



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

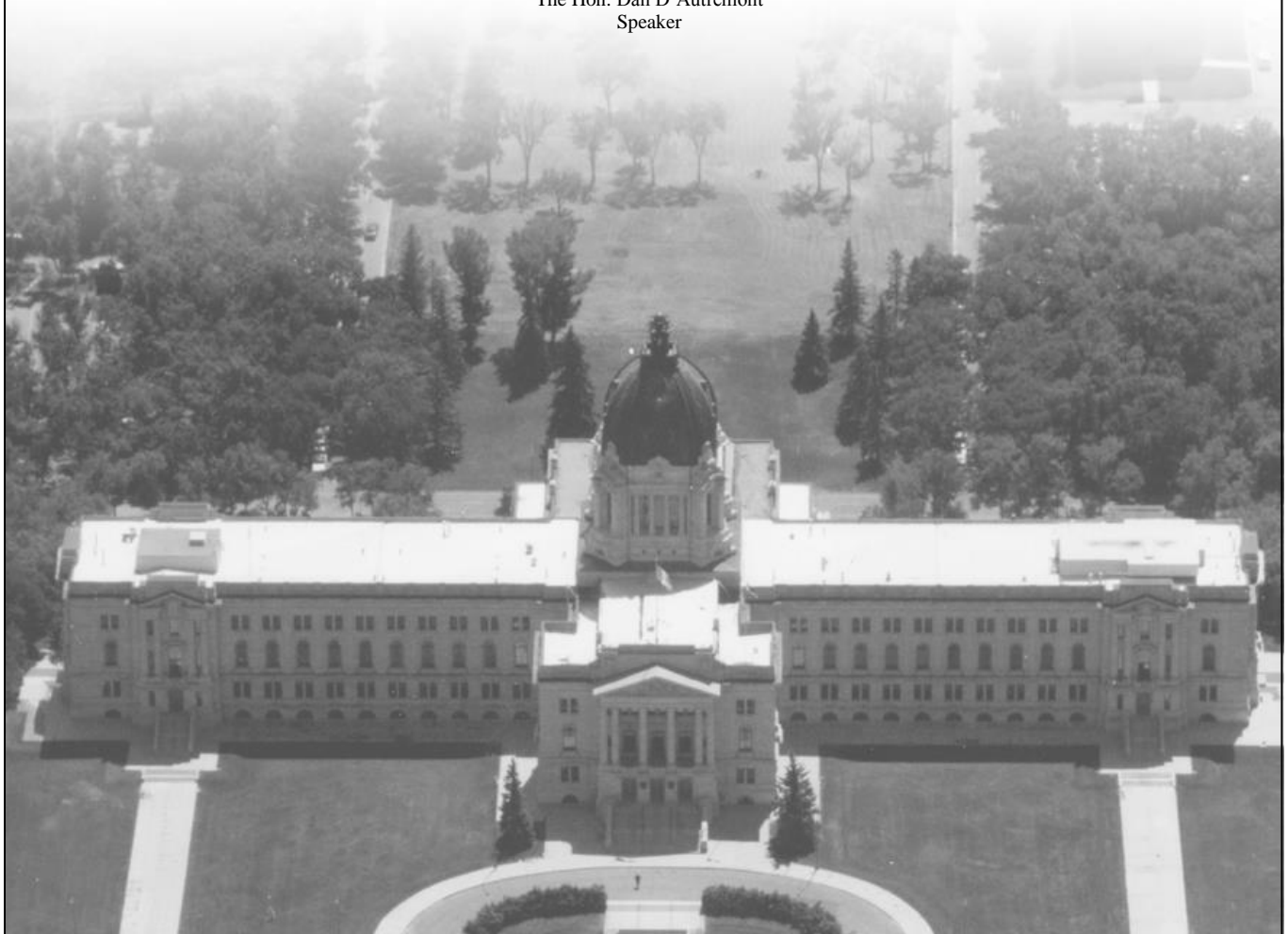
of the

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
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Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
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Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
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Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
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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
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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
Vacant		Prince Albert Carlton

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — With leave, Mr. Speaker, I request an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all of our colleagues, it is my pleasure to introduce, in the west gallery, a group of French students from Monseigneur de Laval High School here in Regina.

And with the students and their chaperones, we have some other representatives from the francophone community, known in Saskatchewan as the Fransaskois, joining us here today. In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Françoise Sigur-Cloutier is the president of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, a provincial organization that builds and strengthens the francophone community here in Saskatchewan. James Daschuk, a historian, author, and winner of the Canadian Historical Association's Sir John A. Macdonald prize for his non-fiction work entitled *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*. And thirdly, we have André Denis, chair of the Fransaskois school board, joining us here today. I understand he's reasonably new to the job and he may get an additional introduction from the Minister of Education. But we'd like to thank all of our guests for joining us here this afternoon.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to let all members and citizens know that March 6th to 22nd has been proclaimed as Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2015 in Saskatchewan. There will be more on this topic forthcoming during members' statements. But I might say that it's my pleasure as the Provincial Secretary for francophone affairs to encourage all citizens to join us in celebrating the Francophonie in the great province of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Merci, monsieur le Député, et je voudrais aussi dire bonjour et bienvenue à nos collègues fransaskois. C'est une bonne opportunité pour célébrer la culture fransaskoise en Saskatchewan.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would also like to say hello and welcome to our Fransaskois colleagues. It's a

good opportunity to celebrate Fransaskois culture in Saskatchewan.]

Therefore I'd like to say, on behalf of the official opposition, welcome to all the francophone people here today in their legislature, and I hope you have a great Rendez-vous. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite and with the member from Cypress Hills grasslands in welcoming these people to the Assembly today. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Don Michaud, who is the director of the francophone school division, and Dolorèse Nolette who is the deputy director. I have on a number of occasions recently met with the board Chair, André Denis, who happens to be from St-Denis. I'm not from St. Morgan myself; I haven't been able to get to that point yet. But I want to anyway welcome them to their legislature.

We are working through a variety of things right now and enjoying the time. And these are people that are truly committed to francophone education in our province and to education in a general sense. So I'd like to ask all members to join in welcoming them today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce some good friends today in the west gallery. Today we have with us Gail and Jim Sack who later today are going to be meeting with the Rural and Remote Health minister after question period.

But Gail was the former mayor of the town of Battleford and currently is a lab and X-ray tech at Prairie North in the Frontier Mall. Jim owns Sad Sacks' Welding and a very good welding shop in town, in North Battleford, that does very well. Jim and I played hockey together for lots of years, and by our own admissions, we're pretty good hockey players. But Jim is most notably for his post-game activity. He was tremendous at it. Accompanying them is Jim's brother Bruce and his wife, Irene. And I would ask all members to welcome them to this Assembly.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to give a special introduction to the Queen of Caramel from Moose Jaw. Emmy Barr is here today with her mom and dad, Dalton and Penny.

And just a little background, is Emmy just recently competed in the Just Watch Me! contest for the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities in rural Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and I'll have more on that in a member's statement. Yet along with growing this business, Emmy and her family, because they're here, asked me to mention a special thank you to both the SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] program and

SACL [Saskatchewan Association for Community Living] for giving her all the support needed to make this dream a reality.

So with that, I would like to ask all members to welcome Emmy to her Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of education. And we know that education is one of the most vital services the government provides to its citizens; and that this government has failed to deliver a long-term plan and vision and the necessary resources to prioritize the delivery of educational excellence; and that this government has failed to deliver a real plan to close the Aboriginal education gap, support English as an additional language, support community schools and their communities and students. And we know that we must build the best education system for today and Saskatchewan's future. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to immediately prioritize education by laying out a long-term vision and plan with the necessary resources to provide the best quality education for Saskatchewan that reflects Saskatchewan's demographic and population changes, that is based on proven educational best practices, that is developed through consultation with the education sector, and that builds strong educational infrastructure to serve students and communities long into the future.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Moose Jaw. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the unsafe conditions created by that government on Dewdney Avenue when they failed to plan adequately and appropriately and inundated Dewdney Avenue with dangerous heavy-haul truck traffic. 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 are signed today by concerned residents of

Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

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 and it is 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 the skyrocketing home ownership cost. 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 addressing homelessness in the Lac La Ronge area.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present a petition today in support of better seniors' care. The petitioners point out that many seniors are having to wait in hospital beds due to the lack of spaces in care facilities. They talk about hearing an increasing number of stories about the adverse effects of chronic understaffing in seniors' care facilities, including unanswered calls for help, seniors being left unattended on toilets for hours, and seniors not receiving baths for weeks at a time. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to immediately undertake meaningful steps to improve the quality of seniors' care in our province, including in creating more spaces and more choices for seniors; ensuring higher standards of care in public facilities, private facilities, and for home care; ensuring appropriate staffing levels in seniors' care facilities; and providing more support to help seniors remain independent in their own homes for as long as they desire.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed from folks from Regina, Moose Jaw and Rosetown as well, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition for real action on climate change. The individuals who have signed this petition wish to bring to your attention the following: that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in Canada; that the Saskatchewan government has failed to tackle climate change, reduce emissions to the province's own targets, or put in a real plan to protect the natural environment; and that since 2009 the

Government of Saskatchewan has reduced climate change funding by 83 per cent.

So in the prayer that reads as follows, they respectfully request:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enact a real plan and allocate appropriate funding in the provincial budget to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encouraging everyone in the province to take real action to protect the environment.

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by individuals from Langenburg, Cut Knife, and Vanscoy. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2015

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to stand in the House today to announce that March 6th to 22nd has been proclaimed as Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2015 in Saskatchewan.

Rendez-vous is a chance for all residents to join with other Canadians to celebrate the French language and culture. It is held each year in Canada in March to promote the French language and francophonie culture. It also coincides with the International Day of Francophonie, which is celebrated on March 20th.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that 2015 marks two important anniversaries for the Fransaskois community. It marks 25 years of having a dedicated provincial government office coordinating French language services and a decade of the Fransaskois flag as an official provincial emblem.

Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan, Rendez-vous recognizes the historic contributions to the cultural, to the economic and the social fabric of our province for more than a century. Their role in the province's future is more relevant now than ever as an increasing number of French-speaking newcomers continue making Saskatchewan their home and contribute to our growing economy. I encourage all citizens to celebrate with us la Francophonie in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Merci, monsieur le Président. Je me lève en ma place en reconnaissance de la Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2015. C'est une célébration nationale de la langue et la culture francophone. En Saskatchewan c'est une culture très vieille, très importante, et très établie. Mais la culture fransaskoise n'est pas quelque chose stagnante et ce n'est pas fixée dans le temps. Chaque journée beaucoup de nouveaux canadiens arrivent en notre province des pays francophones. Ils et elles enrichent notre province avec leurs traditions et leurs identités, et aussi renforcent notre communauté francophone.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in my place in

recognition of la Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2015. It's a national celebration of francophone language and culture. In Saskatchewan it's a very old, important, and established culture. But the Fransaskois culture isn't something stagnant or fixed in time. Each day many new Canadians arrive in our province from French-speaking countries. They enrich our province with their traditions and their identities, and also strengthen our francophone community.]

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Saskatchewan's growing and diverse francophone community, I'm proud to rise in the Assembly and recognize Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2015. Marked annually all across our country, Rendez-vous celebrates French language and culture. This year's motto is "La Joie de vivre: Ca nous rassemble," which of course means the joy of life brings us all together. Certainly there will be many joyous events with this year's Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, and I encourage all members to find an event in their community this weekend to celebrate this important part of the Saskatchewan story.

So I ask that all députés [Translation: members] join me in sending a big merci [Translation: thank you] to Françoise Sigur-Cloutier and all of those at the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise who have been working so hard to make this year's Rendez-vous de la Francophonie a success. Merci, monsieur le Président. [Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

[13:45]

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

Queen of Caramel

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in the House today to not only speak about an amazing constituent of Moose Jaw who has overcome so many obstacles, but someone who has also achieved incredible success in such a short period of time. Twenty-year-old Emmy Barr submitted a video of her business, Queen of Caramel, to the community futures entrepreneurs with disabilities program, or EDP, in the Just Watch Me contest.

EDP provides business advice, training, mentorship, and access to repayable business loans for people with disabilities or ongoing health concerns in Manitoba or Saskatchewan. Although born with Williams Syndrome, Emmy has always been at home in the kitchen, starting up Queen of the Caramel in grade 12 through Junior Achievement.

Emmy placed second in the seasoned entrepreneur category through EDP, earning her a cash prize and many tools to help grow her business. Thankful for all of the media attention her business has received because of the competition, Emmy is truly living her dream.

Mr. Speaker, although Emmy does not have storefront to sell her caramels, I would encourage everyone who passes through Moose Jaw to look up the Queen of Caramel and pick up some of her treats. It is truly young entrepreneurs like Emmy who are keeping Saskatchewan strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Graduate Students' Association Awards

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on March 7th, I along with the Minister of Education had the pleasure to attend the third annual University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association Graduate Awards Gala.

The awards recipients not only demonstrated the remarkable depth and quality of research taking place at the graduate level at the University of Saskatchewan, but they also reflect the wide diversity of our student university campus and of our province as a whole, with Indigenous award winners as well as other student winners from around the world.

Engineering student Ahmed Abdel-Salam was the recipient of the Research Excellence in Sciences Award. Belinda Daniels from Sturgeon Lake First Nation was awarded the Excellence in Aboriginal Research Award. Keshini Madara Marasinghe was the recipient of the Professional Excellence Award. Zohreh Izadifar was recognized for her work with the Interdisciplinary Research Excellence Award. Professor Alexander Moewes was awarded the Advising Excellence Award. Annie Battiste was recognized with Exceptional Academic Counsellor for her years of service to graduate students, and Omeasoo Butt, the first Aboriginal president of the GSA [Graduate Students' Association], was awarded with Outstanding Past GSA Executive Award.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the award recipients and wish them well as they continue in their research and the pursuit of knowledge here in Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Rural Firefighters Honoured

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great privilege that I wish to recognize Big River and District Fire Chief Paul Watier, Deputy Fire Chief Darryl Meyers, Captain Doug Panter, and Captain Chad Dunn. All of these individuals were recipients of the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal for their 20 years or more of full-time service. All medals were given to the recipients by the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield.

Mr. Speaker, in rural communities such as Big River, many of the firefighting services are run by volunteers. Yet in both urban and rural centres, we rely on firefighters to protect not only our properties and homes, but also to be emergency responders to vehicle accidents. Although they undergo professional training and certification, these community members are depended on to step up at all hours of the day and help their community in dangerous situations. Rural firefighters also have full-time careers alongside the commitment to fire services. It can truly be an exhausting position.

I'm very thankful that such committed individuals are protecting the citizens of Big River and district. I would ask that

all of my colleagues join me in thanking and congratulating the members of the Big River and District Fire Services for their long-time commitment and duty to their job and their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

Borden Team Competes in Canadian Firefighters' Curling Championship

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to rise in the House today to announce that skip Ian Wainwright's team from Borden will be representing Saskatchewan at the upcoming Canadian Firefighters' Curling Championship in Valleyfield, Quebec next month. The team, made up of Barry Saunders, Randy Hosegood, Eric Pearce and Kelly Salmon, defeated Moosomin's Dale Nixon at the championship in Martensville.

Mr. Speaker, this bonspiel has been going for 56 years, showing that Saskatchewan is a force to be reckoned with at any level of curling. While the competition was fierce, it was clear at their Saturday night banquet that the true reason for the tournament was the networking between the different communities and fire departments.

Since this tournament is open to urban and rural firefighters, there's a mix between volunteer firefighters and full-time, professional firefighters. Opportunities like this not only offer a little bit of friendly competition between communities but gives players opportunities to rub shoulders with their colleagues from across the province.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating skip Ian Wainwright and team as well as wishing them the best of luck at nationals next month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote.

Prince Albert Council of Women Hall of Fame Inductee

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House today to congratulate Prema Arsiradam who was inducted into the Prince Albert Council of Women Hall of Fame. This past Sunday I had the pleasure of attending her induction ceremony at the Prince Albert Golf and Curling Club, along with the member from Saskatchewan Rivers who brought greetings on behalf of the government.

Mr. Speaker, Prema Arsiradam was selected out of five nominated women for her long-time and outstanding commitment to her work. This includes working with the Learning Disabilities Association and the community of Prince Albert. Prema immigrated to Canada from South Africa 18 years ago and has been involved in the community since moving to Prince Albert. She is known as an active volunteer in the community through her work with the Multicultural Council, the Victoria Hospital Foundation, Kiwanis Music Festival, and the Prince Albert Girls' Choir.

It was very heartwarming to hear from her husband and family

about all the work that she has done and the many lives that she has impacted through her efforts. In her induction speech, she very humbly accepted her award and called for the support and acknowledgement of all women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Prema Arsiradam on being inducted into the Prince Albert Council of Women Hall of Fame. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Services at Health Facilities and the Lean Initiative

Mr. Broten: — Gail and Jim Sack are here today along with members of their family. Gail and Jim were victims of carbon monoxide poisoning in their home in North Battleford. They were transferred by ambulance to Moose Jaw at a cost of \$3,500 and they received life-saving treatment in the hyperbaric chamber in Moose Jaw.

Will the Premier agree to meet with Gail and Jim today and hear first-hand about their experience, their life-saving experience in the hyperbaric chamber?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Premier today, I would be happy to take those questions on behalf of the government.

We certainly understand and appreciate the value of the benefits of a hyperbaric chamber that it has provided to some rural residents, Mr. Speaker. We also understand that most burn victims are treated within Saskatchewan at either regional hospitals or tertiary centres, and carbon monoxide can also be treated locally.

Patients who have been exposed to CO₂ can be very effectively treated with high-flow oxygen, and this treatment may be provided by nasal-inhaled oxygen at much higher levels than room air or, in extreme cases, intubation and mechanical ventilation if ICU [intensive care unit] care is needed, then transferred to a facility with ICU coupled with appropriate blood testing. All emergency departments would treat a CO₂ poisoning according to their available service levels, including lab and ICU, and facilitate transfers to other centres as needed. Generally hyperbaric therapy is used as an adjunctive therapy, post-acute-care treatment after the emergent care provided.

Mr. Speaker, but also to the member's question, I would be happy to meet with the two individuals right after question period as, I believe, was offered and arranged by the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Gail and Jim have come to the legislature today to share their story because they have not received answers from this government and they have not

received a listening ear about how important this service is to Saskatchewan patients.

The Moose Jaw Hospital has the only hyperbaric chamber between Toronto and Edmonton. This public hyperbaric chamber has been used to help victims of burns, carbon monoxide poisoning, and people with wounds who are taking a long time to heal. But there won't be a public hyperbaric chamber in the new Moose Jaw Hospital, and it doesn't sit right with Gail and Jim Sack.

The problem is, Mr. Speaker, this government hired its \$40 million American lean consultant who shrunk the Moose Jaw Hospital, the size of it. There'll be 30 per cent fewer patient rooms, dropping from 99 to 72, and the public hyperbaric chamber is being left out because there isn't the room. My question to the Premier: how can he explain that?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, again in the absence of the Premier today, I'm happy to take that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I pointed out the alternative therapies that are generally accepted. And it's not me as the Minister of Rural and Remote Health: this practice is an example of best practice. It's not driven by the Ministry of Health. It's driven by medical professionals and endorsed by medical professionals countrywide, Mr. Speaker.

I have spoken about the services that are available throughout the province in other hospitals, Mr. Speaker, other health facilities with high-flow oxygen and the services that generally can go to help with those situations, and that hyperbaric therapy is recognized as an additional therapy to that, Mr. Speaker.

Not to discredit the benefits that it has contributed but, Mr. Speaker, I'd also point out to the member opposite that the existing hyperbaric chamber in Moose Jaw has been used about 20 examples a year for the last five years, so admittedly valuable but very low usage. And, Mr. Speaker, I would also correct the member opposite that it was not leaned out of this facility. In fact, the priorities of the region and the foundation were set aside as MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] expanded surgical services and enhanced patient . . .

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, make no mistake. It is this government who has shrunk the size of the Moose Jaw Hospital. It is this government that is pulling out this important public service from the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Okay, sure, the public hyperbaric chamber may need to be refurbished at a cost of about \$70,000. And even, Mr. Speaker, if the hyperbaric chamber needed to be replaced, it would be a cost of about \$120,000. But that's no excuse for this government to pull this service from the patients, Mr. Speaker, who have benefited greatly and whose lives have been saved because of the treatment, Mr. Speaker.

John Black, John Black, their favourite American lean consultant, Mr. Speaker, burns through that kind of money in a blink of an eye. Miss two and a half of his workshops, Mr. Speaker, would cover the cost of a new hyperbaric chamber. Gail and Jim Sack cannot understand why this government would refuse to ensure that a public hyperbaric chamber is in the Moose Jaw Hospital. It just doesn't make any sense.

My question to the Premier: why would he want, why would he want to send Saskatchewan patients out of the province in order to receive this important treatment?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I'll reiterate this. This facility, this service was not leaned out of the Moose Jaw Hospital. The Moose Jaw Hospital, from the information I've been able to acquire, was designed five . . . the initial steps were designed five years ago, much before the contract in question.

But, Mr. Speaker, I know the members opposite don't like hearing this because they like doom and gloom, Mr. Speaker. But the lean initiatives thus far, although they discredit the Canadian Blood Services, the blood service efficiencies of 35 — now we know it's 50 million — outside of the contract that's in mention, Mr. Speaker, but still attributed to lean. We know an additional \$75 million in savings have been attributed to lean and lean practices within the province, Mr. Speaker.

And even in those numbers, and I know from personal experience with . . . Let's take for example the primary health clinic in Yorkton, a facility that admittedly by the region, by the designers there, would have needed about 1,000 square feet of storage space for extra stock, stock that may be hard to utilize quickly, is down to a four-by-twelve closet that is a lot less expensive to develop, and rental on commercial space over the years.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it is widely understood by any thinking person in the province that this government's calculations, when it comes to their so-called lean savings, are fiction, Mr. Speaker. That has been shown time and time again.

And we've seen their approach with other examples, Mr. Speaker. We've seen it with the children's hospital in Saskatoon. This government brought in John Black, shrunk the design. Government applauded wildly, Mr. Speaker, then gave John Black a mountain of cash. Then months later they realize, uh-oh we shrunk it too much. Back to the drawing board, Mr. Speaker, spending more money to fix what was leaned out.

In the same way, the government has leaned the design of the Moose Jaw Hospital. It'll be much smaller, will have fewer rooms, and will offer fewer vital public services like the hyperbaric chamber. My question, Mr. Speaker: is the Premier ready to admit this is a mistake?

And here's the member from Moose Jaw North. You'd think the member from Moose Jaw North would stand up for his community, for the people . . . [inaudible] . . . for this

government.

Mr. Speaker, what will it take for this stubborn, stubborn government to admit that they made a mistake? Do we have to wait until there's hallway medicine and people are lined up in the smaller Moose Jaw Hospital, and then we see patients being shipped out of province to get the treatment they need? What will it take for them to admit this mistake?

[14:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I think I heard the member opposite use the term fictional again. And, Mr. Speaker, I mean we can debate in this House, I mean respectfully, and I'm all up for that. But, Mr. Speaker, to call, if they want to call some of our information fictional, well that's up to them, Mr. Speaker. But we're talking about people, professionals that are engaged in the lean process, that support the lean process. We're talking about chief financial officers, Mr. Speaker, throughout the health regions, the Health Quality Council that are not political. They're not in this House, Mr. Speaker. They're confirming these numbers.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I've stated, some of the examples that I've seen through the initial, this last rollout of lean savings, doesn't even include examples that I know personally about, Mr. Speaker. And that's not even, you know, speaking about some of the improvements to health care that don't have a financial amount tagged to them, Mr. Speaker.

And the children's hospital, Mr. Speaker, let me point out that it has nothing to do with lean being the size it was, Mr. Speaker. It had to be upsized because of the 10 per cent growth in the population of this province.

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

Provision of Health Services in Craik and District

Ms. Chartier: — Yesterday the Premier and his two Health ministers received a letter from the residents and family council of the Craik and District Health Centre. The letter said:

We, the permanent residents of Craik and District Health Centre, have been proud Saskatchewan citizens for decades and even centuries. We have raised our children, grandchildren, great- and great-great-grandchildren to live and thrive as Saskatchewan citizens.

To continue to reside in our home we insist on the retention of services, both acute and long-term care, at the Craik and District Health Centre.

What does the Health minister have to say to the residents of the Craik seniors' care home?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, as early as today we took questions at SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] about the Craik situation, Mr. Speaker. My office has been fully engaged. I've been fully engaged in this file since very early in October.

Mr. Speaker, as we heard in the petition presented by the opposition when the members of Craik, the 70-some-odd citizens of Craik and area were here to advance their cause, Mr. Speaker, they had three primary concerns which they've always communicated with us. Number one is, don't renovate our facility. Mr. Speaker, I've made the commitment. I've gotten the region to make the commitment. The facility will not be renovated.

They've asked that the facility not be closed. Mr. Speaker, I've given verbal and written commitment. The region's done the same. It will not be closed. They want a full-time doctor, Mr. Speaker. We want nothing but that as well, Mr. Speaker. We've continually tried to engage even personally with the physician that has served the area for the last two years. Thus far, even with the posting of the position, he hasn't applied. But we do have applicants, I know, that are interested and we'll be placing a doctor there in the coming weeks and months.

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

Ms. Chartier: — I guess, Mr. Speaker, that the whole town of Craik has it wrong and that minister has it right apparently. I don't think the residents of the seniors' care home in Craik are going to appreciate or have any confidence in that minister's answer because their letter went on to say:

For two years, Dr. Karam has spent time with us. He's become part of our day-to-day care. His contract has expired and the ministry has replaced him with a variety of locums.

The letter goes on: "We expect more from the government. This is our home and we have paid taxes for over 1,000 years collectively." These residents say they expect and deserve more from this government, and they're right to do so. To the minister: when will this government shelve its pathetic excuses and start preserving the health care services rural residents expect and deserve?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I believe that member just sort of somewhat self-qualified herself to be the saviour of rural health care in this province. Mr. Speaker, we only have to go back in history, we won't have to go too far, and I know the members don't like going back in history because it doesn't fare well for them, Mr. Speaker.

As I reflected in one of my answers in SARM this morning, when I first got this position I was asked by a lot of people, isn't that a difficult position to be in. And you know, Mr. Speaker, there are definitely challenges in health care, and we'll acknowledge that. Anyone on this side of the House would acknowledge that. But, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the

record of this government, opening 13 long-term care facilities, looking at three new hospitals, hiring more . . .

The Speaker: — I'm having difficulty hearing the response just as I had difficulty hearing the question. I would ask members to please pay attention to both. I recognize the Minister for Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, well over 425 additional doctors, 20 just announced yesterday, new SIPPA [Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment] graduates, Mr. Speaker; 2,600 more nurses of all designations in the province; all these new long-term care facilities, as opposed to the 19 facilities closed by the members opposite and 1,200 care beds and chasing professionals out of this province.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The residents of the Craik and district health care centre are very concerned about the erosion of vital health care services in their community. Their letter to the Premier and the two Health ministers went on to say, "We cannot afford or even some of us survive a trip of an hour or more via ambulance for medical services." These seniors cannot afford to take an ambulance to access crucial medical services, and many of them worry about even being able to survive the trip. But they shouldn't have to worry about that. This government should be preserving health care services in Craik.

To the minister: why on earth is this government so stubborn on this?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, as I've also committed to many people in the area of Craik concerned about the facility at Craik, the services, the current services will not change. Mr. Speaker, I know there's been concerns with them over the last number of weeks and months and possibly years. But, Mr. Speaker, even when it comes to emergency services the region agrees, as do I, that emergencies that do present themselves at the facility when the doctor is on in the facility would be assessed and treated accordingly. If they can't handle the level of trauma at the facility, EMS [emergency medical services] or STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] can be called in.

But, Mr. Speaker, to talk about a one-hour ambulance trip, Mr. Speaker, it's 15 miles between Craik and Davidson. Craik is not an acute care, 24-7 emergency facility. Davidson is, and it's 15 miles away, Mr. Speaker: an emergency, 24-7 emergency with three acute care beds and emergency room and a cardiac room. The one acute care bed in the Craik facility is a flex room that can be used for that, Mr. Speaker. And I would add it's about a 10-minute trip down the highway between Davidson and Craik.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, with answers like that, it's no wonder that more and more residents of rural Saskatchewan are starting to feel like this Sask Party government is taking them

for granted. We had over 70 people come to the legislature last week to rally to save the doctor in Craik. We have residents of the long-term care facility in Craik sending a very heartfelt letter to the Premier and to his two Health ministers pleading for help. Yet this government stubbornly dismisses those concerns.

To the Premier: the residents of the long-term care facility have asked to meet with him to express their concerns to his face. Will he have the courage to go to Craik and meet with them?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier, I'll be happy to answer that question on behalf of the government. Mr. Speaker, I toured the facility at Craik. I've met with the stakeholders in Craik time and time again. We've entertained, I think, four, three or four personal meetings in my office. I've been out to the facility, met with front-line health care workers there, met with the doctor there, got a tour, a personal tour by the doctor, Mr. Speaker. I'm very aware of the facility. I'm very aware of the excellent care the long-term facility has, Mr. Speaker: a four-day-a-week doctor, nurse practitioner every day, RNs [registered nurse] on staff, Mr. Speaker. Residents are very happy, a beautiful long-term care facility, Mr. Speaker.

That is not going to go anywhere. It's another example of long-term care in this province that, although the opposition like to generalize at the chronic conditions of long-term care in this province, Mr. Speaker, it's a very small percentage. The facility there is beautiful. It's beautifully run by great staff, and it will stay there for a long time to come, Mr. Speaker.

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

Housing of Young Offenders

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Corrections minister. Why is this government plowing ahead with its poorly planned, ill-advised decision to shut down the Yarrow Youth Farm?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few short years ago, Mr. Speaker, we undertook a facilities review within our ministry. What we were seeing, Mr. Speaker, are burgeoning numbers in our adult correctional facilities and dropping numbers, which have been dropping for 20 years, in our young offender facilities, Mr. Speaker.

We have, in Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon, unused space where we can house young offenders, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about low-risk, open custody young offenders within Kilburn Hall, Mr. Speaker. So we have decided, Mr. Speaker, because of an operational decision, that we're going to move the five young offenders out of Yarrow Youth Farm and move them into unused space at Kilburn Centre, Mr. Speaker. This has not been plowed ahead with, Mr. Speaker. We have studied it. We have

looked at it. This is the decision that we have made. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday I attended a community meeting with about 100 people from my constituency. They're frustrated with this government's decision to shut down the Yarrow Youth facility on the edge of Saskatoon and to relocate the open custody unit to the Kilburn secure youth facility in the Buena Vista neighbourhood, and community members are especially frustrated that there was no consultation whatsoever.

To the Corrections minister: why did this government undertake such a decision without consulting with the community ahead of time?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to bring some reason back into this particular issue, Mr. Speaker, not what happened last night in Saskatoon. The Kilburn Youth Centre, the Kilburn Youth Centre currently houses closed custody young offenders. The Kilburn Youth Centre has been in existence since 1926, housing adolescents from various troubled backgrounds to adolescents that committed any particular crime. Mr. Speaker, the young offenders in this facility, the open custody young offenders will be . . . They're out in the community with programming. They're escorted. They're going to be using the front door, the separate entrances, separate exits from the adults within or the other secure young offenders.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to afford to keep a youth facility open at 49 per cent occupancy. Mr. Speaker, we do not need more youth beds and that should be a good thing, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — This minister doesn't even know her own file. They've bungled the decision right from the get-go. They're changing whether the door is going to be an open door on the alley, and now they've changed it. It's a locked door. These youth will no longer have open custody.

It was clear at the community meeting yesterday that this government has completely bungled this file. The Yarrow Youth Farm is located on the edge of Saskatoon. It's a great facility for rehabilitating youth who have come into conflict with the law but don't require secure custody. It's absolutely shameful that this government is shutting that facility down and moving those young people into a youth secure jail in the Buena Vista neighbourhood in Saskatoon.

To the minister: we know the government didn't do proper consultations on this. Will it at least agree to publicly release its internal analysis?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and

Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am having difficulty understanding the members opposite talking in this regard with this particular subject. The NDP, 11 years ago, Mr. Speaker, closed three youth facilities because of a decline in the young offender population, Mr. Speaker. They pulled funding from an open custody youth facility called House of Concord run by the Salvation Army, employing 22 people. They also closed open custody at Kenosee Lake youth camp and Nisbet Lake youth camp, Mr. Speaker.

What we're seeing, Mr. Speaker, is we're doing exactly the same thing. We don't require the young offender spaces any longer, Mr. Speaker. We're using unused space that we're already paying for as a province, Mr. Speaker. We will continue on with this decision. This decision makes sense. It is good use of taxpayers' dollars.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, this decision makes no sense for those young people who should be in open custody. If these guys have budgeting problems, they shouldn't be looking here. In so many ways, this government's plan does not make sense. Shutting down an excellent facility, mixing low-risk youth with higher risk youth, plopping an open custody facility in the middle of Saskatoon with no consultation — none of this makes sense.

We requested a copy of the report prepared by Chinn Planning. Insiders have told us that this report was positive about Yarrow, but this government refuses to release the report, claiming it's a cabinet secret. This government needs to put the plan on hold, release the analysis, and undertake meaningful consultations. Will the minister agree to do that today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is talking about moving open custody young offenders into a secure custody facility with young offenders.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what they did once they closed Kenosee Lake youth camp, Nisbet Lake youth camp, and the House of Concord? They moved those open custody young offenders into Paul Dojack Centre here in Regina, which is a closed custody young offender facility. I'll take no lessons or comments from members opposite, Mr. Speaker. We're looking after the taxpayers' dollars in the province of Saskatchewan. We'll continue to do that.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, this minister does not know her file. But the question was, will you release the report? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — If you're talking about the facilities review, I'm not sure exactly what the member's referring to, but the answer is no.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Okay, I'll try to be a little bit more clear here, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about a report prepared by Chinn Planning. Will the minister release the report?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, if the member's referring to the activities at Yarrow Youth Farm and the quality of care that the young offenders were receiving, no one is disputing that quality of care.

The care of young offenders is really based on the programming in the facility that they're housed in, Mr. Speaker. We will continue with the programming that we have already undertaken at Yarrow Youth Farm. It will continue under Kilburn Hall, Mr. Speaker. And you know, we will continue to look at different ways to ensure that our systems, our correctional facilities are sustainable over the long term, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 166

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 166** — *The Local Government Election Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter in very briefly here today on Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act*. I've already spoken to this bill in this Chamber here. I do look forward to the time in committee to follow up with questions to the minister and to gain some clarity. I know that certainly we recognize the great value of municipal councils across Saskatchewan. Those that step up and serve their communities are doing so because they believe in their communities, and they approach matters in a very common sense way. To each and every one of them, rural or urban, I say thank you.

We certainly know that there's a lot of important issues for municipalities. We know that this government has been a poor partner when it comes to working with municipalities across Saskatchewan. It's a concern to many, Mr. Speaker, that the operating grant is something that this government might be ripping up, Mr. Speaker, some promise that may be broken, Mr. Speaker. And now we hear today that the government may be

jacking taxes on Saskatchewan people all across this province at SARM . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And the Minister of Finance shouts, absolutely. I'm not sure to what part of my speech, Mr. Speaker.

That being said, I've entered into some discussion of the content of this bill. I do look forward to following up and clarifying many aspects in committee, Mr. Speaker. So I don't have any further comments at this point pertaining to Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act*. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act, 2014* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act, 2014* be sent to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs.

Bill No. 167

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As it relates to Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act*, of course these have a direct relationship to Bill No. 166. I've spoken to this bill. As well, I do look forward to following up in committee with the minister.

As I say, Mr. Speaker, this government has a poor record in working in good faith with our municipal partners. They had at one point worked together, supported by us to establish an operating grant, a municipal revenue-sharing agreement. It's a big concern that we hear that that may now be compromised, a broken promise of this government. Municipal leaders deserve better. They deserve that commitment to be followed through with. They also need better support when it comes to infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.

But, with that being said, we'll follow up specifically on matters of Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election*

Consequential Amendments Act in committee, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014* be sent to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I had an opportunity to speak to this bill earlier in December and, looking back on the notes, I see I had quite a bit to say at that time. But I do want to reiterate one thing, and that is the effective lobby of firefighters that have presented themselves here in the Legislative Assembly every year since I've been elected, and I know it's a long-standing tradition. These folks are dedicated to their communities. They're dedicated to their profession, and they have some very important asks of this government that are falling upon deaf ears, Mr. Speaker.

That's the only point I want to raise today further to this extensive amendment to *The Fire Safety Act* is that fire safety includes firefighters, and we need to look after our firefighters as well, ensure that they are remunerated properly. I know municipalities are struggling with some of the requirements for arbitration and smaller municipalities are exempt from the arbitration, so these kinds of things are making it very difficult for our communities to have proper firefighters in place and for them to be meaningful members of the community.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I think we have other questions we want to ask in committee, and that would be the extent of the comments at this time on this bill.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 170, *The Fire Safety Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of

the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 170, *The Fire Safety Act* be sent to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to speak to Bill No. 172, *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*. This particular Act, Mr. Speaker, replaces *The Naturopathy Act*.

I might just talk a little bit about what exactly a naturopath is or what naturopathic medicine is. It's a type of primary care, Mr. Speaker, that emphasizes self-care and prevention. I know many people, constituents and friends, who have benefited greatly, when they've run into tricky health situations, have had much luck when they've visited some of the naturopathic doctors here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

The minister points out that the Act that we're replacing was passed in the 1950s, and so this a brand new Act, Mr. Speaker. This new Act, the minister points out often when legislation is before us, the minister talks about modernizing the legislation.

"It will ensure the regulations governing naturopathic doctors will meet patients' needs and that these naturopathic doctors are able to work to their full scope of practice." It's absolutely imperative with our health care professionals, Mr. Speaker, that we ensure that all our primary health care, the whole team of primary health care workers have the opportunity to work to their full scope of practice.

The minister in his second reading speech talks about how the Act:

... will provide title protection for naturopathic doctors. It will establish the authority for the regulatory body to set [out] qualifying examinations and eligibility requirements for applicants. It will allow the appointment of public representatives to the regulatory body. It will align with the requirements of the Agreement on Internal Trade and

the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, and there will be an opportunity to have further conversations with naturopathic doctors, but protecting the title is very important for most professionals, Mr. Speaker.

I know as someone . . . I've had this conversation before. I have been a registered social worker, Mr. Speaker. I have a Bachelor of Social Work degree, but I'm not currently a registered social worker so I don't have the right to call myself a social worker. And I know when I hear other people who also don't have the right to call themselves a social worker, that it's problematic. When you have a governing body set out, the goal is to ensure that there's a code of ethics, that you're meeting certain standards, Mr. Speaker, and in order to be able to use that title, you need to meet those standards and adhere to the code of ethics. So I have no doubt that this is a very positive move for many people, Mr. Speaker.

The Act:

... will also change the name of the Saskatchewan Association of Naturopathic Practitioners council to the College of Naturopathic Doctors of Saskatchewan. [The minister points out that] This change is to clarify the organization's role as the regulatory body whose first duty is to protect the public.

Mr. Speaker, these changes [also] mean that the regulatory body will have the power to stop individuals from providing services for which they are not authorized.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, you want to make sure that people who are providing health care services have the training and the skills and are governed by a body that ensures that they are meeting those criteria, Mr. Speaker. And again, much like my comments from my own social work, in order to be able to call yourself a social worker, you need to meet those criteria. That's something of which I have some experience, so I totally understand and support this move, Mr. Speaker.

The minister points out:

Because of these changes, patients may not have to travel to other provinces to seek treatment. The old Act prevents Saskatchewan naturopathic doctors from practising to their level of training and expertise, and these changes mean that naturopathic doctors working in Saskatchewan will be more likely to stay [here] in Saskatchewan because they will have the same scope of practice as those working in other Canadian provinces.

[14:30]

Obviously again it is important to be able to support our folks on our primary health care teams to work to their full scope of practice, Mr. Speaker.

We'll have an opportunity in committee when Bill 172, *The Naturopathic Medicine Act* is moved to committee, but in the meantime, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of

debate on Bill No. 172, *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 174

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 174** — *The Registered Teachers Act* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*. Giving a little bit of a comment and talking about what the government's trying to create with Bill 174 is create an arm's-length regulatory board that will oversee teachers' discipline and certification. There's a process that is going forward, and I'm, from the minister's comments, getting an idea that it will be I believe about a seven-member board with two members from the public being appointed to that board.

There will be an opportunity for I guess government to appoint three teachers and two members of the public. I guess government will have that opportunity. STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] will also have the opportunity to appoint three teachers to this board, and also the administrators and directors and superintendents will also have an opportunity to appoint one teacher or one individual to this board that will play a role going through dealing with discipline, making sure certifications are up to date.

I know from our side of the House, we'll have questions and stuff. And you know, sometimes it's controversial. You've heard different issues that people are saying. And I guess the government figures that, at the end of the day, this is the way to go, and it's going ahead with that.

It might have consulted. I don't know. I have no information. Maybe they did; maybe they didn't. But I know it's important to make sure that we talk to Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, the boards of education, to make sure. And if they're buying in and they've been consulted, that's a good thing.

It's important to do because too many times this government's track record has not been good when it comes forward to consult with teachers, consult with the boards of education, consult with anyone when they want to ram something, you know, legislation, a piece of legislation and just ram ahead on it without consulting and talking about it. This government has done that, whether it's through legislation, through the regulations that require . . . A minister has the ability to make the regulations. They've done that.

At this point, you know, after the end of the day they may go through . . . This body may be appointed. If everything goes through and the legislation is passed, then that body will have I believe in 2015, if given permission and granted it goes ahead and this legislation is passed, will give that body and board the

opportunity to start hearings, I believe, in 2015 is what the government is proposing. And that will help.

But also what they're saying, Mr. Speaker, all findings, after they're done their investigation and they investigate a situation, they're saying it will be released to the public so the public has an opportunity to see what's going on and what they've heard. So hopefully that'll work.

I know from our side of the House, we will have more questions and, at the end of the day, we'll have an opportunity in committee to ask the government questions and make sure that they consulted. Is there a buy-in by the teachers, by the boards of education, by Saskatchewan families, by parents? Let's make sure that, at the end of the day, we have individuals who are buying in and saying this makes sense. And sometimes it is good sense. So let's just make sure we've done the good work to consult before we bring in legislation that . . . you know, after we have to make a bunch of amendments to the legislation.

So at this point I have no further comments on this bill, 174. I'm prepared to adjourn on this bill.

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.

Bill No. 175

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 175** — *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Registered Teachers Act* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to make a few comments on Bill 175, makes consequential amendments to the Act. And again sometimes it's a name change. When we're having consequential amendments, sometimes there's very little changing. It's just to, with other pieces of legislation, to come in compliance with the current bill, that 174, should it become law, that you make those consequential amendments to other bills. And we have to sometimes do that to make sure they all come in under Bill 174.

So at this point, I have no further questions on Bill 175, the consequential amendments.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on 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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 176 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A pleasure to join debate today. Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Act*, the amendments brought forward are fairly succinct, barely a page and a quarter of explanatory notes attaching to the Act, this of course amending earlier efforts made by this government around distracted drivers, particularly focusing on the question of cellphone use while driving. Mr. Speaker, the whole question of cellphone use while driving is I think one that's, you know, in the last few years coming more to the fore and certainly the way that it impacts the ability of drivers to respond appropriately to the conditions as they present while driving.

The evidence is there in spades, Mr. Speaker, that this is a dangerous thing and that it needs to be dealt with appropriately. Certainly it was in that spirit, Mr. Speaker, that the government came forward, and in general we were favourable as regarded the actions of the government at that time. And it's interesting though. You don't govern in generalities, Mr. Speaker. The particulars are always the point that are of great importance. So we see amendments coming forward here today where they're trying to make greater allowance for those who would be given an infraction, given a penalty under this law, been subjected to the question of impoundment when it's an employee driving the vehicle of an employer. And what we've got here so far, Mr. Speaker, is in section 3 where it's . . . Again this is out of the explanatory notes:

Implement an immediate 3-day (72 hours) roadside suspension for the operator of a commercial vehicle, if different than the owner of the commercial vehicle, in circumstances where the commercial vehicle is subject to a seven-day impoundment under the Act as a result of the driver's contravention of prescribed high-risk offences.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it would seem to be fairly straightforward.

Moving on to the next provision wherein it will now provide:

. . . regulatory authority to prescribe program requirements for the suspension of a driver's licence and appeal to the Highway Traffic Board in those situations where a peace officer impounds a commercial vehicle as a result of the driver's high risk behaviour.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there's a case in Saskatoon where there's an individual, an employee of a company, that was driving that company's vehicle, had had I believe a prior penalty on his records concerning dangerous driving or distracted driving around cellphone use, and of course it resulted in that vehicle being impounded, along with other accompanying measures.

Now in the second reading speech from the minister, the minister came forward saying that this will hopefully allay the concerns raised by the business owner in that particular

circumstance. That is not the case, Mr. Speaker. And certainly there are other alternatives that are being recommended by that business owner to what is being presented here.

And it's also interesting, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the consultation, certainly the concerns brought forward by that business owner, I can't gather a particular instance of where the minister consulted directly with that business owner. Certainly there was consultation with the Safety Council, with the traffic board, other bodies, which is as it should be, Mr. Speaker, but certainly no effort to consult with that individual business owner.

Again I appreciate that the main point of this exercise is to maintain and improve public safety as regards how our drivers are conducting themselves on the highways and roads of this province. But in terms of the economic penalty that is, not just for the individual committing the offence, but then in turn is impacting the company in question, I'll be interested to hear more of the minister's reckoning with that question and how that is being sorted out.

That's perhaps a discussion that's better suited at committee stage, Mr. Speaker. So we'll look forward to that usage of the Act and how those interests have been reckoned with, whether or not they have been reconciled. But again, Mr. Speaker, it would appear that they have not been reconciled.

I guess just in general, Mr. Speaker, the whole question of the impounding of vehicles, there are other prescribed grounds in the legislation that trigger the seizure of vehicles when committing acts on the highways that are a dangerous offence. I'll be interested to see what the other applications for the seizure of vehicles or the impounding of vehicles have been enacted, what provisions are there. And if they're not being utilized, why not are those provisions being utilized? And in this particular case, Mr. Speaker, we've got information on the particular provision in question as regards cellphone use, but there are certainly other prescribed activities in the legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I believe that there's a greater discussion to be undertaken at the committee stage, but we're not quite yet finished the participation from members on this side. And with that, I would move to adjourn Bill 176, *An Act to amend The Traffic Safety Act*.

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?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 177

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 177 — *The Insurance Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased as always to enter into discussion about Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act*.

Just a little bit of background here, Mr. Speaker. This is a new Act, Mr. Speaker, replacing and, as the minister says, modernizing an existing Act. The original Act, *The Saskatchewan Insurance Act*, was first passed in 1913, so over 100 years of history and the development of insurance in this province over that time, Mr. Speaker. It is a substantial Act, and in my time here as a legislator it's one of the more full and technical Acts that have come before us. It's about 300 pages and has 11 parts.

When we think about legislation, Mr. Speaker, and when we think about insurance in particular, it's that thing that gives us peace of mind to be able to go about our daily life and we . . . Insurance covers the broad spectrum. You can buy insurance for almost, well almost anything these days, Mr. Speaker.

I know in my own life, I think about the places where I've had insurance and had to utilize it. I remember last year, Mr. Speaker, on my way home, actually right before we adjourned for Easter, right after estimates, Health estimates, I was on my way back to Saskatoon and something flew off a truck and smashed the top of my sunroof in my car, Mr. Speaker. And I was regretting not having a package policy, but I did and I do in fact have insurance through my plates, but I did regret that I did not have a package policy because replacing windows is incredibly expensive. And I didn't have the forethought to get the semi's licence plate number. I was quite shocked when the thing flew off the semi and hit my sunroof, Mr. Speaker, and shattered it. I was quite shocked actually and wasn't quite sure what to do. It scared the dickens out of me, Mr. Speaker.

[14:45]

I think of another occasion, another type of insurance. Last year I ripped my patellar ligament in my left leg, Mr. Speaker, in a spin class, and have had to tap into the insurance that we have through work to use physical therapy and actually a brace for my leg, Mr. Speaker.

I've had the unfortunate occasion in the past to be broken into, actually. I had a bad run of it a few years . . . well about 20 years ago, Mr. Speaker, where we were broken into on three different occasions, Mr. Speaker, in a very short amount of time. And thankfully — I'm knocking on wood here — that hasn't been my experience in recent time.

But I know in my own life, well health insurance when we travel . . . I had an opportunity where I didn't have insurance. This was a long time ago in my early 20s, Mr. Speaker, and I wasn't as wise as I was now, Mr. Speaker. I travelled to California with my husband and we were . . . Actually it's a long story, but we were attacked while we were hiking, had a huge hospital bill, and had to pay that, Mr. Speaker. And I can remember going to the hospital without health insurance. I only had minor injuries, but my husband had a bite mark out of his chest and head lacerations, and I can remember my mother-in-law saying, don't let them do anything to you. But my husband needed some medical attention.

So insurance is one of those things that can cover many aspects of our life, Mr. Speaker, whether it's our home, our health, making sure that our kids are protected. It's unfortunate there are many people who not only do they not buy insurance because they . . . It's not that they don't want it, but sometimes people cannot afford it, Mr. Speaker.

So insurance has a huge place in all our lives. And this, as I said, is an incredibly important and technical bill. Eleven different parts of this bill. We have the part I which is the preliminary matters, and it outlines the definitions for “. . . terms to be used in the Act and a specification of the application of the Act to certain forms of insurance.” Part II is the licensing of insurers. Part III is provincial companies. Part IV is fraternal societies. Part V is insurance intermediaries and insurance councils. Part VI is unsolicited insurance, reinsurance, and special brokers. Part VII is market conduct. Part VIII is contracts of insurance. Part IX is enforcement. Part X is general. And part XI, Mr. Speaker, is consequential amendments, repeals, and transitional.

There was an opportunity for a technical briefing a few short . . . well I believe it was maybe even last week, Mr. Speaker, and our critic and some staff attended that to help get a better understanding to prepare, to be able to ask some more detailed questions in committee. And I know our able critic will have that opportunity in the near future.

But with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate of *The Insurance Act*. And that concludes my remarks.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This House stands adjourned to 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:49.]

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Hon. Bill Boyd

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