



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

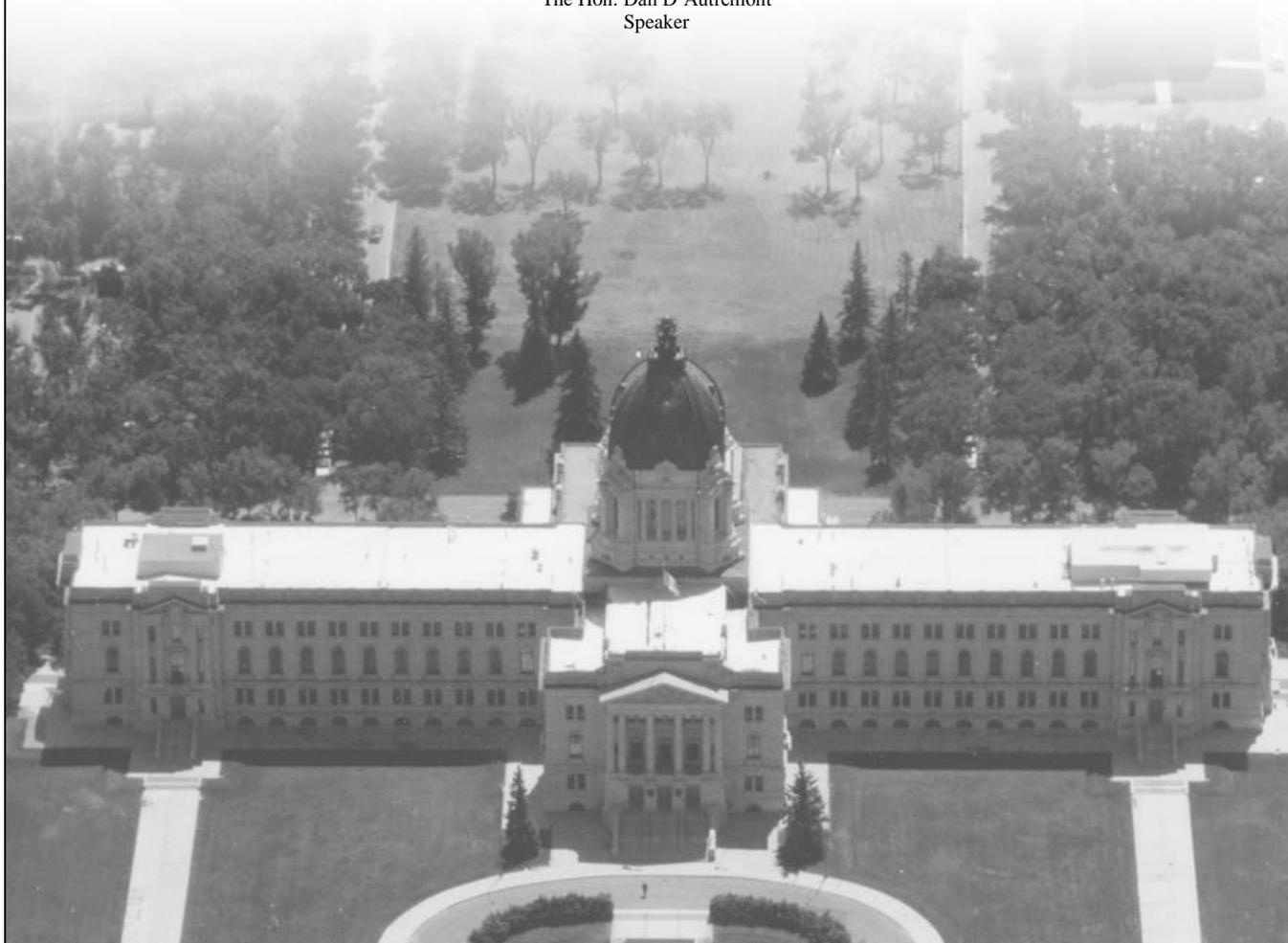
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery are two representatives from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission: with us today, Chief Commissioner David Arnot and executive director Norma Gunningham-Kapphahn, both from Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, our commission is doing terrific work and is recognized across Canada as the model for successful human rights mediation and resolution. Since the commission's transformed its operations in 2011, the number of files closed annually has risen by 85 per cent. Last year a complaint was resolved by mediation on average every second day.

Mr. Speaker, also joining us, the commission, and the legislature today in your gallery are representatives from the Avenue Community Centre in Saskatoon. With us, Rachel Loewen Walker, Jai Richards, Chelle Matthews, Joe Wickenhauser, Amanda Guthrie, and Nicole White. These guests, Mr. Speaker, along with a number of community members have joined us today to see Bill 171 considered by this legislature. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members of the legislature to welcome all our guests to the legislature today.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming the guests up in your gallery, the Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Saskatchewan and executive director, Ms. Kapphahn, and also the folks from Avenue Community Centre. And there's actually so many folks up there, I can't go through the whole list or I'd be here for quite a while, but I do want to single out a couple of people. Mikayla Schultz is here with us as well, and Nicole White and Jai Richards are here. Fran Forsberg and Chandra McIvor's here, and so many others. I want to thank them all and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you so much.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce three special guests in the west gallery. I had a fine meeting with them early this morning, and I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce them. Up in the west gallery is Anne Babineau, the Rx&D provincial director for affairs for the Prairies, as well as Bill Gowen and Lorne Koscielnuk who are co-leads of the Rx&D prairies working group.

Mr. Speaker, Rx&D is the national association representing over 50 of Canada's research-based pharmaceutical companies and, as I said, we had a great meeting this morning. I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join with members in welcoming guests who are with us here in the Assembly today.

To Commissioner Arnot, thank you for being here. And to the many representatives, Mr. Speaker, from Saskatchewan who on a daily basis stand up for human rights and stand up for the protection and promotion of individual's rights, it's great to see you all here today. And thank you for what you do in making Saskatchewan a better place. It's wonderful to have you here today. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals again.

And while on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say a welcome or a hello to Mr. Wayne Byers. As members will know, Wayne is from the Lloydminster constituency. And, Mr. Speaker, I can attest that Wayne is a great guy, an individual of strong character, and just an all around good person, Mr. Speaker. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming Mr. Wayne Byers to the Assembly today.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to take this opportunity to say hello to a couple of folks in the gallery and welcome them to the Legislative Assembly. First is Norma Gunningham-Kapphahn. We worked together many years with the Department of Justice, and she was instrumental in the Aboriginal residential schools file and did some really great work for the Government of Canada in that area. And then since we've gone separate ways, she's now working with the Human Rights Commission and doing great work there. So I want to welcome Norma.

I also want to welcome Nicole White and Jai Richards, leaders in their community, and certainly people that I admire. And I'm very pleased to see them here today. So if everyone could help me welcome these folks to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, in your gallery I have a young member of my community that's here, Blaine Bird. He decided to come down and visit his sister. She's here furthering her education. And she's feeling a little homesick, so Blaine came down to give her some support to let her know she's doing a good thing and give her that support.

So I just want to welcome Blaine to his Legislative Assembly and let him know that this is your Legislative Assembly, Blaine. I hope you enjoy the proceedings today, and welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you. I ask all members to join me.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition that calls for greater protection for Saskatchewan citizens from developers who default on fixed-price contracts with the Saskatchewan government. And we know that in September this year, this government walked away from a new 48-unit, low-income affordable housing project in Regina, allowing a private developer to instead take control of and then rent the units at full market price.

And when asked to explain how this government could allow the private developer to back out of a fixed-price contract without any penalties, the Minister of Social Services said, and I quote, “You’re assuming that there’s these desperate homeless people,” showing how disconnected this government is from the realities within our communities. Mr. Speaker, I’d like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the government to recognize that there are indeed desperate homeless people in our province and to immediately reverse its policy of now allowing private developers with whom the government has close relationships to default on fixed-price contracts for affordable housing projects.

Mr. Speaker, I do so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the unsafe conditions created by that government on Dewdney Avenue. Certainly they call for the timely completion of the west bypass, but they call for immediate and urgent actions to address the unsafe conditions and get the heavy-haul trucks off of Dewdney Avenue. They simply shouldn’t be there. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Saskatoon and Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a

petition. Homelessness is a major problem in La Ronge and other parts of the North. It’s getting worse. Shelter is a basic need for everyone, but under this government it’s getting harder and harder for people to find adequate housing, especially families, seniors, women, and children who face abusive situations. The problem is getting worse because of the rising level of poverty and skyrocketing home ownership costs. And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Saskatchewan government to build a homeless shelter in the Lac la Ronge area to meet the needs of and addressing homelessness in the Lac la Ronge area.

This petition is signed by many good people of La Ronge and Air Ronge. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Christmas is a Time for Giving

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Christmas is a special time of the year. It is a season filled with joy and giving, a time when families look forward to the sharing of gifts and enjoying Christmas dinner.

As we look forward to the many opportunities we have in this great country and province to enjoy this special season, let us also remember that there are many among us who will not have the same opportunities. Please take the time to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

The season is a time for giving, and the people of Saskatchewan know how to give. Recently Breanna Glasser from Moosomin, currently a first-year student at the University of Regina, invited friends on her 19th birthday to donate warm clothing to help those less fortunate. The response was overwhelming, and she recently delivered 100 bags of warm clothing to Soul’s Harbour Rescue Mission to help those in need.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, may we not forget the angelic message: “for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Mr. Speaker, I close with a poem written by my mom:

Come Celebrate the Child
Born in a manger,
The Son of God, crucified
May he be no stranger.
He’s coming once again
The very Lord of Glory.
Come celebrate in verse, in song,
We’ll tell again his story.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Christmas Greetings

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish all members and our guests in the galleries a Merry Christmas. December is a special time for people of many faiths. For Jews the festival of Hanukkah is one of the most important celebrations of the year. And in many other faiths, the winter solstice is an important marker which signifies the return of the light.

The holiday season in Saskatchewan has become especially vibrant in recent years. For centuries our province has been strengthened by a diverse mix of cultures and traditions, and we are all made stronger by the addition of more threads in our province's multicultural tapestry. As we look back on this year and celebrate with our families, I hope that we will remember and reach out to the people in our communities who have lost loved ones. For those who are still grieving for a parent or a spouse or a child, Christmas can be a lonely and isolating experience.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my family and the New Democratic Party caucus, I wish you and everyone in Saskatchewan all the best over the holiday season and into the new year. So thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Merry Christmas.

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

Trafalgar Day Gala 2014

Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Along with the members from Wood River and Moose Jaw, I recently had the privilege of attending the second annual Trafalgar Day Gala held at Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *Queen*, the Royal Canadian Navy's establishment here in Regina.

Led by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, the dinner celebrated the decisive victory of Great Britain's Admiral Horatio Nelson over a larger combined force of French and Spanish warships during the Napoleonic Wars 200 years ago. But more importantly this event focuses on the present-day contributions of Canada's Navy, whose regular force and reserve members work to keep our nation free and safe. Proceeds from the dinner will be given to the Military Family Resource Centre based at 15 Wing in Moose Jaw. All funds raised will stay right here in Saskatchewan to help our local heroes and their families do very successful social and recreational programs.

I want to close by thanking and congratulating Lieutenant Commander Linda Mushanski, commanding officer of HMCS *Queen*, the team of naval reservists along with Friends of the Navy members and community partners whose exemplary work made the Trafalgar Day Gala a truly great community event.

Hats off to Steve Smedley, Lynn Hamilton, Jeanette Tonita, Carolynne Kobelsky, Scott Dyson, Wrahnda Eichorn, Alaura Campbell, Don Lindsay, Rebecca Miller, Gordon Chan, Katherine Pitka, Regan Gorski, and Christina Finn. You continue to do an outstanding job, and I am very proud that events such as this support our troops around the world and their families here at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

La Ronge Family Members Honoured by Lieutenant Governor

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, the Lieutenant Governor's Military Service Pin was launched in November of 2013, and on October 30th, three family members from La Ronge received the distinguished award.

Brothers Corporal Jack Hennie of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Sergeant Eric Hennie of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry 3rd Battalion were joined by their father, Irwin Hennie, a veteran of the Canadian Signal Corps, in La Ronge to receive their pin from the Lieutenant Governor.

[13:45]

Irwin is also an elected councillor of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. Irwin comes from a military background as his father was also a member of the Canadian military and served in the Second World War. Eric and Jack have served tours in Afghanistan and Jack also served in Bosnia in 1992 and '93. Irwin was in the Middle East for a year and the United Nations emergency force in 1963 and 1964. He also spent two years in Germany with NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] forces.

Eric and Jack continue to serve today and I know that the people back home in northern Saskatchewan are very proud of this family for all they have done to help serve our country. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking these northerners for their many years of military service, and we'll also congratulate them on their well-deserved award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

North Battleford Resident Receives Hero of Play Award

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to salute a North Battleford resident who has just received the Canadian Tire Hero of Play Award. John Jangula was presented with this award at a ceremony on November 25th as part of the Hockey Canada caravan which is touring the nation as part of the 100th anniversary of Hockey Canada, which is also a tremendous milestone.

This Hero of Play Award is given to recognize true dedication, passion, and countless hours of behind the scenes support for the sport of hockey. Mr. Speaker, John Jangula is a most worthy recipient of this recognition.

He was born and raised in Canora and played minor hockey in the 495 league. After his playing days, he volunteered as a scorekeeper for the Canora Sterlings.

John's sons also played hockey in a number of centres, including Redvers, Kindersley, and the Battlefords, as the family moved to different centres in the province. In Kindersley, John was on the Kindersley Klippers board of directors and volunteered in many ways. In 2005, after moving

to the Battlefords, he was elected to the Battlefords minor hockey association board of directors, a position he still holds today.

Mr. Speaker, John was very appreciative of this recognition and, in thanking Canadian Tire, he said he's always enjoyed being involved in hockey and views participation as a great way to meet people when moving to a new community.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in congratulating John Jangula on receiving this much deserved recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Long Gun Registry

Mr. Brkich: — Well the tax-and-spend NDP [New Democratic Party] are up to their old tricks again, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday federal NDP leader, Thomas Mulcair, announced a New Democratic government would bring back the long gun registry. But get this, Mr. Speaker. They would remove the flaws that make the original registry so controversial. Like we haven't heard that one before.

When asked about the rights of farmers and hunters to own firearms, Mulcair retorted, "What kind of duck do you hunt with an assault rifle? A pterodactyl?" It makes sense why the NDP would reference dinosaurs. Their ideas are prehistoric.

Our government remains opposed to the long gun registry. It unfairly targets law-abiding Canadians while doing nothing to reduce crime or strengthen our efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Since it was created, the registry wasted over \$2 billion. This is money that would have been better spent cracking down on real criminals.

This is more evidence that the NDP want to drag us back to the past. Will the Leader of the Opposition stand up to his federal leader, demand that he remove this wasteful platform that attacks law-abiding gun owners, or will he support his federal leader, planning to stick to the tried and true NDP script of prosecuting the people of rural Saskatchewan? Well we're about to find out.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Keeping Saskatchewan Strong

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, the fall session of the Legislative Assembly focused on keeping Saskatchewan strong. The session ends today but the job of keeping our province strong continues. On Friday we learned there were 15,300 new jobs created in Saskatchewan in the past year — the fastest pace of job creation in Canada. Our unemployment rate dropped to just 3.4 per cent, the lowest unemployment rate in Canada for 24 consecutive months.

Mr. Speaker, in the past seven years Saskatchewan has grown by over 120,000 people. Now compare that with the previous seven years when our population actually dropped by 5,500

people under the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, there are 400 more doctors, 2,600 more nurses, 750 more people working in long-term care than under the NDP. Surgical wait times have gone from the longest in Canada under the NDP to the shortest in Canada today. Our government has invested over \$6 billion in building hospitals, schools, and highways since taking office.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP come to this House every day and say it's not enough. And we know there's more to be done. But compare it to their record of losing doctors, losing nurses, losing jobs, losing people, building nothing, and dragging Saskatchewan back. Today Saskatchewan is strong and moving forward. There's more to be done, so our government will keep working hard to keep Saskatchewan strong. But, Mr. Speaker, what a great time to live in Saskatchewan.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Fatality in Care Facility and Provision of Long-Term Care

Mr. Broten: — Fern Chingos was just 65 years old when she died prematurely in Parkridge Centre on April 6th of last year. Her family travelled hours to be here today because they've seen the heartbreaking stories on the news the last few weeks and they're tired of hearing the government say that those are just isolated incidents. They want some good to come as a result of their mother's premature death. They want to ensure that our seniors' care system is fixed so that no other senior has to experience what their mother experienced, and that no other family has to experience what they've gone through.

My question is for the Premier. Will he listen to Fern's family or will he once again claim that this is just another isolated incident?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't think anybody in the government has ever claimed that the situations being brought forward, either by members of the opposition or our own MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], have ever been isolated incidents.

I think from the very beginning of our government being elected to office in 2007, we've sought to bolster, to increase supports for long-term care. That's why there are today 750 more front-line workers in long-term care than there were when we took office. That's why our government has been replacing and building anew long-term care beds that were previously closed down.

Mr. Speaker, what we know — not just from this session but from what MLAs have said and by our own good work, the MLAs' work — is that there are issues in long-term care that we need to continue to deal with. That's why we need to continue to invest in more resources for the front line. That's why we need to look at models of care. It's why we need to ensure that we have the most modern facilities available.

I can only say to the family that's here on behalf of Fern that they obviously have the complete sympathy of every member in this House. And with respect to this specific case, again it's something we would want to look into. But make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. The government's commitment to the long-term care has not just been proven in words. We have invested. We have increased the complement of staff. And we know there is more work to be done, Mr. Speaker. That's why we'll be about that business in the weeks and months ahead.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it was this government's Throne Speech that had absolutely nothing new to fix the seniors' care crisis here in Saskatchewan. And Fern's family has travelled to Regina today, Mr. Speaker, because they've heard the dismissive approach that this government has had. Fern's family has many concerns about the quality of care, about the effects of short-staffing, about residents not receiving the help that they need. But their biggest concern is with Fern's premature death.

Fern had a severe allergy to ciprofloxacin which was specifically noted on her allergy sheet in her care plan. But on April 6th of last year, she was given that medication and she died as a result. Fern Chingos was just 65 years old. It's absolutely heartbreaking. But her family has been told that this kind of thing happens all the time, and that has to stop. So again, to the Premier: will he listen to Fern's family or will he yet again pretend that this is simply an isolated incident?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the very seriousness of the case that's been presented in the loss of Fern, I want to be very clear again. This government, throughout these questions — not just in this session but previous ones, throughout the years that we have had the good fortune to form the government in 2007 — have been anything but dismissive. And we need to correct the record because, were that the truth, then the Government of Saskatchewan, duly elected in 2007, would not have sought to replace 13 long-term care beds. We would not have sought to build anew beds across the province, in Saskatoon and now expanded in my home community of Swift Current, with projects planned for the rest of the province.

If we were dismissive, Mr. Speaker, we never would have financed with tax dollars, 750 more front-line workers in long-term care; more care aids, 9 per cent more care aids; significantly more LPNs [licensed practical nurse] to work in long-term care; more doctors to practise across the province.

There's absolutely more work that needs to be done. With respect to this specific case, this is something we'll want to look into. I know the Minister of Health will, and that work will happen. But, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to make long-term care a priority, with the acknowledgement that we need to do better and we need to do more by the people of Saskatchewan.

That's why we react . . . By the way, he said there's nothing in the Speech From the Throne. In an unprecedented way, months before that, we added \$10 million in urgent funds, Mr. Speaker,

on top of these additional resources we provided. We know that there is a case to be made for a different approach and for more. We're in budget process right now, Mr. Speaker. It has the focus and the attention of the government. It's a top priority.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's unbelievable actually to hear the Premier pat himself on the back and this government on the back for a one-time fund which is horribly inadequate — horribly. Saskatoon Health Region said they needed 450 care aids to start providing the care they needed and want to give. They asked for 38. All they got were 19.

Fern's family, Mr. Speaker, were told by Parkridge that the nurse couldn't find the allergy sheet in her binder, and Parkridge said that the computer program on the drug cart had crashed the week before and Fern's information was lost as a result and never re-entered into the computer. So on the evening of April 6th, Fern was given ciprofloxacin. Fern's body had already been picked up by the funeral home by the time the pharmacy called Parkridge to raise a red flag about Fern's severe drug allergy, and that's when the coroner started to investigate this as a suspicious death. It is tragic and it should have been a wake-up call to this government to make some major changes.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Why didn't this government at least, at least learn from Fern's premature death and make the much needed changes to our seniors' care system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well on the face of this particular case, Mr. Speaker, obviously there's a lot of questions that need to be answered in terms of procedures that perhaps were not followed. I'm not sure what can be learned from this case specifically today on the face of the matter in terms of resource. It may well be that it is a resource in question. That's something we'd like to find out. I'm sure the Minister of Health will want to find that out. Was there a critical incident report generated as a result of this and then what was the reaction, either from the ministry or the region, Mr. Speaker?

This is a very, very serious situation and a tragic loss for the family. And so we'd want to find out all of the answers to determine what could have been done to prevent it, and if there is a resource question or a precedent here, what can be fixed immediately to prevent it from happening to anyone else, any one resident in long-term care and to their families?

Mr. Speaker, when we point out the things the government has done, we're not trying to pat ourselves on the back. We're trying to say that the opposition has brought forward concerns. Our own MLAs have brought forward concerns. We were aware of concerns, having sat in those benches and watched what happened to long-term care in this province under members opposite when they were in power. We are aware of those things. That's why we're acting.

And so when the hon. member raises these questions in the House, we're of course going to point to the things we've done.

And it's completely reasonable, meet and right, for the Leader of the Opposition to say, well that's not enough. But I hope he will accept this: that it's not about patting anyone on their own back. It's about making the case for the fact that this is a priority for the government. We have done these things. We'll have a debate about whether they've been adequate or not or what needs to be done additionally. We're having that discussion as a government today.

But, Mr. Speaker, I don't doubt the sincerity or the earnestness of the Leader of the Opposition with respect to this issue. I hope that he does not doubt the sincerity or the earnestness of members on this side of the House.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech which is supposed to lay out the blueprint where priorities are, there's no mention, Mr. Speaker, of new resources being put in place to address the seniors' care crisis.

There's a tremendous amount that this government and our province can learn from Fern's tragic story, but this government has not learned those lessons. Just last week, the Provincial Auditor said that care facilities are still putting seniors at risk by not updating and following medication plans, and we keep hearing stories about inadequate staffing.

The drug was administered to Fern around 9 p.m. and no one checked in on her again until almost four hours later when they found, Mr. Speaker, that she was dead. If only Fern's medication plan had been properly updated and followed, she would not have died. And if only staff had checked in on her after she was given the drug, they might have seen that she was going into anaphylactic shock and perhaps they could have saved her.

Her family wants to know how many others will have to die prematurely before we see real change in our seniors' care system. My question for the Premier: what is his answer to their question?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is certainly an issue that we take seriously as government, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government did point out in the Throne Speech that this government, a year ago, in mid-year, Mr. Speaker, took the unprecedented step to allocate \$10 million, Mr. Speaker, to address some of the concerns that we'd been hearing in long-term care.

Mr. Speaker, we are working to implement some new systems such as some electronic charting at the bedside, Mr. Speaker, which we think will make improvements towards not only how care is delivered but also how that information is tracked.

Mr. Speaker, we're also looking at implementing some training around purposeful hourly rounding so that residents will know and have the assurance that on an hourly basis that somebody will be in to check on them, Mr. Speaker, to see how in fact

they are doing. Mr. Speaker, but I would just say, there are no words that I can say to adequately express our sympathies and our condolences to this family. But, Mr. Speaker, in any of these situations, we use these as learning experiences.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, making a reference in a Throne Speech to something that was done in the past and not even done to the . . . completely, Mr. Speaker, and to pretend that that is an adequate response, completely misses what every family has been saying and the concerns they've been raising forward over the last weeks.

Margaret Warholm, Jessie Sellwood, Lorne Rowell, and now Fern Chingos: those are the people we've heard about this session who died prematurely in care facilities. And it's been heartbreaking to hear these stories and to speak with these families. And it's been heartbreaking to hear the stories of Emily Krushelnicki, Art Healey, and Margaret Fraess. And it's been heartbreaking to speak with many families who call with concerns but choose not to go public.

I don't know, Mr. Speaker, how the Premier can largely dismiss these stories, pretend that they are isolated, and say that we will wait for some magical pendulum to swing across the province when it comes to minimum care standards, when it comes to having adequate staffing levels.

My question is for the Premier. Has he heard enough yet to recognize that we desperately need better staffing, regulated minimum care standards, and real accountability for when those standards are not followed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, again, I would just say that we take these issues very seriously. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that when the members on this side of the House look to formulate budgets where we see, Mr. Speaker, issues that arise, where we make determinations of where the taxpayers' dollars of this province go, Mr. Speaker, each and every year we have given careful consideration, knowing that there will be more work to do, but careful consideration that has allowed us to provide funding to regional health authorities at record levels which have seen more than 750 additional full-time equivalents working in long-term care, Mr. Speaker, additional staff, additional maintenance and equipment added to long-term care facilities.

But, Mr. Speaker, when we see issues such as the prevalence of falls in long-term care, Mr. Speaker, this side of the House took the position that it wasn't just good enough, Mr. Speaker, to accept that that was the record of the province and of our system, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we put forward a falls collaborative. We're always looking for those ways that we can improve care to our residents, and we're not going to stop that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Contract with Lean Initiative Consultant

Ms. Chartier: — It's so frustrating, Mr. Speaker, that this government keeps trying to minimize the crisis in seniors' care while it keeps pouring so much money into John Black and its lean pet project. We learned last week that lean events cost approximately \$34,000 each, and that is over and above the cost of John Black. Yet Prince Albert Parkland Health Region has just saved \$131.26 as a result of John Black's version of lean.

John Black's contract has a provision that allows the government to terminate the contract with three months' notice. So the Health minister could give notice today and our province's health care system could finally be free of John Black at the start of spring session. My question is for the Premier. Will he finally listen to doctors, nurses, other front-line health care workers, and senior administrators, and fire John Black today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, this government has embarked upon deploying lean throughout the entire health care system, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have to this point saved nearly \$16 million in the system. But, Mr. Speaker, I think more importantly — and I'm not sure exactly the parameters that the members opposite perhaps put on their FOI [freedom of information], Mr. Speaker, but that's the information both pre-JBA [John Black and Associates] and including JBA, Mr. Speaker — but this has also allowed us to make improvements in the system.

And the members opposite, to their credit, bring up some important information and some important issues in the health system around medication, around falls and other, Mr. Speaker. But as I've said before, distribution of the wrong medication, so an error in the system, in mental health unit at Five Hills in the Moose Jaw area prior to lean was 17 a year on average, Mr. Speaker. We've got that down, the system has got that down in that region down to one a year.

One is still too many, Mr. Speaker, but that speaks specifically, Mr. Speaker, to the quality improvement work that we're seeing with the use of lean methodology in the health system, Mr. Speaker, used by organizations such as Virginia Mason, the Mayo Clinic, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're trying to make those improvements to reduce errors and improve the quality of our system.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The vast majority of doctors, nurses, and front-line health care workers can't stand John Black's version of lean. And senior health administrators have major problems with John Black. They say he lacks respect, tattles on leaders if they question, gossips, and undermines. And they say the only reason the government is keeping John Black around is they think the optics would be bad if they walked away. And last week the Provincial Auditor said that John Black has way too much control and that things will improve once he's gone.

So again, to the Premier: in the face of all that damning

evidence, why won't he fire John Black?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, this is just the words of one front-line staff member, Dolly Kosar, who took place in a 5S [sort, simplify, sweep, standardize, self-discipline] event at Regina General post-anaesthetic care unit, Mr. Speaker, her line, and she's a registered nurse: "It's amazing. People used to yell where's this, where's that because no one could find anything. Now we know where things are. We know when we're out of supplies." Mr. Speaker, not only has that allowed them to make improvements to the way that inventory is provided for in that one particular unit, but they were also in fact able to remove 3,500 pieces of supplies back to the manufacturer for a credit, Mr. Speaker, saving dollars.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if we can replicate that work across the entire health system, we can see the improvements that we're seeing, for example, with MRIs [magnetic resonance imaging], access to MRIs, Mr. Speaker, where one health region has increased their productivity by 7 per cent, meaning that, Mr. Speaker, if we can replicate that, that would equate to thousands more MRIs without a single dollar more of taxpayers' dollars. Mr. Speaker, a more effective and efficient health system.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, we know that John Black has racked up over \$1 million in flight expenses and over \$1.2 million in hotel expenses, and hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars in meals and incidentals. Meanwhile the entire Prince Albert Parkland Health Region has saved \$136.26 because of John Black's version of lean.

My question is for the Premier. Why won't he table all of John Black's receipts today? Is it because he's worried about how many of John Black's meals exceeded the 131 bucks he helped save for taxpayers, or what?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly this system, we have seen savings of nearly \$60 million using lean methodology, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to see good savings, Mr. Speaker, in the system and an improved and more efficient system.

I am glad I have the opportunity to, Mr. Speaker, correct something that the member from Elphinstone said a couple of weeks ago in talking about a personal note to John Black, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member may or may not know that there was an error in the tender that was produced by SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations], Mr. Speaker. There was some information from a previous non-JBA tender that was cut and paste about the health system, Mr. Speaker, to the point where the reference of a personal visit in February, Mr. Speaker, clearly wasn't about John Black, Mr. Speaker, because, well because John Black first didn't arrive in the province until April not February, Mr. Speaker. So the personal note clearly wasn't in reference to John Black. And I'm pleased to be able to clarify that for the member from Elphinstone.

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

Review of Smart Meter Program

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this government ignored major safety problems with Sensus smart meters and strapped dangerous, fire-prone meters to the homes of Saskatchewan people, 105,000 homes. And at every step of the way throughout session, the media and the opposition have had to drag information out of that SaskPower minister and that Premier.

The Premier still hasn't answered why he went out of his way to refute what the former SaskPower president said about the \$18 million store credit, so to the Premier: why did he say we'd get all of our money back no matter what, when it simply wasn't true? And why won't he finally just refer this whole mess, the Sensus contract, to the Provincial Auditor?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan took a number of actions around the Sensus smart meters. Right from the very outset when the problems became known, Mr. Speaker, our government responded immediately. We directed SaskPower to remove all of the smart meters. We got the taxpayers' dollars back from Sensus. We ordered a thorough and independent review of the problems with it.

To date, Mr. Speaker, I can report that approximately 65,000 of the meters have been removed from the homes of people here in Saskatchewan. The employees of SaskPower, I believe, are doing a good job. They're trying to move this timetable up as quickly as possible. SaskPower will follow through on the recommendations that were set out under the reviews as we know.

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

Government Use of Consultants

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the question was to the Premier, not to the minister whose story changes by the day. And what he said here today again doesn't even hold water, Mr. Speaker.

Another claim that doesn't hold water is the Premier's claim about cutting the size of government. The government is in fact paying 12 per cent more in salaries, despite cutting the number of jobs. So there's been no real savings on that front, despite pretending otherwise. But what's most concerning is that this government has dramatically ramped up consultants by an astonishing 228 per cent.

My question to the Premier: will he admit that he's just used his job-cutting plan to the public service to massively ramp up the dollars being doled out to consultants and that it's costing Saskatchewan taxpayers way more?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I know

the member for Rosemont very much wants to hear from me. And so on behalf of the government I'm pleased to report that since taking office in 2007, Mr. Speaker, there has been an historic level of construction, public sector construction, in Saskatchewan, specifically historic investments in infrastructure: historic Highways budgets year after year after year, Mr. Speaker; historic funding to municipalities who in turn are also building; historic, Mr. Speaker, investments in health care infrastructure and education infrastructure. And with that building comes consultants.

Now the NDP approach might have been to hire a permanent complement of government staff to take care of those projects. And, Mr. Speaker, we're not going to do that. We're going to use the private sector. We're going to use them on a temporary basis . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member for Athabasca's interested in the story. He should be because we're building that important road in northern Saskatchewan. I expect consultants have been hired for that as well. And do you know what, Mr. Speaker? Do you know what? The net result of the growth plan of the province . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Will the members come to order. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, they don't want to hear the answer. They don't want to hear the answer because of record infrastructure investment on top of competitive taxes, on top of fiscal responsibility, on top of an innovation agenda, has availed what exactly? Well, Mr. Speaker, it's availed this result for the people of this province: the lowest unemployment rate in Canada for two years, the best job creation record in Canada for the last seven years, Mr. Speaker.

Compare that to the other guys, the NDP in power, their last seven years: the worst job creation record in the country and a net loss of 5,500 people. We will keep building the province of Saskatchewan.

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

[14:15]

Poverty Strategy and Inquest Into Death

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And that was a most bizarre answer, when we see the worst record of keeping track of those consultants — 75 per cent without a record of what they actually do or what they're doing.

But, Mr. Speaker, we asked this government a few weeks ago for an inquest into the death of Jerry Peequaquat. Jerry needed help, but his family says he was cut off social assistance despite being desperate and homeless, and Jerry died in a makeshift shelter in Saskatoon. We called for an inquest to investigate the circumstances of Jerry's death and to make recommendations to prevent some more deaths in the future because no one should freeze to death in a province as rich as ours.

To the Minister of Social Services: will she commit to an inquest today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, my answer is no different than when the member asked it last time. To ask for a coroner's inquest is usually done by the coroner. We still do not know the details of how this gentleman died. And so therefore we are waiting for the final test results from the coroner, and determination can be made then as to what best to do.

However, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to work on issues of homelessness and poverty, and that's why we've announced a poverty strategy that we're undertaking very shortly within this province. Our poverty rates are going down, Mr. Speaker. We're the second lowest in our country. However we know there is more that needs to be done, and that's why we'll be working with our stakeholders to come forward with the poverty strategy.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Immigration.

Oilseed Producers Gain Access to Quebec Markets

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide members of the Legislative Assembly with some welcome news on the internal trade dispute our government has had with the government of Quebec over edible oils.

When I last reported to the Assembly in late October, it was on a day that an appeal panel was hearing arguments from the Quebec government and our government at a public hearing in Regina. Members will recall the process around this dispute, but let me quickly recap some of the deliberations of the last year.

Back in January, we successfully challenged Quebec through an agreement on internal trade dispute process. We challenged the Quebec government's restrictions preventing the sale and marketing of certain margarines, coffee whiteners, and dessert toppings in the Quebec market. Those restrictions were denying market opportunities to Western oilseed producers and processors and were flying in the face of well-established internal trade rules.

Our challenge was supported by the governments of Alberta, British Columbia, and Manitoba. It was backed by producers through the Vegetable Oil Industry of Canada. A dispute resolution panel established under the AIT [Agreement on Internal Trade] came down with its decision in late April, ruling in our favour. The panel ruled that Quebec's restrictions unfairly denied market opportunities for our Western oilseed farmers and processors and are contrary to Quebec's trade obligations under the AIT.

The panel instructed Quebec to bring its dairy regulations in line with its AIT obligations. Quebec decided to appeal the panel's decision, which resulted in the October hearing in Regina. The appeal panel is expected to make its ruling at the end of January, and we're confident that the ruling will once again be in our favour.

In the meantime though, I can report to members that last week

the Government of Quebec took actions that, in our view, result in a major step forward for Saskatchewan's oilseed producers. The Government of Quebec approved and implemented changes to its *Food Products Act*, removing barriers to the production and sale of vegetable-oil-based dairy products. Those were the barriers that Saskatchewan successfully challenged through the AIT process. While Quebec still has rules in place for now that prohibit the use of terms like milk, butter, and cheese for dairy substitute products, the major legislative changes that Quebec has just implemented mean that Saskatchewan edible oil products can now be freely sold in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, that really is a huge win for Saskatchewan, and it's a huge win for our canola industry. Our producers will now have access to a large Quebec market and will have more market access opportunities for the many products with Saskatchewan edible oil ingredients. We're hopeful Quebec's actions last week reflect a genuine commitment to finally tackle these unfair barriers to trade. And we view this as a positive sign more broadly as provinces, territories, and the federal government continue negotiations to improve internal trade in Canada.

We believe the appeal panel will confirm that the amendments Quebec just made to its Act were indeed necessary to address unfair trade barriers. And we hope that the final ruling will also ensure that Quebec addresses the outstanding barriers to marketing oil-based dairy products within its borders.

I know that all members of the House will join with me in welcoming this latest development for Saskatchewan producers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said on a couple of other occasions when the minister has risen to his feet on this matter, this is an important endeavour for our province, for oilseed producers, for our canola industry. I'm thankful for the effort worked in partnership with governments and officials from Manitoba, Alberta, BC [British Columbia], and certainly all those involved here in Saskatchewan. Certainly resolving this matter is in our economic interests as a province, and certainly in the interests of those fine producers here in Saskatchewan. So we welcome this update and look forward to further progress towards positive resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Immigration.

Launch of Career Development Website

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I had the honour today of co-launching a brand new tool for Saskatchewan's youth and job seekers. SaskCareers.ca is a website that was developed in partnership with the Saskatoon Industry-Education Council and the ministries of the Economy, Education, and Advanced Education. Website users will be able to take part in online activities that will help them identify what their skills are and learn about different careers that they can pursue. It's estimated that there will be over 95,000 job opportunities in our province by 2017. Educating, training, and

developing a highly skilled workforce is a key goal of the Saskatchewan plan for growth. SaskCareers.ca helps us with that goal by engaging new and current workers with what opportunities are available to them in today's strong Saskatchewan.

The Ministry of the Economy has provided over \$1 million of funding towards the SaskCareers.ca website, and we have recently approved close to an additional \$600,000 in funding for further website development.

One component of the website to assist students specifically is myBlueprint. It will allow students to set career objectives, develop an educational plan, discover post-secondary training options, and track their progress throughout. Currently eight school divisions and two First Nations schools have full access to myBlueprint. The Ministry of Education has invested \$549,000 to expand access to myBlueprint to all school divisions in Saskatchewan by the next school year.

The sooner students learn about possible careers that are out there for them and, more importantly, know what classes they need to take in schools and afterwards, the sooner they'll be able to have a rewarding career and all of the opportunities that our Saskatchewan has today. SaskCareers.ca will help keep Saskatchewan strong.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this seems like a very reasonable tool and one that we would welcome, and a tool that's important for all Saskatchewan people to utilize, something that hopefully connects directly with some of the economic needs in the province as well.

So we welcome this announcement. We also, of course, if we're talking about post-secondary and skills training and opportunities for young people, it would be wrong for us not to touch on the fact that we need to do a much better job. And this government has to do a better job of extending opportunity, of making sure that those opportunities are more accessible, more affordable for all Saskatchewan people. That's going to truly be what allows us as a province and all Saskatchewan people to move forward in a positive way with bright futures. But we certainly welcome this new website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 585 to 589.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 585 through 589. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question 590.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered response

to question 590. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 591 to 606.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 591 through 606.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 171

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 171** — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following question period today, it's a tremendous honour for me to stand in the Assembly and speak in favour of Bill 171. And, Mr. Speaker, I do see this as a very momentous occasion and an important moment as we add gender identity to our province's Human Rights Code.

As we take this step today, Mr. Speaker, I think it's also important to recognize those in the community who have been working for this for some time. And I think it's also important, Mr. Speaker, to recognize many individuals in our province who have suffered over the years because their fundamental human rights were not recognized because their equality was not embraced and that their diversity was not celebrated. So today, Mr. Speaker, as we consider Bill 171, we also stand — at least I stand, Mr. Speaker — to remember and to pay tribute to those individuals.

And we pay tribute, Mr. Speaker, to the many people in the province who have worked hard for this change. We're joined by many of them today in the gallery, Mr. Speaker, and many others who weren't able to make it to the Assembly today, Mr. Speaker. But I want to say a special thank you to these individuals for working hard, for having the courage of their convictions, for not giving up, for staying focused, and for building bridges with many people in the province. Thank you to all of you who have worked hard to make this a reality.

I would also, Mr. Speaker, like to extend my words of thanks to the Minister of Justice. I'm grateful that he has taken this step and I want to say thank you to him for that. I also, Mr. Speaker, want to add my words of appreciation to the member from Saskatoon Centre. When I became Leader of the Opposition, I felt it was important to have a stand-alone critic for the area of diversity, equality, and human rights. And, Mr. Speaker, I knew that the member from Centre would take that on with gusto, and I want to say thank you to him for his determination and willingness to work with many people in the province to see positive changes take place. So I would like to thank the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Speaker, today as we celebrate this achievement, we do so recognizing that there is much more work to do in order to ensure that diversity, equality, and human rights continue to be advanced in our province. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to make some remarks on this important day.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure to enter into this debate on Bill No. 171, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*. And I want to thank all the guests who've come here from across the province. And I want to especially thank the Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission for the good work that he has done, and played a huge role in bringing this forward, and also to the Minister of Justice and this government and the Premier for bringing this bill forward. It's a very important bill.

But even more to the citizens who worked tirelessly to see this day. You know, our leader said if a bill makes sense, then we will be here to support it. And so we are here today, and I think this is a good thing. I also want to recognize the important work of community groups such as TransSask Support Services, Avenue Community Centre, gender equity, and Time 4 Rights. And raising awareness is about the challenges facing a sex- and gender-diverse community while celebrating the lives of transsexual, transgender, and intersex people from across, in Saskatchewan.

We believe that all people of Saskatchewan should have the resources and support to lead their lives however they wish to and have their needs accommodated without being hindered by discriminatory practices. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in that instrument without distinction of any kind.

The acts of violence and discrimination directed towards people because of gender identity or expression are simply unacceptable. To that end, the opposition has called in the past for greater protection by changing *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* to include the terms gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds for discrimination. We were, to paraphrase the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., appalled at the silence of *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* to address the protection of the trans community. But today we celebrate its strong voice. This is a good day. We are told the protection is there. It's implicit, not explicit like everybody else's. But it reminded me of the civil rights movement in the '60s when Afro-Americans were told they were equal too but just separate.

[14:30]

Every member of society expects explicit protection from our Human Rights Code — say what you mean and mean what you say — and we have that today. The struggle continues though for sure, for example, to ensure that there are supports in our schools for students who request support like GSAs [gay-straight alliance]. And we will continue to monitor whether gender expression is needed as well.

Mr. Speaker, this Wednesday, December 10th, is international

Human Rights Day. This year's slogan is Human Rights 365.

It encompasses the idea that every day is Human Rights Day. It celebrates the fundamental proposition in the Universal Declaration that each one of us, everywhere, at all times is entitled to the full range of human rights, that human rights belong equally to each of us and bind us together as a global community with the same ideals and values.

And so we should celebrate human rights every day.

In closing, Martin Luther King said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." Today that arc is bending even more here in Saskatchewan. Thank you very much. The opposition is now prepared to have Bill 171 move to committee.

The Speaker: — The motion before us is second reading of Bill No. 171, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2014*. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say nay. The ayes have it.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I designate that Bill 171, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2014* be committed to Committee of the Whole on Bills and that the said bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills immediately.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to Committee of the Whole. I do now leave the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

Bill No. 171 — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2014*

The Chair: — I'll call the Committee of the Whole to order. The item of business before the committee is Bill No. 171, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2014*. Clause 1, short title, is that clause agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clause 1 agreed to.]

[Clauses 2 to 15 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent

of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill 171, an Act to amend the Human Rights Code, 2014. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

The Chair: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill 171 be reported without amendment. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 171, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a third time? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move that the bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave for Bill No. 171, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2014* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 171 — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2014*

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 171, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment*

Act, 2014 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 14:38 until 14:41.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour, please rise.

[Yeas — 53]

Wall	Morgan	Stewart
Wyant	Duncan	Krawetz
Boyd	Eagles	McMorris
Reiter	Harpauer	Doherty
Moe	Docherty	Campeau
Heppner	Cheveldayoff	Harrison
Tell	Ottenbreit	Norris
Hart	Kirsch	Bjornerud
Makowsky	Weekes	Cox
Draude	Wilson	Marchuk
Ross	Bradshaw	Michelson
Merriman	Hutchinson	Young
Jurgens	Steinley	Hickie
Lawrence	Tochor	Parent
Phillips	Doke	Broten
Forbes	Wotherspoon	Vermette
Belanger	Chartier	McCall
Nilson	Sproule	

The Speaker: — All those opposed?

[Nays — nil]

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the third reading motion, 53; those opposed, nil.

The Speaker: — The ayes have it. Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I am advised that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. Please rise.

[14:45]

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 14:46 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent

to the following bills.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed a bill which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour and to which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bill is as follows:

Bill No. 171 - *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2014*

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to this bill.

The Speaker: — May it please you Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour:

Bill No. 173 - *The Appropriation Act, 2014 (No. 2)*

to which I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this bill.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 14:49.]

The Speaker: — Please be seated.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 174 — *The Registered Teachers Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act, 2014*. *The Registered Teachers Act* will create a new regulatory body for teachers in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I think it's safe to say that the government has done its homework on this file.

Currently the minister is responsible for certifying all of Saskatchewan's teachers; however, disciplinary matters are being performed by three separate entities. The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation holds the responsibility for disciplinary processes of teacher misconduct at publicly funded schools. Disciplinary processes concerning administrators, such as directors of education, superintendents, are held by the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents. Meanwhile teachers at independent schools, custody care facilities, and post-secondary institutions fall under the disciplinary responsibility of the ministry.

The Registered Teachers Act will consolidate the responsibilities for teacher certification and discipline within one legislative framework by which the new Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board will be governed.

An overview of *The Registered Teachers Act, 2014* includes, firstly, the establishment of the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board; secondly, establishment of the nine-person board of directors consisting of seven registered teachers and two members of the public. Thirdly, it prescribes the duty of the SPTRB [Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board] to serve and protect the public and to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibility in the public interest.

Fourthly, it prescribes the objectives of the SPTRB, which are to establish and administer the professional certification and standards of professional conduct and competence of teachers for the purpose of serving and protecting the public. Fifthly, it grants the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board authority to issue teachers' certificates. Sixth, it grants the regulatory board responsibility for intake, investigation, hearing, and ruling on allegations of professional misconduct and incompetence.

Seventh, it establishes a public register in which the status of a registered teacher's certificate will be found. Eighth, it establishes a five-person professional conduct committee for the purpose of investigating allegations of professional misconduct or incompetence. Ninth, it establishes a five-person disciplinary committee for the purpose of hearing allegations of professional misconduct or incompetence that call into question the suitability of a teacher to hold a teaching certificate.

The transition committee, consisting of representation from the Ministry of Education, the league of educational administrators, directors of education and superintendents, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, and First Nations director of education, they have all reviewed and provided extensive feedback on the new Act. They are supportive of the regulatory model the new Act creates as well as the structure and governance of the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board.

Mr. Speaker, we also know that the members opposite have taken a keen interest in this. I'm going to quote from *The StarPhoenix* article dated June 29th, 2013. The article stated that the member for Saskatoon Centre would, and I quote, "... also spend the summer doing extra homework on teacher regulation practices across Canada." Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing from the members opposite about everything they found. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite also stated in the same article:

We want to make sure that the public and parents, and colleagues in the profession, everyone has full confidence in the system and the process. That means it's transparent, it's accountable, but it's also fair, and that student safety is the No. 1 issue here.

We couldn't agree more, and I sincerely hope that after spending last summer doing extra homework, the members opposite continue to agree on the need for a transparent, accountable, and fair process that protects our students. We know that the member from Saskatoon Centre has admitted to doing a bit of nitpicking at times when he tries to find a reason to criticize some government bills. I hope that he will avoid the

urge to do that on this particular bill.

We also know that there has been substantial support for this legislation from across the education sector. From Connie Bailey, president of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, “We are encouraged by the movement toward increased transparency and clarity.” From Gwen Dueck, executive director of the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation:

What we celebrate, even through this process, is that it is unique in the country . . . that we have developed something in Saskatchewan that brings together all of the processes.

The editorial board of the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* is also supportive of this new direction:

With Morgan promising greater transparency and public reporting of the work of the new agency, the government seems to do have done the homework necessary to ensure the initiative is a success.

We are even hearing support from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition: “I am hearing a general comfort with what’s being brought forward.” I look forward to hearing what they have to say, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully their homework will warrant a passing grade.

The teachers of this province are incredibly hard-working and dedicated. They are professionals just like doctors, lawyers, and nurses. They deserve a teacher-led regulatory body. They deserve to be treated like the professionals that they are.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move that Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*, 2014 be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*, 2014. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I am pleased to be able to enter the discussions on Bill 174. And, Mr. Speaker, I’ve been here for a few years and I was quite surprised and taken aback by the comments made by the minister in reference to the member from Saskatoon Centre. And while I can appreciate he’s reading quotes, it’s the first time I’ve seen an introduction and explanation of a bill where a minister is reading quotes that are deriding another member of the Assembly’s comments in reference to a process to understand the bill better.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I find that absolutely bizarre in the sense of, the minister should get up, explain the bill and the process of the bill, but not become political to a point where he’s now bringing forward quotes in reference to the member from Saskatoon Centre, in terms of the member from Saskatoon Centre’s concern and right to be able to research the bill diligently, Mr. Speaker. So again I find it absolutely bizarre that the minister would take that opportunity to play that particular card during the introduction and explanation of his bill, Mr. Speaker.

Typically the process in this Assembly, from what I understand, is the minister at second reading gets up, explains the bill, explains the process and, Mr. Speaker, that’s about it. But once again we see, Mr. Speaker, that he’s taking the opportunity to bring politics into the explanation of a bill so the people in Saskatchewan can understand the bill, Mr. Speaker. I find that very bizarre and I certainly find it something that’s new to the Assembly. And if that’s the process that the minister wishes to embark on, then by all means we’re more than prepared to do exactly that: become political in this whole process of trying to explain the bill to the public out there.

And, Mr. Speaker, again I want to point out for the record that I find that action and that behaviour absolutely bizarre in a sense of explaining the bill to the public so that they can understand it and objectively try and interpret whether it’s good or not, Mr. Speaker. And obviously making political comments to that effect is disturbing. And certainly I don’t think that’s a proper process for the bill to be introduced in the Assembly through the second reading phases. So, Mr. Speaker, again I find the actions of the minister a bit bizarre as it relates to the introduction of this bill, Bill 174, and of course the complementary Bill 175.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in order for me to try and do justice to the process that the minister completely ignored in the introduction of his Act, in the sense of saying that Bill 174 creates an arm’s-length regulatory board that will oversee teachers’ discipline and certification, Mr. Speaker . . . And now when we see the minister now sitting there and laughing at this whole scenario, we’re going to let a lot of teachers know at the introduction of this particular bill, he found it amusing somewhat, to be sitting in his chair, laughing away and giggling away, Mr. Speaker, on something as important as teacher disciplinary measures. And really important, Mr. Speaker, is teacher certification.

[15:00]

So I think it’s really important that we let the teachers know that this is a process that the minister has not been responsible with and certainly has not been respectful to in a sense of trying to make sure that the teachers are respected, that the discussion around their contract has got a lot of attention by the appropriate individuals, you know, from within government, but especially by the lead minister, Mr. Speaker.

So we look at the whole notion of Bill 174 and 175 in a sense of one of the primary objectives that we have when we talk about our teachers is to do one particular thing, is to afford them the respect that they deserve. And when you see the kind of process that’s been undertaken to date on Bill 174 and 175, Mr. Speaker, we’re going to let a lot of teachers know when we speak to them that it is something that was totally untoward of the government to come along and politicize the introduction of a very important part of the bill when it talks about teacher certification and of course teacher discipline.

Now we understand that the board will be made up of seven teachers and two members of the public. The provincial government will have the power to appoint three teachers and two members of the government. The STF [Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation] will appoint three teachers, and of course

the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents will appoint one teacher themselves.

So, Mr. Speaker, the teachers themselves, we haven't had the opportunity to really talk to them about what their issues are as a result of the regulatory board that's being established in Bill 174 and 175.

It's important to know that we had a congregation of people that were involved with education here several days ago when the first introduction was made of this particular bill. Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of different groups and organizations in the Assembly but important to know that there was the STF present. There was LEADS [League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents] present. There was a First Nations leader as well present. The Saskatchewan School Boards Association members were also present. So, Mr. Speaker, they were the team of people that are primarily involved with the delivery of our K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education system in the province. They were here that day.

And, Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of discussion in the backrooms of what this particular Act entails, what it involves, Mr. Speaker. And of course as we begin to look at the bill in greater detail, we begin to understand the bill in greater detail. And we begin to consult with the different people that are involved with this particular bill, and I named a few. But we're going to talk to a lot of teachers on this, Mr. Speaker, to see how they feel about this particular regulatory body being introduced by the minister that really in a sense displaces the former model in which STF dealt with all of these particular issues.

Mr. Speaker, I understand from the questions that were posed to the minister that the cost to operate this particular board is around the \$2 million mark, I believe. And, Mr. Speaker, the cost of \$2 million per year, this I think is being discussed in which the teachers have to pay the cost of operating this board to the tune of \$175 per teacher, Mr. Speaker.

We haven't yet negotiated a contract with our teachers. We have seen disparity, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the start of the school year in a sense of certain schools and certain regions. And my region is a good example where there's an extra 100 hours required of the teachers as a result of the, again, this particular minister's meddling in the start of the school year in which there was a lot of backlash, Mr. Speaker. There was a lot of anger and there was a lot of people that weren't happy with the minister's meddling in terms of the school year. So we had to come back and recant the start of the school year and now we're back here again talking about teachers' discipline and teachers' certification.

He wants to establish a board, and in this board that talks about certification of teachers and discipline of teachers, it's going to cost \$2 million a year to operate this board. And guess who's paying for it, Mr. Speaker? It's \$175 each coming out of the teachers' salaries, out of their pockets, Mr. Speaker. And they're the ones that are going to be paying for the effort by this minister to establish a separate process that was handled previously under STF to deal with teacher certification and teacher discipline.

Now I understand that the government themselves, in the previous arrangement, did deal with the certification of the teachers and of course STF dealt with the discipline, Mr. Speaker. And while we have a couple of letters here in press releases in the sense of . . . Generally you look at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, SSBA. They are also supportive of the introduction of teacher regulation legislation, Mr. Speaker. STF has been quoted as well.

But we need to really talk to the rank and file members as well, just to be thorough in our work and in our discussions with them as to how they feel about this particular Act and certainly how they feel about being able to go to a one-step process for discipline and certification; but more so, how they feel about paying \$175 each as teachers to this process that the Government of Saskatchewan and namely the Minister of Education has imposed upon them without good consultation with the rank and file members. And, Mr. Speaker, that part is really important that we do all we can to reach out to them to ask them questions.

This is the same government and the same minister has not dealt with the teachers on a fair and respectful playing field, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, as I said at the outset, there are disparities from different school boards across the province in reference to the school year as to how it impacts their work plan, how it impacts their daily work schedule, how it impacts the law to have certain hours of instruction on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, that start of the school year when the minister meddled in that particular process, it really created a lot of problems in different areas and compounded some of the frustration that teachers had on many fronts, including in my particular area where they have to work an extra 100 hours to accommodate the minister's short-sighted change in the start of the school year.

And, Mr. Speaker, now we see he's come back and said obviously that was the wrong thing to do, so I had to do another Act and amend another Act prior to that. And, Mr. Speaker, after a while many people became frustrated, but they also became confused as to what the minister was doing. And we're still trying to figure that out, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully at the end of the day, that this Assembly would be able to help him figure it out, get it right, and not try and meddle into the future.

So look at Bills 174 and in particular 175, Mr. Speaker. We do have to have the consultation. There are many issues that we have to deal with when it comes to the teachers. And I'm very curious at the outset that I'm confident that the STF will appoint three quality teachers, as was indicated at the outset. I'm confident that LEADS, the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents, will appoint one quality teacher. Mr. Speaker, where I'd like to ask some questions is how the government will determine which three teachers and two members at large or of the government that they will be appointing? I really need to be able to see, Mr. Speaker, the breakdown.

Obviously you look at the province themselves, they'll have the power to appoint five of the nine-member board, Mr. Speaker. So obviously of the nine-member board, seven of them will be teachers. Now who the other two will be, Mr. Speaker, is very

curious to me. It says members of the government could be appointed by the government. We need to know who those members would be.

And I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, it is very important that those members that are appointed by the public at large, whether they're government members or again by the public, that these individuals have a deep-rooted respect for the teaching profession in our province, that these members appointed by the government — not the teachers — but the members at large, that they're not there to simply direct the teachers and to threaten the teachers and to box in the teachers.

It's really, really important, Mr. Speaker, that we get the information as to who the government's planning on appointing, not from the teaching profession, but who their two appointments are from the public at large, Mr. Speaker. We need to know which people are they going to place. And again the primary point that we would make on that front is that these individuals that are appointed above and beyond the teachers to this board must have a deep-rooted respect for the teachers. They must absolutely know the impacts of their decision on how it's going to affect staff morale, how it's going to affect the retention of teachers in the various regions of our province, how it's going to strengthen the teacher base, how it's going to gain the confidence of the public, the students, and the parents involved, Mr. Speaker. These are all issues that are really, really important.

So if you're going to appoint somebody from the public at large, then make sure that these people that are being appointed do not have a pre-existing negative attitude or do not have marching orders from the minister or the Premier, or from the government in fact, to be able to become cumbersome to the whole new organization. Because we find at times, Mr. Speaker, some of the appointments of government, to various boards, of their friends and colleagues do create a lot of problems and does create conflict at the board level, Mr. Speaker. And we are hoping that on this front that there isn't that particular mindset being established when you look at appointment of the two members at large to this new board that regulates certification of teachers and deals with teacher discipline.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues will have a lot more to say about this. We're going to be hearing a lot about this as we travel. We have a lot of discussions and we have a lot of contacts with the teaching profession. We bump into teachers every day. We often, as MLAs, attend school functions. We attend SSBA functions. We attend STF functions. We talk to teachers on a regular basis. We've had a number of teachers that have ran for us and will continue to run for us. So we need to have that particular communication as to how they feel.

Obviously we want to also deal with SSBA. We also want to deal with LEADS. We want to deal with the STF. We want to deal with the Aboriginal participants, whether they're from FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] or from the Métis Nation or, you know, from an Aboriginal background.

We need to talk to those that are engaged in the teaching of our teachers, to be able to coach our teachers to becoming good teachers that are certified, disciplined, and certainly totally

committed to the job. And we all know that there's the vast, vast . . . a huge amount of teachers are obviously that, Mr. Speaker. And these are some of the organizations and some of the people that we need to speak to to see if this is the right model and this is the right format.

I know one of the sticking points and one of the arguments that the teachers will make is that this new board costs \$2 million to operate, \$2 million each and every year. And obviously who's paying the cost of that, Mr. Speaker is the teachers themselves, the \$175. So if they're the ones paying the whole cost of operating this board, then one would assume they'd have total autonomy and authority to (a) to be able to certify who they want on this board.

And that's one of the points that I think that I want to make is that if the costs were cost shared, in the sense of being able to say, okay the government appoints five members to this board and the STF appoints three and LEADS, the administrators and the principals' organization, they appoint one, then typically what should happen is that the government should pay for the cost of five of those members, and of course STF would pay their own and of course LEADS would pay their own as well. That should be the breakdown. But, Mr. Speaker, what happens here is that obviously we have to find these issues out.

It's going to cost \$2 million, and it appears that \$175 for each and every teacher will be collected by that minister to operate a board on certification and discipline, Mr. Speaker, which I think is totally unfair. But yet the minister has the right to be able to appoint five of the nine people, and yet 100 per cent of the costs of operating this board is being borne by the members of the STF. And that, Mr. Speaker, is patently unfair. And we have to have consultation and discussion on that front to ensure that they know that their voices can be heard.

And, Mr. Speaker, we already know that the teachers' relationship with this minister and with this government is tenuous at best. There are a lot of concerns out there. There's a lot of issues that are coming to the forefront. And once again we continue seeing this particular minister and the government continue to disrespect teachers and continue taking them for granted, Mr. Speaker. And this is yet another example of how they are going to create a new body to regulate teachers, to license teachers, to discipline teachers when there is occasion for disciplinary action to be undertaken. And guess what? The teacher pays all those costs; the government does not.

So it's unfair for the member to say the things that he said in the sense of that the comments he made in reference to the member from Saskatoon Centre. I think the member from Saskatoon Centre, being a former teacher himself, is probably aware of some of the challenges faced by many of his colleagues in the teaching profession as it relates to some of the legislative agendas and items that this minister and this particular government had brought forward without due consultation and recognition of the teachers, the school board association, the parents, and many others.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more to say on this particular bill. We have a lot more issues that we want to build into this particular bill to ensure that there's fairness in the sense of representing some of the teachers' views. We want to make sure

that we're on record to be able to achieve that. And, Mr. Speaker, once again we see that we're praying on this side of the Assembly that the minister knows what he's doing when it comes to introducing this particular process. From the outset it shows that he doesn't because he makes light of the issue, Mr. Speaker. He politicizes the introduction of this bill, which he should not. It should not occur. It's kind of bizarre behaviour on his part.

And now, Mr. Speaker, a disciplinary and certification body that he's created, that he gets to appoint five members, and who pays the bill? Who pays the cost for the entire \$2 million operation? It's each and every single teacher out there. They pay \$175 per year to operate this board that that minister and that government's putting in place.

And, Mr. Speaker, we need to have that consultation, and we need to have that discussion with the appropriate agencies of course, Mr. Speaker. But more important as well is to talk to the individual teachers, which we fully intend to do. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 174.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[15:15]

Bill No. 175 — *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Registered Teachers Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*.

As you know, we have just introduced the creation of *The Registered Teachers Act, 2014*. This Act seeks to form a new regulatory body for teachers in Saskatchewan. The development of this new regulatory body has the support of our education stakeholder partners. To support this new Act, we require amendments to be made to *The Education Act, 1995*; *The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006*; *The League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents Act, 1991*; *The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Act*; and *The Teachers' Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Act*.

Mr. Speaker, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014* will address the required amendments and will specifically remove all mention of certification and discipline functions from *The Education Act, 1995*.

A transition committee has been established and consists of representation from the ministry, LEADS, STF, Saskatchewan School Boards Association, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, and First Nations directors of education, as well as members of the public. The committee has reviewed and

provided extensive feedback on the consequential amendments.

Mr. Speaker, earlier the member opposite spoke to Bill No. 174 and made reference to the fact that we had commented specifically on statements made by the member for Saskatoon Centre and the member for Saskatoon Rosemont. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that that was done, not to politicize the thing, but to indicate that there was broad support for it, including both sides of the House.

And, Mr. Speaker, it was also done specifically for the member opposite because the member opposite has had a regular pattern where he is not onside with his own members. So this was a signal to him that his members are supporting this, so he may well want to support it as well so that his leader is not dealing with the same issue he has had to before where he is offside with his own party.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that we have sent that signal to him, he has once again chosen to freelance and make comments on and taken a position with regard to who should bear the cost of the Act, something that should be dealt with elsewhere other than in the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, I am pleased to move that Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014* be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Merci, monsieur le Président. [Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.] Basically we want to again point out that the Bill 175, in reference to the consequential amendments Act, obviously all the discussions we had in relation to Bill 174, this particular bill is primarily transposing all the information into the French version, Mr. Speaker. And it's important that certainly from, one would assume, that based on the importance of this particular bill, that you want to also celebrate and accentuate the bill and the importance and the context of the bill into the French language as well.

So, Mr. Speaker: je n'ai parlé pas française bien, mais je vais essayer. [Translation: I don't speak French well, but I am going to try.] And, Mr. Speaker, obviously when people ask me if I speak French, I say, un petit peu [Translation: a little bit].

So again it's important that we respect the language of French. And obviously on Bill 175 that we want to ensure that any of the bills that are being presented, Mr. Speaker, are presented in the French version as well, and I believe Bill 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act* primarily serves that purpose. So on that, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 175. Merci beaucoup. [Translation: Thank you very much.]

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate with Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 176 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a real pleasure to rise in this House — I haven't done it much lately — but to rise today to move second reading of *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2009*. The Act administered by the Saskatchewan Government Insurance sets out the laws for road use in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments provide stronger measures to help make our roads and highways safer. It includes measures to curb high-risk driving behaviours like distracted driving, excessive speed, and failing to stop for a police officer.

In 2013, Mr. Speaker, excessive speed was a factor in 24 deaths on Saskatchewan roads. Distracted driving was a factor in 33 fatal collisions. Mr. Speaker, that's 57 lives lost needlessly in 2013 because of high-risk driving behaviours.

For this reason, we plan to implement a three-day licence suspension for employees who commit these high-risk behaviours while driving their employers' vehicle. The suspension will be in addition to the seven-day vehicle seizure, Mr. Speaker, supporting regulations giving employers the chance to appeal their vehicle's early release if it has been seized because of an employee's actions.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment and its supporting regulations responds to the concerns brought forward by the business community, concerns that we have heard and have acted upon. Currently there is no driver licence suspension with commercial vehicle seizures and no appeal process for early release of the vehicle due to actions of the employee. This amendment and its supporting regulations change that. They provide swift, strong, and certain consequences for employees who commit certain high-risk behaviours. They also ensure their employers can continue doing business.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be tough on high-risk drivers, but we need to listen to the concerns of our stakeholders too. This change strikes a fair balance between the interests of commercial vehicle owners and the safety of Saskatchewan road users. Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again we're pleased to give the initial comments on Bill 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, obviously, you know, as was pointed out, the excessive speed issue is certainly a challenge for a lot of people that travel and

use our highway system, Mr. Speaker. The distracted driving, when we look at some of the deaths that occurred as a result of two of those activities, Mr. Speaker, it's obviously a very deep concern. And many of us need to learn the lesson that excessive speed or distracted driving is something that needs our constant attention, Mr. Speaker.

I want to focus a bit on the three-day licence suspension matter. Obviously, you know, when companies lend vehicles to the employees for work, Mr. Speaker, there's obviously a lot of trust that an employee would be afforded by his or her employer, Mr. Speaker. And I think a lot of the business community out there, they're probably a bit concerned with the fact that . . . with two things.

Number one is that obviously they don't encourage their employee to go out there and break the law while using their company vehicle, Mr. Speaker. So when the vehicle is actually impounded, many of the business owners out there would say, well why am I paying for the impound fees? Why am I paying for the loss of my vehicle for a number of days? Why am I doing all this work? Because it was not me that was doing this. It was an employee, so why should I pay the consequences? Why should I pay these fines and why should I lose the access to my company vehicle as a result of an employee not following the rules?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that's one of the issues that's really, really important that we bring up, is that a lot of the businesses as we know in the fast-paced economy, that there's a lot of vehicles out there, company vehicles. There's probably hundreds of company vehicles from a number of companies that travel on a regular basis, being driven by employees. And, Mr. Speaker, the important note that I gather from some of the conversations, and the media as well, is the sense that many of these business owners are absolutely upset. They're quite angry with the fact that, obviously when their employee gets caught either excessive speeding through certain zones or distracted driving, Mr. Speaker, that they lose their company vehicle.

Now what happens to that employee after the employee's brought into the employer's office? There's probably a lot of anger and a lot of frustration expressed at that particular meeting. And there may be even . . . I'm not even certain, Mr. Speaker, if there is a law that would allow the company to be able to fire that employee as a result of their company vehicle being seized for either excessive speed or for distracted driving, Mr. Speaker. So they come along. They obviously talk to the government, explain to them that this is not fair for the businesses and the company owners that lose their vehicle and have to pay fines and so on and so forth.

So I guess the biggest thing that I would point out is that how the companies deal with the employees is also really important to ask on this particular bill. How would they be dealing with the discipline of that employee? Will that employee be fired? Will they be expected to pay the fine? Would he be expected to pay the loss of the vehicle or the impound fee? It's very difficult to see how the employees would be treated in the event that they're guilty of these infractions, and as a result of their infractions, companies lose access to vehicles. They've got to pay a fine to recover their vehicles. And, Mr. Speaker, a lot of companies are quite upset with that, indicating that that was not

their fault. That's not their doing.

And when they went back to the government to explain this, the government obviously said, whoops, we made another mistake here. We made another legislative error. So now we'll come back and we'll fix that again. And, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what this particular bill is. It's once again, Bill 176, the government of the day over there saying, whoops, we have to make another amendment. Whoops, we've got to do another change of rules here. We've got to do another Act.

We've seen this is on a continual basis. Legislatively the government is way off track. They need to get these things figured out before they introduce bills so we don't have an amendment to an amending bill that was amended from a different bill and changed from their name and amended once again. So as you can see, Mr. Speaker, it's probably frustrating for a lot of people out there that like to follow sound process when it comes to governing, and obviously they're not getting any evidence of that, nor are they getting that from the Saskatchewan Party government.

So, Mr. Speaker, the companies themselves are quite angry about this. There's a lot of frustration out there with how this matter is dealt with. The companies I think simply wanted to be able to say, look, if our employee is driving a vehicle and is guilty of any of the activities that warrants our company vehicles to be impounded, please let us know. We need our company truck back the same day. If there's an impound fee and if we have to pay that fee, we will deal with our employee on that front, Mr. Speaker, but don't hold up our vehicle for three days. Don't hold up our vehicle for seven days. Let's try and figure something out better in a sense that these companies' issues and points would be heard, Mr. Speaker.

So a lot of the business people themselves are going to ask the question: if we don't want our vehicles impounded for seven days, why should we want our vehicles impounded for three days? There's got to be good consultation, and we need to ask the questions of the different companies that are quite upset with this, Mr. Speaker. And we need to seek their advice and see what their perspectives are on when it comes to their employees using their company vehicles. What is the best way to ensure that the guilty party, in this case the employee, learns from this and is aware from this? We need to make sure that it doesn't cost the company any more money as a result of this behaviour, Mr. Speaker.

And above all else, consultation with the impacted companies should be undertaken, Mr. Speaker, should be undertaken. And there should be some great, great effort to try and minimize the anger and the frustration with these companies by simply sitting down with them, talking with them to see what options exist when you talk about employees using their company vehicles and not following the traffic laws, and then they in essence end up having egg on their face as a company, losing money as a result of the fine, and certainly not having access to their vehicles for a number of days and a number of processes.

[15:30]

So, Mr. Speaker, a lot of issues that need to be resolved on this. And if there's any evidence of how the former minister of

Highways handled, you know, the Regina south bypass project, Mr. Speaker, we're seeing evidence again in Bill 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*, that once again he's back to the drawing board, trying to figure this whole mess out. And, Mr. Speaker, that ends up in having a lot of people in Saskatchewan frustrated and angry, and that includes a lot of businesses and business people that are quite angry about the rule around losing their company vehicle because an employee is not following the law when it comes to cellphone use or excessive speed, Mr. Speaker. We want the issues settled, and we all could learn from that. Nobody's arguing about that.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are some parties that are not guilty of the process. Simply trusting other people is important, Mr. Speaker, and we need to make sure that there's good consultation, good discussion, and that you minimize backlash from the business owners that are being impacted by having their vehicles impounded, not just for three days in instances, Mr. Speaker, but previously seven days. Seven days back to three days does not really show a lot of understanding of some of these businesses, Mr. Speaker. So again I would point out that it's important to consult with the business community.

And the minister is asking, should we go back to seven days? Well you talk to the companies. You figure it out. You're the government, Mr. Speaker. We're just saying that, had you consulted with the business owners previous to this, they would tell you again that even three days is too long and the fines are too heavy for them to be paying for all the employees that may be driving and not following rules. Why should they pay the costs? That was their message, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly we need to find further consultation or seek further consultation on that particular perspective, Mr. Speaker. Because awareness and treating the employees fairly and respecting the business owners that are impacted by laws of this sort is paramount to being good government. And, Mr. Speaker, to date we have seen no evidence of that from the Saskatchewan Party government. So on that notion, I move we adjourn debate on Bill 176.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Carried.

Bill No. 177 — *The Insurance Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Insurance Act*.

Mr. Speaker, *The Saskatchewan Insurance Act* was first passed in 1913, and despite certain amendments over the years has remained largely unchanged since that time. Several provisions are outdated and no longer reflect a financial services industry that is substantially integrated and making significant use of technology.

The proposed amendments are a result of an extensive review project that has involved ongoing consultation with the

insurance industry and other jurisdictions over several years. This overall approach, the replacement and modernization of the Act, has the support of the insurance industry in Saskatchewan. *The Saskatchewan Insurance Act* will be replaced with a new Act to modernize the regulations of the Saskatchewan insurance industry in accordance with the regulatory frameworks in place in other Canadian jurisdictions, primarily Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, part I of the Act deals with preliminary matters, including the definition for terms to be used in the Act and a specification of the application of the Act to certain forms of insurance. Key terms that are defined in this part for application throughout the Act include: beneficiary, contract of insurance, insurance, mutual insurance, mutual insurance company, provincial company, provincial crop hail company, reciprocal insurance exchange, special broker, spouse, and superintendent.

This part includes new provisions to exempt salary continuance plans offered by employers and unions in the event of sickness or disability from licensing that creates the ability by regulation to impose capital and solvency requirements, audits and investigations, and require compliance with other standards and practices normally required of licensed insurance companies.

It'll exempt extended health benefit plans offered by employers and unions from licensing subject to similar regulatory governance. It will allow insurance agents to adjust property claims up to a prescribed dollar maximum such as \$15,000, but not including third party liability claims.

Mr. Speaker, part II of the Act sets out the processes for the insuring: the licensing of insurers, establishes the duty of insurers to be licensed, sets the licence requirements, and provides for the expiry, amendment, suspension, or cancellation of those licences. This part carries forward much of the existing licensing process.

This part also sets out the authority to establish the classes of insurance that insurers will be able to offer to undertake insurance for. Important revisions to the licence requirements includes updating the reporting requirements for licensed insurers, as well as including capital adequacy and liquidity provisions with respect to provincial companies.

Part II also addresses the licensing of reciprocal insurance exchanges. This part includes new provisions that establish base capital requirements for a provincial company or extraprovincial companies seeking a licence, authorize the superintendent to require annual financial statements from licensed insurers, authorize the superintendent to suspend or cancel a licence, and require provincial companies to keep separate accounts for different classes of insurance.

Mr. Speaker, part III of the Act largely carries forward the detailed governance requirements for provincial companies including provincial mutual companies. It regulates the business transactions of provincial companies, the creation and maintenance of segregated funds and their transactions, and provides for the application to carry on insurance business in Saskatchewan. It addresses provincial mutual insurance companies and provides for their powers and restrictions, meetings, the duties and powers of boards of directors, and for

demutualization. This part also addresses the amalgamation, transfer, and fundamental reinsurance of provincial companies, and the process if a licensed insurer leaves Saskatchewan as well as the process for liquidation of an insurer.

With respect to provincial insurance companies, division 8 of part III establishes the head office, records, and financial statements required for insurers and actuaries; the adequacy of assets, capital adequacy and liquidity; and restrictions on investments. Part III also addresses portfolio limits, restrictions on transactions with related parties, and finally conflict of interest requirements for provincial insurance companies.

This part includes new provisions to permit a provincial mutual company to convert to a provincial company with common shares, permit the voluntary liquidation of provincial companies, address liquidation orders made by the court including the powers of the court and the authority of the company to act after a liquidation order has been made, appointment of a liquidator, and costs. It also includes a guide to the use of actuaries by provincial companies including their appointment or designation, professional requirements, removal and replacement, and valuation standards.

Mr. Speaker, part IV of the Act addresses fraternal societies.

“fraternal society” means a non-profit body corporate formed for the purpose of making, with its members only, contracts of life, accident or sickness insurance in accordance with its constitution, bylaws and rules and this Act.

Part IV addresses fraternal societies that act as insurers, such as the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation or the Knights of Columbus. This part maintains the existing restrictions on licensing of fraternal societies; addresses the constitution, bylaws, and rules; members' rights and liabilities; reports and readjustment of contracts; as well as special rates and benefits with respect to fraternal societies that act as insurers.

Mr. Speaker, part V of the Act addresses insurance intermediaries and provides for major revisions regarding insurance councils. Insurance intermediary is used as a general term that includes an insurance agent, an insurer's representative, a managing general agent, or third party administrator.

With respect to insurance intermediaries, the Act provides for a new licensing regime which includes a process for recommendations for insurance agents and insurance representatives, initial screening of those individuals, and ongoing supervision. This part also provides for business conduct rules regarding insurance intermediaries and a reporting mechanism for any changes in status. It also sets up prohibitions and penalties with respect to insurance intermediaries.

Part V also addresses the licensing insurers or adjusters and rules of conduct for adjusters. Restricted insurance agents are also addressed with procedures and limitations set out regarding their ability to conduct the business of insurance under a restricted licence.

Division 5 of part V, Mr. Speaker, provides for a restructuring of the insurance councils and a redefinition of their powers and procedures. This part includes new provisions to restructure the Insurance Councils of Saskatchewan to consolidate the Hail Insurance Council's responsibility with the General Insurance Council, to give the general council and Life Insurance Council the power to appoint advisory committees to provide advice to the councils on crop insurance matters, restricted insurance agents' licensing, etc. New provisions also create a new insurance council responsible for only providing administrative services to the two other councils.

Licensed managing general agents has a separate category. Also in order to obtain a licence, we will require MGAs [managing general agent] or licensed managing general agents, insurance businesses, and life insurance agents to be recommended by a licensed insurer offering the same class of insurance for which the person applying seeks to be licensed. It will also require insurance to carry out screening of any applicants that they recommend for a licence. It will add regulation-making power to set the minimum number of companies that licensed agents must have contracts with before they can hold themselves out as insurance brokers.

Mr. Speaker, part VI addresses unsolicited insurance, reinsurance, and special brokers. This part sets out restrictions in dealing with unlicensed insurers providing unsolicited insurance and requires them to provide notice to the superintendent if contracts are entered into. An example of this would be where American insurance company cold-calls Saskatchewan residents offering warranty extensions on an existing warranty.

This part also addresses reinsurance with an unlicensed insurer and sets out more detailed requirements regarding insurance through special brokers and the requirements for an agent operating with a special broker's endorsement, including the application of tax requirements regarding premiums received by special brokers. This part includes new provisions for special brokers that consider the application, eligibility, and issuance of a special broker's endorsement; the effect of an endorsement if the status of the special broker's insurance licence changes; reporting requirements; and bookkeeping.

Mr. Speaker, part VII of the Act is a particularly important initiative. It provides for a new stand-alone part to address essential consumer protection requirements and provide for specific market conduct rules for insurers. The Act sets out general rules regarding payments, disclosure, and the role of intermediaries with respect to an insurance contract. It also establishes specific fair practices in the conduct of the insurance business that all insurers and adjusters will be required to adhere to. The part also provides direction regarding the ability to rescind the contract of insurance, the refund of a premium, and adequate notice and disclosure provisions.

Mr. Speaker, part VIII of the Act addresses a broad range of contracts of insurance. Division 1 sets out general provisions regarding contracts of insurance regarding form of policy and applications.

Division 2 addresses property and casualty insurance provisions, including providing for statutory conditions for

contracts, the contents of a contract of insurance, waiver and estoppel, and disclosure requirements.

Division 3 addresses automobile insurance, provides for the content and form of the statutory conditions for those contracts as well as setting out specific liabilities and exemptions in motor vehicle liability policies.

Division 4 of part VIII provides for the rules and restrictions regarding executing crop hail insurance contracts in the province, including setting out statutory conditions.

Division 5 of part VIII addresses the contents of life insurance policies, the process for formation of the contract, the beneficiaries, the specific dealings with the contract, and proceedings under the contract for enforcement.

Division 6 addresses accident and sickness insurance in much the same manner as life insurance is addressed in division 5. It sets out insurance requirements and the contents of a policy, formation of the contract requirements, beneficiaries, and statutory conditions.

Part 7 of this part establishes the regulatory authority for a more fulsome dispute resolution process. This part includes new provisions that change the licensing trigger that determines where property and casualty insurance companies are required to be licensed from the deemed made-in-Saskatchewan test to a test that looks to whether the insurer is transacting insurance with a Saskatchewan resident or if the property is located in Saskatchewan. It will also include a requirement that requires insurance companies to specifically identify provisions in an insurance policy where the amount payable for a loss will be reduced rather than current vague wording, "this policy contains a clause which may limit an amount payable."

[15:45]

It will prevent an insurer from voiding the policy for alleged fraud with respect to material facts represented by an insured after two years where the insurer had the means available to ascertain the accuracy of those facts within two years of the policy's issuance but neglected to do so. It will also allow innocent insureds to recover losses under insurance contracts where they are not a party to another named insured's criminal act of arson, fraud, etc. It will give discretion to crop hail insurance umpires adjudicating disputed awards to producers for hail damage to crops.

Mr. Speaker, part IX of the Act provides the superintendent with general powers to conduct the regulatory scrutiny necessary to ensure compliance with the Act and the protection of the public interest. It also provides for an asset appraisal process and a process whereby, if necessary, the superintendent may take control of the assets of an insured to protect the public interest.

Part IX sets out the standard offence, penalty, and enforcement provisions regarding contraventions under the Act. This part includes new provisions that provide for appraisals of assets where a provincial company takes a mortgage on real property, permit a provincial company to enter into a compliance undertaking with the superintendent. Then, so long as the

company complies with the undertaking, the superintendent will not pursue a prosecution against the company on the subject matter of the undertaking and establish the circumstances in which the superintendent may take control of the assets of a provincial company or an ex-provincial company where necessary to protect the public interest.

Part X of the Act provides for the appointment of the superintendent of insurance, sets out his or her general powers under the Act, and requires the maintenance of insurance registers. It addresses the quasi-judicial role of the superintendent in hearing a variety of matters under the Act such as a decision to amend, modify, or vary terms and conditions imposed on a licence. This part also imposes on the superintendent statistical reporting requirements and authorizes the superintendent to commence actions or intervene in actions on behalf of consumers. Part X also sets out the appeal process for proceedings under this Act to an appeal panel at the FCAA [Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan].

Finally this part addresses restrictions on access to records, agreements with other jurisdictions, and agreements with the industry ombudsman associations such as the General Insurance OmbudService and the OmbudService for Life & Health Insurance. This part includes new provisions to authorize the superintendent to issue interpretation bulletins to insurers, insurance agents, and adjusters with respect to any matter of practice, procedure, and regulation. It will establish the hearing and appeal process for insurance agent compliance matters at both the insurance councils and the FCAA levels.

Part XI of the Act provides for the necessary consequential amendments, transitional and repeal provisions. These are lengthy due to the change in name of the Act and the need to change references in other legislation.

Mr. Speaker, with this new Act, the insurance sector will enjoy the flexibility it needs to expand and evolve in a rapidly changing environment, and it will ensure that the superintendent has full suite of governance powers to ensure compliance with the Act. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, it will also ensure that consumer protection through fair process in the insurance sector remains a singular operating priority for all stakeholders.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Insurance Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act* be read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have gone through Bill 177 at great lengths. We have a great number of questions. We've researched the bill and, Mr. Speaker, there's a wide array of issues that are really, really important. Like I said at the outset, we want to be able to pay attention to the bill. We have gone through it as best we can and as quickly as we can, but there are issues and concerns that we have on this bill. Always you want to be able to make sure that the minister has enough time to be able to explain the bill and thoroughly with us as well as to what the changes are.

As we indicated at the outset, and he's pointed this out during his presentation, it is an extensive bill. There are a number of changes attached to the insurances of our province, so it's important that we get it right.

And one of the first things we're going to do as an opposition is to consult with the various stakeholders that are involved with this bill. We want to be able to see what the changes are, obviously look at some of the matters that we're dealing with. Whether it's flooding, home insurance, whether it's fire insurance, Mr. Speaker, there's all these matters that are of significant interest to the people of Saskatchewan. It is a huge bill. It is a huge undertaking. We need to make sure we have the time and resources to do the exact study that is required to see what the bill is all about, what the changes are, and how that will affect the average person out there, the average family, and of course the business community as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of questions on this bill. We will be paying very close attention to some of the issues that the minister has identified. We will be consulting with stakeholders. And we'll certainly bring forward the weaknesses of the bill itself in due time, Mr. Speaker. The break gives us the opportunity to research the bill, and we will be presenting a number of issues and concerns on the bill as we begin those consultations with the various stakeholders.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, a lot of questions remain on this bill, but I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 177, *The Insurance Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Assiniboia has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 172

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 172 — *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As always, I'm honoured to be able to rise from my seat and provide comment on the debates of the day, and in particular today on *An Act respecting the Practice of Naturopathic Medicine and the College of Naturopathic Doctors of Saskatchewan*.

This is replacing another Act. We seem to have a lot of that happening this session, Mr. Speaker. And in particular it's replacing *The Naturopathy Act* which was introduced in, I guess before 1978, but it's been amended a number of times. But it

looks like this government has taken upon itself to get rid of the old Act and start fresh with a new one. As a result, we don't have any explanatory notes being provided to us nor do we have a side-by-side which explains if anything is being kept from the old bill or if everything is being thrown out.

I looked at some of the definitions and certainly there are some definitions that are being retained in the new bill from the old bill. There's a couple of other clauses that appear to have some similarities but without sort of a side-by-side or an explanatory note provided to us by the officials at the Department of Justice, it would be difficult to sort of comment on that in any great detail, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Another thing that we don't have in front of us is a good explanation by the minister as to why they felt it necessary to bring this bill forward. He gave a very, very brief introduction to the bill in his second reading speech on December 3rd, basically telling us that the bill came from I guess the 1950s, according to him, and hasn't really been updated since its inception in 1955, which really belies the amendments that have been made to the bill, at least one, two, three, four times. But apparently the amendments were not enough to warrant an update in the mind of the minister.

Anyways, he's talking about modernizing. We know that people are turning to naturopaths in greater numbers, that they provide a service for a lot of people that is a complement to Western medicine. And certainly I've availed myself of a naturopath for some of my health concerns, and it's certainly something that I think a lot of people are doing these days. There's a lot of interesting ways to treat health, and we know that Western medicine is only one part of that and there are other ways that people look for health advice and medical advice, I guess.

One of the big changes we have here is that there's a new college. They're establishing a College of Naturopathic Doctors of Saskatchewan, and it's just really a change of name. We often see this government likes to do that, change names of things to give them a fresh . . . It's like a new coat of paint, I guess, in some ways, tuning up the names. We did that with the applied institute of SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]. It's now a polytech, is the new popular name for the polytechnic. And now we see it here with the . . . it used to be the Saskatchewan Association of Naturopathic Practitioners Council, which is now the College of Naturopathic Doctors of Saskatchewan.

But I guess the role of the association has also greatly increased in this new bill. They will be a regulatory body and will have the power to stop others from providing services. So that's a good thing because it's protecting us from people who are hanging up a shingle without any sort of authorization or proper training. So we don't know that, and it's going to be very helpful for the members of the public to know that if they go to see a naturopath, this is a doctor that has been registered by this body, a professional body, rather than somebody just hanging up a shingle and saying, hey I'm a naturopath; come and see me. So that's an important change I think for the public. As members of the public turn to naturopathic medicine in greater numbers all the time, we want to ensure that they're receiving good treatment from people that are properly trained.

So the bill itself is quite extensive. It's in much greater detail than the previous bill. We have the college being established in the first part. We have the council being established in the second part. And then the bylaws themselves I think speak to the real change in approach here. In this particular Act there's bylaws that go on for three pages. There's probably 50 or 60 items that the bylaws can attend to, whereas in the previous Act I think the bylaw section there was about 15 or 14, 13 items that were identified in the bylaws. So you can see that the complexity of the bill has certainly been greatly increased, so that's important.

Once again it's difficult for me to think above the din of the Assembly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is really unfortunate when some members want to enter the debate and they don't have . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I'm having some difficulty hearing the member. I would ask that if there are conversations happening that they perhaps be taken outside the chambers. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I too was having trouble hearing myself. So thank you for the request.

Yes, the bylaws are much more extensive, much more befitting I think of a regulatory college. And then I would like to be able to take time to compare some of the requirements in this set of bylaws to the ones for the medical college as well. And I would suspect, and I think from the minister's comments, they're trying to modernize these requirements as well.

One of the big changes is that only certain people now who are accepted by the college can use the word doctor. They have to identify themselves as a doctor of naturopathic medicine. Again, I think that's a good protection for the members of the public to make sure that the people that they're dealing with are actually registered and recognized by their peers.

A number of new changes on discipline, so there's all provisions for disciplinary hearings within the naturopathic college, or the College of Naturopathic Doctors. Again, I don't know if this is similar to the new registry that the Minister of Education is setting up for teachers. So we know they're a professional body as well, and whether or not they can self-regulate, I don't know if the government is appointing some of its own appointees to the board or not. And that's something that we need to look at, whether there's an inconsistency here in the way the government is treating these types of colleges vis-à-vis the profession of teaching. And then there's some general provisions at the end.

So this is an interesting bill. I think what's really missing from the minister's introductory comments is, who asked for this? Where did it come from? Who did he consult with? We don't have any information in relation to that at all in his introductory comments. So as it so turns out, today being the last day of session before we reconvene in March, we certainly will want to take an opportunity to ask those questions in the next little while before we meet again and have an opportunity to find out if this is actually meeting the needs of the doctors of naturopathic medicine, but also the patients, the people who

seek the assistance of a naturopathic doctor. So at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 172, *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 172. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[16:00]

Bill No. 170

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 170 — *The Fire Safety Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 170, *An Act respecting Fire Safety, Fire Prevention and Emergency Response Services and making consequential amends to other Acts*.

Mr. Speaker, once again this is a consolidation bill or a whole bill that brings together a number of changes that have happened over the last number of years since 1992 when the previous legislation was passed. That bill was called *The Fire Prevention Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan we do not get the side-by-side comparisons of old legislation to new legislation like they do in Alberta and Ontario and some other places, and this is another example of a bill which would benefit from that kind of information being made available to the public and also to the opposition.

I know my colleague made the comment about *The Insurance Act* that is even a much greater, much longer bill that has the same aspect. And so I would once again suggest to the Minister of Justice that arrangements be made to follow the practices of some other provinces and make sure that everybody gets a chance to see how this type of a bill, Bill 170, changes the law or doesn't change the law, but at least you can see where the various clauses come from in previous legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have this bill. It's interesting to think about the roots of the fire prevention bill or now *The Fire Safety Act* is the short name going to be used I think for this particular bill. We know that Saskatchewan has had a provincial fire commissioner for many years, and the whole profession of firefighting has been around obviously for centuries. But in Western Canada the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs has set out how the Saskatchewan provincial fire commissioner was often the one that hosted various fire chiefs coming together.

And the first reference they have to our provincial fire commissioner is in December 1st and 2nd of 1930, when the fire commissioner hosted a convention here in Regina. Well he hosted a meeting and then they had their first convention in

Regina in the next year. And I think it's important to note that this office of the fire commissioner, which is very much the centre part of the legislation that we're talking about today, has this long history and this long place in the business of fighting fires and preventing fires in Saskatchewan. Because the question comes, well what is the office of the fire commissioner, and what is the job of that particular office?

And I think it's possible that we should at this point reference the mission of the office of the fire commissioner as stated in the information provided by that office. It's dated July of 1999, but it's based on the 1992 legislation, and I think it's how the office has been operating over the last two decades of operation. So basically the mission of the fire commissioner's office is:

... to provide communities, fire departments, and emergency service organizations throughout Saskatchewan with the information, education and leadership to enhance their capabilities to protect citizens from the devastation of fire, environmental, natural and man made emergencies.

And so how does the office of the fire commissioner fulfill the mission? Basically it fulfills it through the mandate that's set out in the present fire prevention Act of 1992. And so the first activity that they have is, "promotion and encouragement of fire prevention and the protection of life and property against fire." So that's their number one task.

Their second task is that they collect and disseminate information respecting fires in Saskatchewan. Obviously that's to make sure that we learn from the different fire incidents that happen in the province so that we can work on the prevention of further fires like that.

The third one is that they keep detailed "... records of all fires occurring in Saskatchewan, including the cause, origin, and circumstances of each fire and other information respecting each fire that the fire commissioner considers appropriate." So this is a record of the fires in the province.

Fourth task that they have is "investigating fires or causing fires to be investigated ..." So they will do the investigation themselves, or they will delegate or designate people to do investigations of fires, and also "... by holding inquiries into any fire ... [where] the fire commissioner considers it necessary to do so in order to ascertain the cause, origin, and circumstances of the fire." And I guess all of us will know about fires in our communities where it's been somewhat unclear what caused a fire, so there was a whole investigation to find out what the circumstances are.

The fifth area that they have is administering and enforcing the legislation and regulations within parkland which is considered under *The Parks Act*, so that would be provincial parks, and within regional parks under *The Regional Parks Act* of 1979.

The sixth activity is to provide training courses in firefighting and prevention.

And then finally there's a catch-all phrase to do "... any other duties that the minister may direct." And I know one of the activities that happens in that category is the international collaboration around the Underwriters Laboratories designation

of electrical cords and appliances and other things to make sure that they're appropriate for use within the electrical system that we have in Saskatchewan and other related kinds of activities which involve co-operation right across North America and in some cases right around the world.

And so we have this legislation that's important in setting out some of the tasks and the goals that are necessary for fire safety in the province.

Now what we also know is that one of the interesting little changes in the new legislation from the previous legislation is that the fire commissioner can appoint fire chiefs for parkland or for a regional park. And that's different than what used to be there because before, what it said, that you would basically make sure there's a fire service, but now there's the ability to appoint a fire chief.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that's because in our province since 1992, we have had many more communities that are permanent communities that have developed on leased land or purchased land within park boundaries or right on the edge of park boundaries or in regional parks. And in fact many times when you go to various parts of the province, you actually have more people living in the park area than you do in some of the smaller towns. And so the legislation anticipates that and will allow for the appointment of a fire chief in a provincial park or in a regional park. And I think that's a good activity, and it's one that will basically continue to be an interesting challenge because many times the communities that develop there have all of the characteristics of the local, you know, urban municipality, but they don't have all of the services, including fire, including policing, and this is an attempt to at least start the discussion about how fire safety, fire services are provided in some of those locations.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the numbers of activities that are covered by this legislation are quite extensive. I know that what we will be doing is asking, obviously, some of the people who are involved in firefighting to give us any comments as we move towards the spring session. We have had some discussion with the firefighters, but some of these things here, it's not entirely clear what the impact of it is until we actually see some of the regulations that will be part of this. And we'll also be talking with municipalities. I'm not sure if it's increasing any costs for municipalities in any way or if it's dealing with some of the issues that municipalities have around the numbers of firefighters and who does which work, where, and how some of those things happen.

So the bill is here. We're going to be continuing to look at it. I know that my colleague the other day had a chance to do quite an extensive review on a clause-by-clause basis. I'm not going to be doing that today, but I know that we'll be looking at it. And once again I make a request of the Minister of Justice that he actually provide us with the side-by-side comparison on this legislation so that it makes it easier for the public and for us to understand exactly what they're changing.

I note there are a few spelling mistakes in the legislation itself, and I'm not sure if it will need an amendment to go ahead or not, but we'll find that out when we get into committee. But at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 170, *The Fire Safety Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 145

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

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

Mr. Nilson: — Yes. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to continue to speak about Bill No. 145, *An Act respecting the Waiver of Fees and making consequential amendments to other Acts*. And if the members will recall, I had been able to go through all 16 recommendations of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan final report dated May 2013, and we were able to see which of the recommendations had been accepted and are actually part of this legislation and also which of the recommendations were deferred to another time.

I think that the concept behind the legislation is to meet the report, to look at and deal with most of the recommendations that were there. Ultimately the purpose of this legislation should be to make sure that people that don't have a lot of money are not in a situation where they have no access to justice. In other words they will have access to justice. We know that that concept is clearly one that all governments support. It becomes then a practical question of, how do people get access to the courts?

So this particular legislation will make it much easier for people who are receiving legal aid or getting advice from the Pro Bono Law or CLASSIC [Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc.] here in Saskatchewan, to make their entry into the court system. There's still a number of challenges for people who don't qualify for legal aid around the costs of justice, and they will have to be addressed in some other place.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this point I think that I have no further comments and I look forward to asking questions in committee in the spring after I've had a chance to talk to some of the people that are directly affected by this. And so at this point I will move adjournment of debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 145, *The Fee Waiver Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[16:15]

Bill No. 146

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

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill 146, *The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. And as my colleague before me was talking about some of the changes, proposed changes that were coming, and amendments, again this consequential amendment just makes some changes in some of the other Acts, Whether it's language, it just has to adjust some of the changes that are required because you're introducing legislation. So really at this time on this bill I have no further questions about it, and I'm prepared to adjourn debate on this consequential amendments 146.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 146. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 144

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

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill 144, *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014*. Before starting out I guess I'd like to just talk a little bit about violence. And I know the minister has made a number of points clear through his words he shared in his second reading, his second reading that he read into the record of some of the changes that are coming forward.

But before I get into that, I guess, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to talk about some of the challenges that some of the families face out there with violence. Today, whether it's husband-and-wife domestic violence we talk about, they're making a change so that guardianship . . . There's different reasons why you can actually have the changes to protect individuals — whether it's children, individuals, I guess, seniors — there's some changes, caregivers that would take care of individuals.

But you know, we have challenges many families have faced. They've lived in poverty. And sometimes, you know, you look at the poverty rate, you look at overcrowding, within families' own issues that they're facing, and you see some of the challenges that are facing many families — frustration trying to

provide for your family, the frustration. And you know, you see addictions affect many families, many individuals.

You know, and I think about challenges growing up as a young boy. I look at the challenges that faced our own family. You know, those are things that you'd like to hide, and you don't want anyone to know that there's violence or anything like that going on in the home. You want to . . . As a kid you're scared of it. You're scared for your loved ones.

And you see that type of activity going on. For young families to go through that, young children to have to see violence in the home, and violence — whether it's family members, could be cousins, whatever — just seeing sometimes the violence that goes on and people get into, there's many different reasons why it happens. And we know that we have to say, no more. We have to stop the violence that's going on. It does not respect the individual. And it takes so much away from individuals when someone feels like they're being attacked physically, whether it's verbally. There's many ways of abusing people, and it's gone on, you know, too long.

And I'm glad that people are saying, whether it's students I watch and I talk to, whether you see the elders, whether you see different organizations and groups calling for an end to violence against women, violence against anyone in our country, in our province. And for that, well you hear people saying for the world, it's too much. Too many people are being harmed and hurt by people who maybe are angry for whatever reason, not getting what they want. Whether they're bullies, they hurt other people. They hurt other people not only with physical violence but with their words. And we've seen some changes coming forward in legislation that we agreed to today, you know, in this House, again, that moved forward. We had many people with the human rights bill.

And I just see so much, sometimes frustration from people. And people caring and wanting to do change, whether it's our RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], our city constables having to deal with violence. And they go into those situations and probably for them . . . I can't speak for them because I've never had to deal with that in the sense as, you know, police officers have to go right there. And they're the first ones on the scene, and they probably deal with children and, you know, many children sort of suffer. So when I think about violence overall and some of the changes that are needed.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to just talk a little bit about also, like, there are so many challenges that families face, and there's reasons why. People go to doing addictions, if that's what it is. Whether it's living in poverty, many challenges out there, trying to provide for your family. We don't know what the causes are, but we see the families that are suffering. And whether it's overcrowding, like I said, whether it's trying to make ends meet, trying to put food on the table to feed a family, husband and wife, and you're seeing it.

But this amendment gives not only that domestic, it also gives for those individuals who are caregivers, to make sure they're doing right with someone. And you might be . . . And I think it goes further, and we'll find out when we're in committee. And I know we're going to ask people.

And this is a bill I think that will gain a lot of attention from people. I have talked to individuals who are concerned and want to bring forward some, I guess, questions, concerns they have. And I know we're going to reach out to them. We're going to talk to them. I've met with a couple already. And I know I will share that with my colleagues are going to hear from them. They're going to put some information, and they have some data and some, I guess, alarming . . . And the need, what they need from our government, not only provincially but federally, to protect, you know, women and men and families, anyone that's in the domestic, you know, situation or anyone that's being, you know, abused in any way, there is provisions that need to be taken, and the government has to do that.

And people rely on the government, the government to protect you, you know, introduce legislation that will protect the most vulnerable. And sometimes those could be caregivers that are in a home and someone speaks for them in decision-making, making some tough decisions. So we have to go a long way to look at what are the changes coming and to work through that, and what are the challenges.

And there are many challenges, but it's good that we see changes coming in, and we can have a discussion. We can go out to the community, to our province and ask people, you know, what is the best way? What can we do? We need to talk to a lot of our Aboriginal organizations who have a lot of information. And it's not just the Aboriginal organizations. There's many organizations that can bring light and shed some light and some meaningful change that will maybe lessen the challenge and abuse and the violence that's against individuals in this province. Because I think for too long there has been way too much violence against women, against anyone, and it needs to change.

And I think we, as legislative members and colleagues on both sides, need to take a stand saying, no more. We stand against this; we stand with those that need our support. And I hope all members will do that. And as an individual I know there has been different times where we wear ribbons. And back home we talk about ending violence against women and ending violence against our brothers and our sisters.

And many organizations do a great thing to bring awareness, awareness about such issues that face so many challenges. And whether it's verbal, like I said, whether it's physical, there are many — mental. There's many different ways one can do harm to another individual. And you know, words sometimes can be just as, as we see in this House, can be pretty vicious sometimes and can do some damage. But having said that, we hope at the end of the day we'll work in a positive way. We'll get the information we need, and we'll get this right. And we'll make sure that families and individuals, children, students, those that are being, you know, in a situation where they're being abused or domestic violence that it ends the violence.

You know, I think about missing Aboriginal women, you know, and murdered Aboriginal women. I think about that: whether it's brothers, sisters, there are so many Aboriginal people and many citizens that go missing. And there's groups that are raising that alarm bell. They're calling for a commission, you know. They want to have a task force to look at this to find out and to sit down and find out what ways our governments can do

better. And we need to stand together. We need to support those individuals.

And I hope all members of this House and all citizens of our province see what's going on with missing, murdered, and Aboriginal women. It is alarming. It is shameful. And our record, even in Saskatchewan, is not very . . . And I think I've heard different people say our record's probably one of the worst ones. I hope that's not, but I've heard people say that. And I kind of . . . You know, you don't want to pay attention to it, in the sense of hopefully it isn't, because we've got to work together. We have a population where it's rural, urban, North. We have to work together. We have to make sure our most vulnerable are protected.

And this government and this Legislative Assembly has a job to do. And we as individuals, as individual citizens and as individual persons have a job to do. And I know we need to do that, and we have to work in a very positive way. And I'm hoping at the end of the day, we can work together. If we have areas where we can improve things by suggestions by citizens coming forward, different groups, organizations, leaders who are calling the calls and saying it has to end, it has to stop. The violence has to stop.

And, you know, I just want to say a big thank you, and I mean this from my heart, to all those individuals out there working hard to end violence against women, to end violence against citizens of our province. There's so many different groups who are trying to bring the awareness and do a great job. And sometimes, you know, it probably isn't a very thankful position they're put in. But I just want to say to them, I thank you for raising the concerns for our children, whether they're in school, whether they're at home, for those that see the violence, the awareness. And then I think about the shelters, and you know, there's many shelters out there that . . .

You look at domestic violence, and you look at those issues that face those families. And when they're terrified, the children are so terrified, I know what that's like. I know what that's like to be a child and you don't have any control. You don't know what's going on, but you have to go through that. And you love your parents. And you love your caregivers, but you go through those challenges. And for any family and any child, it is so tough on those families and those children.

So I hope we're there and trying to support and putting an end to it, and we all make a stand when we see it going on in our communities. And you know, sometimes we don't want to get involved because oh, oh, don't get involved. Don't get involved. Look the other way. Try to ignore it like you didn't see it. And I think it's time that we all have to stand together as a province, but also as citizens and say, no more. We will make a stand. I'm going to get involved. I will make a phone call. If it is to the authority, I will do that. I will make sure those kids, that person is protected. It doesn't matter if it's a senior. It doesn't matter if it's a, you know, a man, a woman, child, a senior. It doesn't matter about their age. It just means we have to make a stand saying we have to protect and we have to say no.

And you know, when I look at this, there's some of the changes. And I know one of the changes that they're going to talk about,

there's a number of them, but they're going to change it from domestic to interpersonal, individuals. And if that's one of the changes they're making, changing it from domestic, then that opens it up to a broader group of people and I guess there can be changes made. I'm hoping at the end of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the government has it right. They're willing to make changes if it need be, but to listen to the people. Who did they consult?

It's a good start, and we need to end it. There's so much going on when it comes to violence, you know, violence for whatever reasons. We don't understand it. There can be addictions, it can be under mental health issues. There's so many different reasons why it happens. And you can point fingers at it and blame, but at the end of the day we need to stop it. We need to do the right thing.

So at this point I know I'm going to reach out, and I've already got some individuals that are going to give us some information to our side of the House and to make sure we can share that with government. And we'll share that with the government freely when we're asking questions to get the information when it goes to committee, but we'll do our part.

So at this point, you know, I'm prepared to allow my colleagues to have other discussions on it, and I'm prepared to adjourn debate on this bill. I think it's an important bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There's a lot of work to do, but we have to continue working to protect the most vulnerable. So with that, I adjourn debate on the bill.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 152

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

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill 152, I just want to just add some . . . I know this is consequential amendments that they're making and come forward. And just for the record I'll read into the record exactly what it is so you can . . . The bill simply amends the bilingual Queen's Bench Act, 1998 to update the reference to the Act from *The Victims of Domestic Violence Act* to the victim of interpersonal victims Act. So that's the change, consequential change that's coming forward. It's a pretty straightforward amendment, the consequential amendment Act, going on the previous bill.

So at this day, on this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hour, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on this consequential amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 152. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[16:30]

Bill No. 141

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into discussion here this afternoon as it relates to Bill No. 141, the archives amendment Act.

Certainly the archives play a very important role in our province, moving forward historically in weaving together our intricate story and our history and preserving that public record. And certainly we need to make sure that the changes that are being made here today serve the best interests of our province, that they reflect the modern pressures and challenges that archivists are facing to make sure they have the resources and tools required to them. And when you think of all the history that is told from archives, and a history that's important to inform decisions into the future, there's so many reasons why this is important.

Certainly I know of the importance of the archives. I also know of the incredible wealth of history and information that's in place. I remember going, just a few years back, to search a certain document, and I thought I'd be in and out. And then, Mr. Speaker, all of sudden I got into a whole wealth of resources that were there that provided such a unique history that I end up spending hours in the archives, and certainly appreciate the role they fulfill to members of the legislature like us, but most importantly to the public as a whole.

I know that this . . . I understand that this will make, some of the changes, make rules more strict and will ensure more documents are preserved. That seems to be a good thing.

There's definitely questions that are important as to what consultation occurred to inform this process: who did they reach out to, they as in government, to make sure that they get this right and making sure that the system's in place, not just to have a new rule around capturing more information, but then making sure that there's adequate systems to maintain those records, make them accessible to the public. And certainly all these are important.

I know, like any other bill, we'll be scrutinizing this legislation,

working directly with community partners and stakeholders who will certainly inform our dialogue as it relates to this bill.

I know that the minister has put, you know, significant statements onto the record at the time that he introduced the bill. I appreciate that, everything from the fines that he's laid out to the governance changes that are being introduced, and as well clarifying the role of the Provincial Archivist. I'm sure these are all helpful pieces. He speaks as well to the importance of the Provincial Archives, something that certainly we share.

An important piece is keeping modern and making sure that you have the tools that you need, the resources that you need to meet the modern times. And then when you think of electronic records and the Internet, certainly there's new questions that need to be answered on that front. And making sure new tools avail to make sure that archives can be relevant and strong and purposeful for many, many years to come to aid the future development of our province. And I know there's also some changes that have been brought forward because of *The Health Information Protection Act*, the HIPA legislation. And so we'll want to make sure we understand the full consequences of those decisions.

But you know, I know in the coming months we'll be engaging and listening to community stakeholders and partners to make sure this legislation captures the need. We'll also be of course making sure that the resources that are required are in place. That's a critical piece. And we'll certainly look forward to bringing forward the consultation we hear and the questions that may emerge to the minister to seek clarity in the processes before us. At this point in time I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 141, the archives amendment Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 141. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 142

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course these consequential amendments are in direct response to the bill that was introduced, Bill No. 141, the archives amendment Act. These are the consequential amendments to follow. Certainly it's going to be important for us to make sure that government's done its homework in making sure they have their legislation in order, making sure their consultation has been done to make sure that archives can serve our province and our community well into the future in the way that they

have in the past, recognizing some of the modern pressures and realities that they're facing.

I know that there's just an impressive wealth of information contained, of history contained by archives. As an example, the minister referenced that since April 1st of this year archives has retrieved 656 disposal requests involving 6,000 boxes of material, has authorized 1800 metres of public record for disposal, and has identified 146 metres of record for transfer to the archives for historical preservation. So these are the kinds of pressures that archives are dealing with. We need to make sure that this legislation is as strong as it can be to preserve our history, to guide our future, Mr. Speaker. And certainly it'll be the aim of the official opposition to consult directly with stakeholders and make sure that that's the case.

We see far too often, on too many fronts, this government rams forward with their own agenda, not listening to direct stakeholders and bringing forward flawed legislation. I'm not suggesting that that's the case with this legislation right here, but it's an important reminder for us that we need to do the consultation, the listening, with community partners.

We invite anyone who's tracking this debate, who may have concerns or have opinions or who see strengths in this legislation, to connect directly with us as the official opposition, because that will certainly allow a constructive process that ensures the legislation to be as strong as it can be.

So at this point in time, as it relates to Bill No. 142, the archives amendment Act, I adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 147

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

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to enter into the debate on Bill No. 147, *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014*.

Mr. Speaker, I think before talking about this bill it's important to talk about what exactly a class action lawsuit is, Mr. Speaker. And this existing Act, which will be amended, what does it do? Well, class actions, we've heard of many famous ones. I'm sure most of us can take our minds to whether it was a class action suit about silicone breast implants, about Maple Leaf listeriosis issue a few years ago. There are many famous class action suits, Mr. Speaker.

"*The Class Actions Act* sets out the rules for class actions in Saskatchewan." This is from the ministry of Saskatchewan's . . . Ministry of Justice's website here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So in order to have a class action suit, Mr. Speaker:

An application must be made by a member of a class, on behalf of other members of the class, to the Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench to name a judge to conduct a hearing for certification as a class action.

So the judge has to decide if:

The cause of the action is appropriate subject matter for a class action; there are two or more potential claimants; the claims raise a common issue; a class action is the preferable procedure; and the representative plaintiff will adequately represent the interests of the class.

The Court establishes [Mr. Speaker] the boundaries of the class action by determining: the class (i.e., by describing what constitutes a particular class); the nature of the claims and common issues; and how a member of the class can opt-out of the class.

The Court determines the method of notice and the contents of the notice that must be given to members of the class. Notification is necessary to allow class members to opt-out and, once the action is resolved, to advise class members what they need to do to receive compensation.

In appropriate instances, the Court may certify a multi-jurisdictional class action involving individuals who reside both within and outside of Saskatchewan. Where a multi-jurisdictional class action is certified, class members who reside outside of Saskatchewan do not have to take special steps to remain part of the class action but maintain the option to opt-out.

The Act includes provisions respecting remedies that may be ordered by the Court. Damage awards can be assessed on an individual basis or the Court can grant aggregate awards of monetary relief and apportion among class members entitlement to the pool of money.

This particular bill which is amending *The Class Actions Act*, Mr. Speaker, makes a few changes here. A particular change, and the minister lays this out in his second reading speech, that this particular bill:

. . . will provide courts authority to award costs in class actions in appropriate circumstances. In allowing costs to be assessed, [the Minister talks about how] the bill will also provide the judge discretion to take into consideration the following factors when deciding whether [or not] to award costs.

So the judge can think about ". . . the public interest; whether the action involved a novel point of law; whether the action was a test case; access to justice for members of the public using class action proceedings; any other factors that the court considers appropriate."

So, Mr. Speaker, the minister points out that this Act ". . . will

restore the discretion to the courts to control their own processes, as in regular litigation matters, while still addressing the unique access-to-justice concerns that arise with class action litigation."

When we think about class action, I think the minister described it very well, that "Class actions allow for more efficient use of the court resources by consolidating similar matters into a single claim," Mr. Speaker. They ". . . also increase access to justice for groups of individuals who lack the means to pursue litigation on their own. And defendants also, Mr. Speaker, can benefit from class actions by defending multiple claims through a single set of proceedings.

I think when we . . . It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that a more recent class action in the last couple of years here in Canada, which I think should be relevant or on the minds of MLAs here and legislators and people in general here in Saskatchewan, is a transvaginal mesh class action suit that commenced in Canada in 2012. A law firm in Ontario has launched a class action against Johnson & Johnson and related entities regarding their transvaginal mesh products, Mr. Speaker.

We've actually here in Saskatchewan, I believe about a year and a half ago, had several women come to the legislature to talk about the negative effects they've experienced from transvaginal mesh and the need to have a full mesh removal, Mr. Speaker, which they argue is not available here in Canada, and they've had to go to the States to have the mesh removed, Mr. Speaker. And that's an ongoing debate here. I continue to work with some of these women. And they've actually applied to the Ministry of Health and have been rejected on their appeals to have their surgery for full mesh removal funded, Mr. Speaker, because the government argues that it can be done here in Canada. But the women have disagreed. I've spoken to medical professionals who disagree. I've spoken to actually a physiotherapist who does pelvic floor work, Mr. Speaker, and she has seen women who have had partial mesh removals still experiencing mesh coming out of their bodies, Mr. Speaker. So there's a debate going on whether or not the government should be funding out-of-country mesh removals, Mr. Speaker.

Manitoba actually has gone that direction. Its Health minister, who I'll note is a female, a couple of years ago, well actually just over a year ago, probably about 14 or 15 months ago has supported ensuring that the Manitoba women who come forward with issues around transvaginal mesh have the opportunity to have that fully removed, Mr. Speaker, so they can begin getting a bit of their life back.

But there is currently a lawsuit Mr. Speaker. I'll explain a little bit about what transvaginal mesh products are. So this class action suit isn't specific to mesh removal, Mr. Speaker, but about women saying that Johnson & Johnson has damaged them, Mr. Speaker.

Transvaginal mesh products are also referred to as pelvic mesh products. Vaginal mesh, a hammock or a sling, are used to treat stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse in women. These products are alleged to have high failure, injury, and complication rate which could result in frequent and often debilitating reoperations and potentially cause severe and irreversible injuries, conditions, and damage. So the statement

of claim alleges that Johnson & Johnson failed to adequately warn patients and physicians of the magnitude of the risk of serious side effects when using one of their transvaginal mesh products compared to alternative treatments. Possible side effects include mesh erosion through the vaginal wall, infection, pain, bladder perforation, vaginal scarring, pain during sexual intercourse, and other problems which may lead to a significant decrease in quality of life due to discomfort and pain.

[16:45]

Mr. Speaker, I've met with many women here in Saskatchewan who have experienced this very issue. It doesn't happen in every individual but there is enough women who've experienced this that it should be on the radar for legislators everywhere, Mr. Speaker. In fact actually Health Canada has a warning and they've recently issued an important safety information on surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse, Mr. Speaker. So Health Canada has a warning about these particular products in trying to ensure that medical practitioners are helping women have full informed consent when they decide to go through with some of these surgeries, Mr. Speaker. So I think anyway when we talk about class action lawsuits, this particular one, I think, should be on all our radar, Mr. Speaker.

So again it's a very simple bill about the ability for judges to be able to award costs, Mr. Speaker. It's fairly straightforward. I think the one thing that stands out about this bill, that this is retroactive. So I know in committee we'll have some questions about why the need to have it retroactive. What was the thinking behind it? And there will also need to be some questions on how this will impact existing suits before the courts, Mr. Speaker. So we will have some questions in committee, but for now I would like to move to adjourn debate for Bill No. 147, *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 143

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate here this afternoon on Bill No. 143, *The Degree Authorization Amendment Act*. And I've read the minister's comments here today and it lays out what he sees as the purpose of the bill and that seems reasonable, taking, you know, a first glance at the minister's comments. Certainly it's going to be important, when we're talking about this piece of legislation, to make sure that the consultation has occurred with

these incredibly important stakeholders that are vital to our province's future success and the success of all young people in this province.

I know that the minister has laid it out that this will provide greater accessibility. Certainly that in itself is a very important aim and one that should be worked towards. The question may be as to whether or not this is the best way forward, whether it can be improved, whether there's other ways forward. I know accessibility is a very important aspect of our post-secondary education system so we'll look at how these changes impact accessibility. I know some of the very practical accessibility challenges that many families face and they're just not understood by the government, it seems, and that's the cost of accessing a post-secondary education. And for far too many there's a direct barrier by way of those impediments to be all they can be. And that's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, because the way I see it, we need to extend opportunity to all Saskatchewan people that have the ability and the interest in being able to continue to learn to expand their credentials and to give back to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, whether that be socially, culturally, or economically, Mr. Speaker.

So when I hear about accessibility, certainly we'll look to the specific measures in this bill that the minister is looking at. And they may be reasonable but we never want to take, of course, a focus off the very important aspects of accessibility which is the ability to rent a place to live, for example, Mr. Speaker, or the cost of tuition itself. We're now, I understand, we're the second highest in Canada, Mr. Speaker. And for a province that's booming, for a province that requires our young people to be all they can be and to give back to our province, we shouldn't have these sorts of barriers in place. In many ways, I think that that's an area that definitely requires focus. And it gets to that issue of affordability and the general cost of living that just is, I guess, a loss of this government in their understanding or the fact that this government just doesn't get the financial pressures — the cost of living and affordability crunch that students are facing, that families are facing, and that seniors are facing, Mr. Speaker.

The bill itself also, I understand, as referenced by the minister . . . He suggests that it ensures a robust quality assurance process, a regulatory process, Mr. Speaker. That's going to be important for us to fully understand what's being presented by this minister, how it aligns with some of the stakeholders, Mr. Speaker, some of the concerns they may have, and that'll be important for us on the side of consultation moving forward.

The minister does state that this protects the U of R [University of Regina] and the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], and certainly that's important. These are incredible institutions, incredible universities that have helped build who we are as a province, will continue to shape who we are as a province, but they've also contributed in so many ways to leadership in our country, in our world. And that needs to not only be continued but enabled to progress and grow and grow further, Mr. Speaker.

So I know in the coming days, weeks, and months on this front, this side of the Assembly, the official opposition, will be welcoming any submissions from the sector, from the universities, from the post-secondary partners as it relates to

this bill, to make sure that this bill meets their needs, to make sure concerns are understood, to make sure that we do all we can to make sure this bill is as effective and as helpful as it can be. And if, as we see in so many other pieces of legislation, if this government has rammed forward with their own agenda, one that hasn't understood some of the realities on the ground, the realities of stakeholders, then that consultation will be critically important to get this legislation on track and make sure that we can serve Saskatchewan students and our province as a whole in the way that we should be, in the way that we can be, Mr. Speaker.

So some of the aims laid out by the minister with this legislation seem very reasonable, ones that we would be supportive of. But whether or not this legislation is as effective as it could be, is expanding some of the legislation in a way that reflects the needs of post-secondary partners, is something that we'll derive directly out of consultation and listening to post-secondary partners.

At this point in time too, any institution, any university, any post-secondary partner that's watching this legislation and observing this legislation that has an interest, we welcome their input, just the same we do for all Saskatchewan families and people and students to make sure we address it. But just again, just before I close, one of the aims of this legislation is to improve accessibility. Certainly that's pretty rich, Mr. Speaker, from this government that just really doesn't get the affordability pressures families are facing. And for students, those pressures are real. Those pressures are hard and for far too many, they're an absolute barrier to the education that they deserve. And by limiting that education, we limit ourselves socially and economically, Mr. Speaker, and we can be better than that as a province at this place in time.

So with that being said, we'll engage with partners. We'll engage with the minister in committee and in broader debate through this Assembly. But I move adjournment of Bill No. 143, *The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2014*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 151

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to speak to Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker. And I've read some of the comments of the Health minister on this front. In fact his comments were very brief, so on this bill we've been left with very brief information as to what this bill is all about. But what we have been left with

seems to be very reasonable goals. The question is whether or not this government's consulted with the profession, with those delivering health care across Saskatchewan, and whether or not this bill is all it can be in improving health care for Saskatchewan residents.

Certainly I'm a strong supporter of proper scope of practice, expanded scope of practice to allow us to be as effective as we can as a health care system. So certainly there's a suggestion that this expands some of the scope of practice of pharmacists. And certainly that seems reasonable, particularly where the items that they're expanding scope on seem reasonable.

It's worthy to note that the pharmacist is often the first point of contact for families across Saskatchewan. That might be particularly so the case in many parts of rural Saskatchewan. And so certainly they fulfill a very important role to the health of Saskatchewan people.

This bill, I understand, will bring about changes that will allow prescription and administration of vaccines. We're going to continue to listen to the health partners on this front to ensure that this legislation makes sense. Certainly that seems very reasonable in what's being put forward. But as I have said on other bills, Mr. Speaker, far too often with this Sask Party government we've seen them ram forward with their own agenda and not listen to the direct stakeholders on the ground — which is why we're going to be working directly with health care professions across Saskatchewan, with the pharmacists, with Saskatchewan patients, and listening to make sure that this bill is appropriate and in fact improves health care, which has to be the goal.

I know certainly I support expansion of the scope of practice, and this is an important aspect around being as effective as we can be as a health care system, which certainly needs to be our goal.

So at this point in time though, Mr. Speaker, I know the minister's comments were very brief. We look forward to further debate around this bill and certainly having clarity from the minister through processes to have full expansion of who he's consulted and what this bill enables. At this point in time, I adjourn debate for Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 150

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 150 — *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As always, it's a great honour to be able to rise in this Legislative Assembly and provide commentary on the legislative agenda of this government. In this case we see some amendments to *The Residential Tenancies Act*. A number of the changes that are being proposed are clerical in a sense.

But I think before I get into the minister's comments with respect to the bill and some of the technical aspects of the bill, I think we have to remember who is putting this bill on the Table. And we're talking about a government that is willing to support developers over desperate homeless people, and in fact a government that even thinks that there aren't desperate homeless people.

So we know that housing is one of the single most important issues facing a number of, certainly, people in my constituency, Mr. Speaker. And in fact I think that's the single most important issue facing most people in urban areas these days is adequate housing and affordable housing, particularly for the folks that we know that are on fixed incomes.

And in my riding that happens to be a lot of seniors and a lot of students where they've managed to find a place to live. They don't own their own home. They have managed to figure out a way to live within their means, with the rent being a certain amount. And then the rent is put up \$100 and that completely throws them for a loop and they find it very, very difficult. They're choosing whether or not to take medications or to buy food.

And we know that the cost of housing has sent seniors in record numbers to the food bank. And that's something that, I think, in this day when we have a government that's getting \$14 billion in revenues and spending it as fast as they can, that there isn't enough priority being given for people who are suffering, people who are on fixed incomes that cannot keep pace with the costs of . . .

The Speaker: — It now being after the hour of 5 o'clock, this House stands recessed to 7 p.m.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]

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