation à domicile," and also change "pupil with intensive needs" from "élève bénéficiant d'un programme de soutien intensif" to "élève à besoins particuliers." And the minister talks about "The change is [meant] to capture the nuances of the language in the Act so the roles and responsibilities laid out are clear and properly representative of expectations."

Another amendment to this Act, Mr. Speaker, is a proposal to streamline the borrowing powers of boards of education and the conseil scolaire. And the minister talks about how "Currently school divisions must acquire a lending rate and receive ministry consent to borrow funds in order to proceed with major capital projects. However, financial institutions hold interest rates for a short period of time, and the turnaround time for providing school divisions with consent is not meeting financial institution deadlines."

So the minister points out this results "in school divisions having to re-tender for loan rates and getting new resolutions passed by boards of education or the conseil scolaire." So "This [particular] amendment will require board or conseil resolutions to include only the amount proposed to be borrowed and the purposes of the expenditure, with good faith that they will seek out the best repayment terms and interest rates." I think it's good to know and understand that our boards of education do have those skills and capacity, and the best interests of their students and all citizens and taxpayers in mind, Mr. Speaker.

And the minister points out that "Consultations have occurred with school divisions in respect to [these] borrowing powers with the proposed changes and the proposed changes are reflective of what . . . [they've] heard." But in the coming months before the next legislative session, Mr. Speaker, we'll

do some work to prepare further questions and to prepare when this bill is moved to committee. And undoubtedly we'll have questions.

I think the interesting piece about this Act, Mr. Speaker, and this is where my comments earlier about needing to correct something, Mr. Speaker, this particular amendment that is being proposed is to allow school divisions to start the school year prior to Labour Day when it occurs on or after September 5th. So I just want to cast your mind back to the last provincial election and an announcement by the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, saying that they wanted to start the school year after September. And this is interesting to me, Mr. Speaker, because this was informed by a Tourism Saskatchewan survey of its members who found that when the school year started before the Labour Day long weekend, that it had a negative impact both on visits to their respective resorts or facilities, Mr. Speaker, but also the ability to retain staff which are often young people who work seasonal jobs, Mr. Speaker. So fair enough, Mr. Speaker. Tourism had some serious concerns.

And actually prior to the Sask Party making this announcement during the election campaign, I was the Tourism critic at the point in time when Tourism Saskatchewan announced the results of this survey. And you know, as a parent who has school-aged children, at first blush I thought it seemed like kind of an interesting idea. I knew that it got my ire up when my daughter — at the time I only had one who was in school — would be back in school before the Labour Day long weekend. For all intents and purposes, it felt like the summer was over at that moment.

But you know what I did, Mr. Speaker? I went and I talked to the two school boards in Saskatoon. I thought that might be an interesting private member's bill. And you know what the school boards told me, Mr. Speaker? That they had actually consulted, they had consulted with their families on this particular issue and found that it was a 50/50 split. Some families really liked the idea of starting after Labour Day, but families also really liked the idea of two weeks at Christmas and the full week that kids get off in February, Mr. Speaker, for all kinds of reasons. Sometimes marriages end, sometimes marriages end, Mr. Speaker. And I know with families, respective parents like to each have a week with their children at Christmas. All kinds of reasons that people expressed concern and interest in keeping those holidays.

And the reality is with this particular piece of legislation it made it very difficult for school boards to maintain, to start after Labour Day and still maintain the 950 hours that they have to get for education, Mr. Speaker. This is what school boards told me when I thought about bringing forward a private member's bill, Mr. Speaker. This is what the school boards had told me is that their folks had mixed . . . Like I said it was a 50/50 split.

But you know what this government did in an election campaign? They made a promise without talking to anybody, without talking to educators, without talking to school boards. They just plowed ahead with their own agenda, and it came back to bite them here, Mr. Speaker. And here we have a bill before us trying to rectify that problem, Mr. Speaker. So now this bill means that when Labour Day falls on or after

September 5th, that executive government can name a date where school will start before that date, Mr. Speaker.

So again there's mixed feelings about starting before or after Labour Day. But I think the bottom line is this is a government, this is a government, Mr. Speaker, who plows ahead, who thinks it knows best, Mr. Speaker, thinks it knows best and does its own thing without talking to anybody, without thinking about the unforeseen consequence. You'd think they might have flipped forward three or four years in the calendar to see what some of the problems might have been coming down the pike, Mr. Speaker, but oh no. They passed the legislation without thinking of any of those things.

So again I do know I've got colleagues who will also like to wade into the debate on Bill No. 163, *The Education Amendment Act*, but I think this is a really great example of this government's inability to consult properly and to think ahead and do its homework, Mr. Speaker. We have several of these bills before us in this legislative session, and I think it is a shame. It is always good to amend legislation and improve it, but I think the onus is on the government to try to get it right the first time, Mr. Speaker. But with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of 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 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am rising to speak to or enter the debate on Bill No. 164, and this is amendments to *The Health Information Protection Act*. There is a few minor changes here that are being made, and then a couple of interesting sort of substantive changes.

Basically we know that protection of people's health information is incredibly important. We also saw today in question period what happens when people's information isn't properly reflected and the unfortunate misprescribing of a dangerous antibiotic to a senior citizen, Mr. Speaker, which led to premature death. So everything about our health information is critical as medicines become more complex. And certainly people's health histories, you know, the acuity of people's health is becoming more and more complex as well, as we make medical advances. So those that are entrusted with the health information must make every possible effort to ensure that it's protected because that's very important private information. And certainly the attempts here in this bill are to protect that kind of thing.

We know that a few years ago, there was a story in the news in 2011 where, for some strange reason, people's health information ended up in a dumpster without being properly shredded. I think a number of . . . There was actually a committee that was struck, the health records protection working group, and that working group has made a number of recommendations. We know that the minister introduced the bill and indicated some of the changes he's willing to make.

But there was another . . . We received a letter, our Health critic received a letter on December 1st. It was a copy of a letter to the Minister of Health expressing some disappointment that this bill did not go far enough in ensuring that the word destruction is actually defined. And in their view . . . This is the National Association for Information Destruction. It's a group from Ottawa that was formed as a result of the unfortunate incident in 2011. And they're suggesting that there should be a definition of destruction as the physical obliteration of records in order to render them useless or ineffective and to ensure reconstruction of the information or parts thereof is not practical. So it's a very specific definition. For whatever reason, the minister chose not to include that in this particular amendment, and we'll be interested to find out why.

The bulk of the changes, certainly the first few changes, are just changing the name. It used to be called, or it's currently called the Saskatchewan Health Information Network. And the name of that is being changed to eHealth Saskatchewan. So that's sort of a non-substantive clause.

But there's some changes to the penalties. I think that's very important. And they're calling it . . . There's a word in the description, in the explanatory notes. It talks about what is it being attempted here. What happens is if you have a trustee that's responsible, let's say a doctor, a doctor is responsible for the care of the health records, if one of his employees were to violate that trust and actually share that information or use it to snoop on people, there's new provisions in this amendment that will actually hold that individual responsible. And the fines are significant, Mr. Speaker. They can go up to \$50,000 or a term in jail. So that's very important.

They've also put in a strict liability offence provision which requires a trustee to actually protect the records and ensure that they aren't disclosed improperly. They're calling this a reverse onus clause. And what it says is the "change will forgo a need to prove the trustee intended to abandon the records." So the test here is that the trustee only has to show that they used reasonable steps to prevent the abandonment of that information. So if they were reasonable and they ended up in the dumpster — I don't know how that could ever happen — but there could be situations where the trustee did everything they could that was reasonable but still these records are abandoned or not properly destroyed.

[20:30]

So you know, on the face of it I think this bill is pretty straightforward. Again, the working group was established. The minister accepted some of the recommendations, but we see a national group saying the minister did not quite go far enough. And certainly we'll want to ask some questions about that of the minister in committee, or perhaps suggest an amendment to

suggest that the definition of destruction be very clear. It's not defined currently in the bill and it's not . . . or in the Act, and it's not defined at all in the amendments either. So maybe that's something the minister's looking into.

But at this point I think I will . . . well no, I don't think, I know I am going to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 164, *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014*.

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 Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to rise and join debate on *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014*, Bill No. 165.

This pertains directly, to quote from the minister's second reading speech:

The changes being proposed in the Act will allow for implementation of this policy direction. Specifically it will allow Saskatchewan to enter into agreements with Canada and other provinces regarding direct-to-consumer alcohol shipments; allows individuals to import alcohol for personal consumption from other provinces where such agreements exist; and create regulation-making authority regarding issues such as type and amount of alcohol, type of seller and province from which the product originated.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the initial sort of foray into this particular realm featured some bilateral work with the province of British Columbia. And this might shock some folks, Mr. Speaker, but I'm glad to see that BC was chosen as the first province with which we're going to enter into these kind of arrangements. Well if you're familiar with the Okanagan, Mr. Speaker, or even say places like Similkameen and the kind of products on offer there, certainly this is a good place to enter into these kind of agreements with.

I was glad to see the judicious use of Dill Pickle Vodka from Lumsden's own Last Mountain Distillery used in the diplomatic effort to round this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. And I can attest from experience that it does in fact make a fine Caesar, so we're interested to see how this progresses forward, interested to see the . . . Mr. Speaker's claiming no knowledge of such events, but we'll take him at his word for that.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, we'll see how this progresses. Again the division between legislative authority and things that are moved into the regs and into bilateral agreements, province by province. But with that being said, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 165.

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 Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise this evening to speak to Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*. We certainly know that all levels of democracy need to be well protected and scrutinized and ensure that, as much as possible, we can engage the citizens to exercise their democratic right. And certainly when we see low voter turnouts at any kind of . . . any level of election, it's always disappointing, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I find the level of engagement concerning at the provincial level, and when we see low voter turnouts, we know that means a sign that people aren't following what's going on and/or aren't engaged, and I think there's a number of reasons for that. Certainly people are busy; people are occupied with trying to figure out how they're going to pay their rent or they feel that the government isn't relevant to them, that the government is somewhere else and hasn't engaged their lives and what's meaningful to them.

But on this bill in particular, the minister has talked a lot about the need to modernize this bill. We know that what they've done is they've taken the previous bill, which is called *The Local Government Election Act*, and they have now updated it entirely. In fact, they've entirely rewritten it and now they've updated the language and simplified throughout.

Urban and rural provisions are now housed in the same sections and combined whenever possible, so that's very helpful right there. Knowing that rural municipalities are now expected to follow the same procedures as the urban municipal elections is an important piece of consistency.

There's a number of other items. It's a fairly extensive bill, and then certainly without having an opportunity to have a side-by-side comparison of the previous Act, that's something we'll need time to do, and certainly over the break we'll have an opportunity to do that.

So I think at this point, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move that we

adjourn debate on Bill No. 166, and we'll look forward to more discussion in the new year.

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 Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And this is, as it turns out, the last time I will rise in the Assembly this year, in 2014, so I'm very pleased to be able to do that this evening. On this particular occasion . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, I'm hoping this is the last time I rise in this particular year, 2014, to speak to a bill. I know we'll have plenty of opportunity in the new year.

This bill is just simply consequential amendments to bills that are in bilingual format, and therefore it had to be bilingual as well. But in order to sort of take advantage of this opportunity, I want to share a bit of a poem that I've written for the occasion, Mr. Speaker. This is my last chance to speak. It's a short poem, I promise you, but I just thought I would share it with the House. So here we go:

'Twas the night before Tuesday
and all through the House,
members were grumbling,
and starting to grouse.
The Speaker would silence them
all with a glare
and threaten to evict them
if they started to swear.
When all of a sudden, there
arose a new matter —
an amendment that got
the back bench all a-chatter.
A change to the Act
to protect human rights,
a cause that for many
was a long-fought-for fight.
Gender identity was now
on the list of protection.
This was cause for agreement
and a time for connection.
First reading, last week.
Second and third, today.
Unanimous agreement
and a shout of hooray!

An early gift in this season.
We can all stand tall,
and my wish and my hope is
peace and joy to you all.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 167.

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: — [Inaudible] . . . much to do with Bill No. 167. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise on this evening to introduce such an important bill as Bill No. 168, *An Act respecting Government Relations and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*.

And I just want to take a moment to congratulate the member from Nutana on that wonderful contribution to the debates tonight, and it's very important that we have that levity as we're heading into the holiday season. But it's said so well. It's said so well and framed it so nicely. I think I'll have to get a copy of that. It's a beautiful thing. And I think it really does, and I just want to reflect also on that bill just briefly and say, when people can work together, it's a great thing what we can do.

This is an important bill before us and it's the last one of the night. I know we could go on about this last one of the year before we pick it up in the spring. But this is an important bill and I know that it's one, as the minister said, it's how they're working towards framing their work around how to work within the municipalities. And this is a very, very important thing. It talks about doing four key things: the first is working with its mandate, how it reflects to Municipal Affairs, Northern Affairs, Public Safety, First Nations and Métis Relations; consolidating and standardizing the general authorities; third includes some new ministerial authority; and then it will do some consequential amendments.

You know, Mr. Speaker, a bill like this, the key thing that we've got to do is really talk to the stakeholders, find out what do they think. I mean, we can make long speeches here and I'm not sure what the point of that would be, but really we know that there are people out there that have a lot to say about this legislation. And this is how this system is supposed to work. We get the bills in the fall and then we take them out and talk to the stakeholders and say, so what do you think? And if they really like it then we can move quickly on it. But if there are

questions that we need to ask and things that have not been incorporated, then we will have questions as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this point I think that we need to take some time, take some time, ask those questions, read this carefully. But tonight I would like to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act*, 2014. Thank you.

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 ask leave to extend some end-of-session greetings.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to make some comments regarding end of this session. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Acknowledgements and Christmas Greetings

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As is tradition in this House on the last day of a session, I'd like to extend some thoughts and some greetings and some thank yous on behalf of myself and my colleagues on the government side of the House.

Certainly we must all begin our thank yous by thanking our families for allowing each of us to be here — our spouses, our children, our significant others, those that take care of everything at home while we're here doing our work in the legislature. It is indeed a heartfelt thank you that we extend to each of our families while we are away in the legislature. The long hours here that we put in are equalled by the long hours that family members put in making sacrifices at home.

But while we are here, we are well taken care of by the building staff, and I want to thank the Clerks of the House. I want to thank the Pages. I want to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff and people in visitor services and building maintenance and each and every person who comes to work here at this wonderful, magnificent Legislative Building and helps each one of us do our job, a heartfelt thank you. They do their jobs with pride and professionalism. That's how we find everyone conducts themselves in this building. It's a high standard to reach and certainly people do that, and it is recognized I'm sure by members on both sides of the House.

We'd like to thank the media, though they're not always here,

but I'm sure they're at home watching. And I don't want to get myself in too much trouble here. I'll be, you know, the subject of an article in the newspaper or something like that. But I do want to thank them for allowing us to get our message out to the people of Saskatchewan. And the media as well are very professional and do their job in that manner, so I want to thank them.

From a government standpoint, we certainly want to thank our staff, people that work in our offices and come here and help us to do our job. We want to thank them for all that they do. Also as individual members of the legislature, our constituency assistants who are back in our constituencies and are dealing directly with individuals. You know, everybody, I find anyway, wants to deal directly with their member, but it's not always possible. And we're sure lucky to have constituency assistants that are there to do the best they can to answer those questions and also to get in touch with us when necessary to make sure that that's done.

[20:45]

Also I know members of Executive Council and ministers would like to thank their staff, the Executive Council staff, their ministerial staff, and our caucus staff for all the work that they do. And from my personal perspective, I want to thank people in House business, people like Graham Stewart, who is our executive director of House business, Jarret Coels, Harrison Clark, all of whom do great work for us.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend a thank you certainly to my colleague across the way, the Opposition House Leader, the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre. I want to thank him for a productive and professional relationship. Co-operation and discussion were easily attained, and the operations ran for the most part very smoothly. So I want to thank you for that professionalism.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for your wisdom, your advice, your co-operation, and all that you do to make this . . . Yes, I know you grimace when I say that, but we do want to thank you for all that you do here.

And most importantly to everyone, it is the season. Merry Christmas to everyone here and at home watching. We certainly look forward to an enjoyable Christmas season as we go back to our constituencies and take part into the events that happen there.

I know we're all looking forward to coming back. I reminded members on our side of the House that March 2nd is a day that they have to circle on their calendar, but before that, we'll have a great run-up to the Christmas season and hopefully a very safe and enjoyable season. And we'd like to extend that to members across the way, to everyone watching in. And, Mr. Speaker, at this time, thank you very much for the opportunity to share these thoughts and comments with you today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — With leave to respond, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has requested

leave to make a statement regarding the end of session. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — And hopefully, Mr. Speaker, also leave to adjourn possibly later. But I just want to say a few words of — too soon perhaps, Mr. Speaker — a few words of thanks and well wishes for the season.

I want to thank first of all the people that make this Assembly work. So many give of their time and labour and intellect and passion to make this Legislative Assembly go round. To the Clerk and the Table, the Clerk's office, Journals and Hansard, broadcasting and IT support, Legislative Assembly Services, visitor services, maintenance, thank you for all that you do.

To the Speaker and to the Speaker's staff and to the Pages as well, thank you. Thanks to the press gallery. Thanks to the folks in the library and the cafeteria and security. And in this session in particular, we're reminded of the huge debt of thanks that we owe to our Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff for all that they do to enable us to work in the service of democracy safely and securely.

And I want to thank the folks involved in House business. First, thanks very much to Katherine Norton and Linsay Martens on the opposition side, and indeed all the folks in the opposition caucus office for their devotion to service. And thanks to all the staffers on the government side, be they in the caucus or elsewhere, but a special word of thanks to Graham and Jarret and Harrison for the work they do for House business on the government side.

And a big vote of thanks to the Government House Leader himself. Many things in this House depend on a gentlemen or gentlewomen's agreements, and I want to thank the Government House Leader for being a gentleman in our dealings, the occasional gentleman's disagreement notwithstanding. But seriously, thank you very much for all the good work.

And thanks to our leaders, to our colleagues on both sides, and thanks to the folks that keep us all grounded in the constituency. And thank you, thank you, thank you to our families. And to the people of Saskatchewan: we take the work that has been set out before us very seriously, and we strive to be worthy of that mission, and we thank you as well.

Lastly, Merry Christmas to all, or if you're celebrating Hanukkah, Chag Sameach. I wish you all the very best of the season on behalf of the official opposition. And to those that are suffering through loss or illness or other hardships at this time of the year, may the spirit of the season lighten some of those loads. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Before I put the question, I have a few things I would like to say as well. So I'll take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work in this fall session. Since this is the one time that I get to speak, I have a few things I want to say, and there will be no heckling by me at this time.

To the members, for their hours of service and strong commitment to their positions as elected officials of the province of Saskatchewan, thank you. I would like to thank the LAS [Legislative Assembly Service] staff, the Clerks and officers, Hansard, the Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff, the interns, caucus staff, cafeteria staff, Central Services building staff. Their hours are often as long or, in the case of Hansard, longer than those of the members. Thank you to my constituency staff for their diligent work, especially while the members — all of the constituency staff — while the members are in the Assembly.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Pages for their excellent job that they do for us each day. We appreciate your efficiency and your professionalism. This is a learning and teaching opportunity that you should read your remarks before you deliver them. I would also like to thank my staff, Sheila and Connie, for their hard work in keeping the office running smoothly. In bold red letters it says, not easy in dealing with the Speaker.

At the beginning of this session, we had a security scare with the events in Ottawa. Happily there was no direct threat to our Assembly. I wish to again pass on our condolences to the family of Warrant Officer Vincent and Corporal Cirillo.

One last thank you: a special thanks to my family for their support. Have a Merry Christmas and best of 2015. Drive safely.

The motion before the House . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, okay. Before the motion, 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 this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. According to rule 3, this House is adjourned to Monday, March 2nd, 2015, 1:30 p.m. Have a good Christmas season.

[The Assembly adjourned at 20:52.]

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