



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

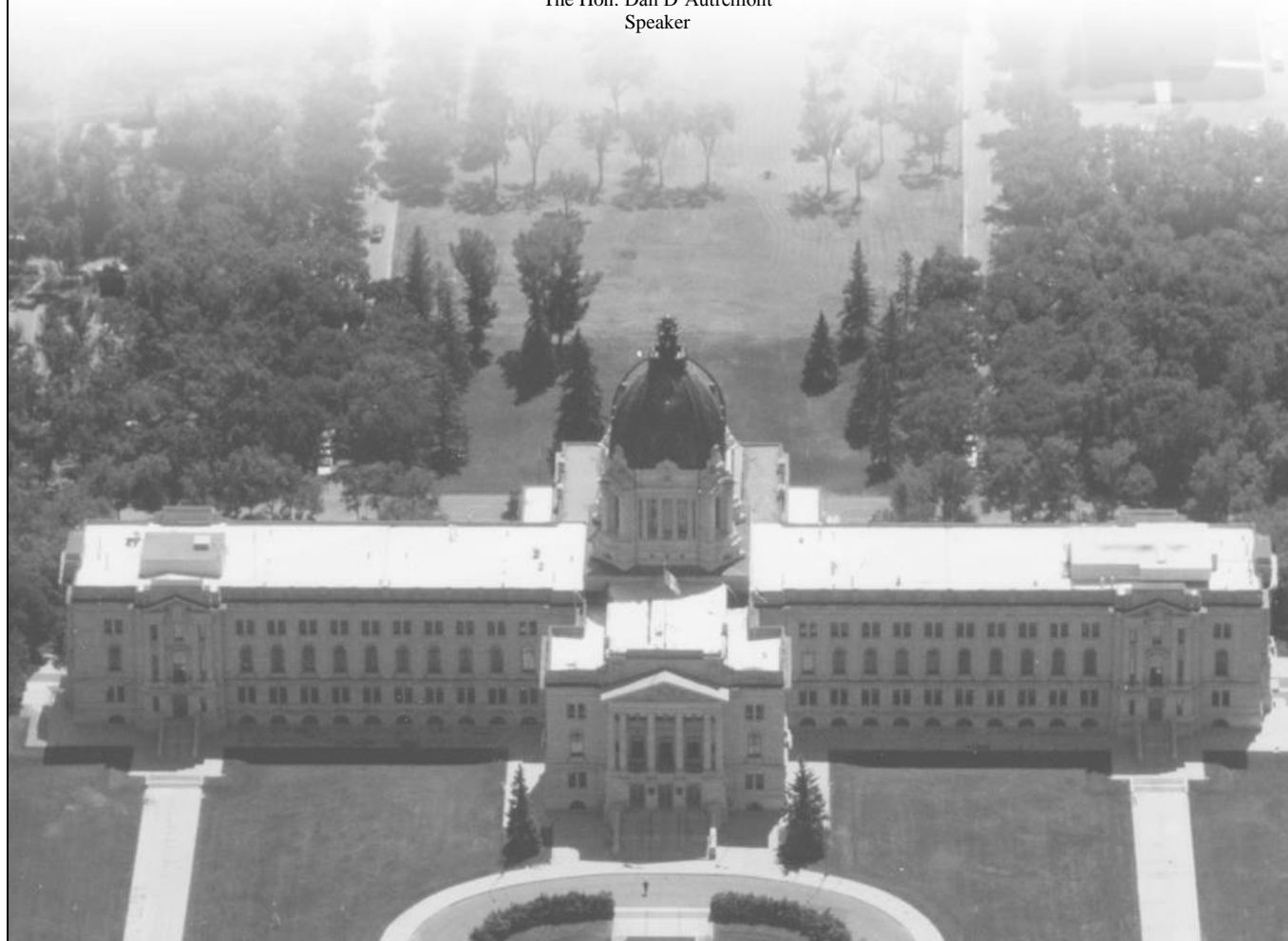
of the

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
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
Vacant		Prince Albert Carlton

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce someone who is a frequent visitor to the legislature here and a good friend to the working people in Saskatchewan. I'm talking about Gunnar Passmore, Building Trades Council, specifically the sheet metal workers. Good to see you here again, and we sure appreciate you coming out and keeping track of us. Thank you so much. I ask all members to give him a warm welcome. 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 in welcoming Mr. Passmore to the House today. As most of the members here will know from Mr. Passmore's visits here, he is a constituent of Indian Head-Milestone and has traditionally put up a sign for his preferred candidate. And I know we're going to be having an election next year, and I'd encourage the member for Indian Head-Milestone to go out and see if we can get a different kind of sign up this year. In any event, he has been a strong advocate for his membership, and I want to certainly welcome him to the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Immigration.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my genuine pleasure to introduce two constituents from Meadow Lake, came down, two genuine pillars of our community and our city: Dr. Merv Johnson and his wife, Blanche, who made the trip down. It's good to see you, and I'll look forward to chatting after question period. So I'd like everyone to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for greater support for education here in Saskatchewan. And we know that education is one of the most vital services this government provides to its citizens, and this government has failed to deliver a long-term plan and vision and the necessary resources to prioritize the delivery of educational excellence. And we know that this government has failed to develop a real plan to close the Aboriginal education gap and to support English as additional language for those students, support community schools and their communities and students. Mr. Speaker, 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 of 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 are from Moose Jaw. 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 today to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the unsafe conditions created on Dewdney Avenue by actions of that government, and the fact that government won't respond to ensure safety on Dewdney Avenue inundating that route, a residential route with heavy-haul truck traffic. And we've put forward proposals supported by the city councillor directly to government, which there's been no action by that government. 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 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 skyrocketing home ownership costs. 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 Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm presenting a petition for real action on climate change. The individuals who have signed this petition want to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada, and that slashing programs such as the Go Green Fund and the EnerGuide for Houses energy-efficiency program sets the province on a backward course. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by individuals from Saskatoon, Edam, Esterhazy, and Moose Jaw. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Hometown Hockey in Regina

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend I, along with the member from Regina South and thousands of Regina residents, had the pleasure to celebrate our hockey heritage here in Regina.

Regina's Hometown Hockey made a stop to broadcast from the Queen City live Sunday evening before the Philadelphia Flyers and Ottawa Senators game. Celebrating the city's iconic hockey story, in tribute to some of the great players who make Regina their home, this stop was the 22nd of 25 stops on the Canada-wide tour.

The free-of-charge hockey weekend featured activities, contestants, prizes, interactive games, and live entertainment at downtown Victoria Park in City Square plaza. This event drew in many families and young aspiring hockey stars. To end off this special event on Sunday, host Canadian icon Ron MacLean, special guest Mike Sillinger, and former Leafs captain Wendel Clark broadcasted live from the Sportsnet Mobile Studio for the pre-game show.

Mr. Speaker, events like this show us just how vibrant our city is, especially when you throw in a few hockey legends and Canadians icons into the mix. I'd ask all members of this Legislative Assembly to join me in congratulating all the hard work and volunteers that made the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour such an amazing success, and a big thank you to everyone who came out to support Hockey Day in Canada in Regina.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Social Work Week

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to bring attention to Social Work Week, a week that recognizes the important contributions of the professional social workers who practise their vocation daily in our province. This year's theme is Social Work: Profession of Choice, and it's an apt theme, Mr. Speaker, because social work really is a profession of choice.

Social workers do very important work all across Saskatchewan, from helping families to stay together, to working with seniors in care, to provide services to troubled youth in our schools. Social workers help to strengthen the bonds that hold our society together. Social workers are also called on to make tough choices in the course of their work. Day in and day out they are called upon to make the right choices for vulnerable people that are in need of protection and guidance. These choices have a lasting impact on lives of people they serve, and all of the social workers I know carry out these duties with a strong sense of responsibility and professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing this year's Social Work Week and also in thanking all of our province's social workers for the important work they do every day to make our province a healthier, stronger, and more equitable place for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Positive Economic News

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to announce some great news for the people of Saskatchewan. RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] has just released its latest provincial economic update, the *Provincial Outlook* report, and it says that "Real economic growth to accelerate despite lower oil prices" in Saskatchewan.

Due to the strengths in the non-energy sectors, namely the rise in potash production and the expected positive growth in agriculture, Saskatchewan's real GDP [gross domestic product] is expected to grow in 2015 and 2016 despite lower oil prices. RBC's growth forecast for Saskatchewan's real GDP in 2015 is 2.1 per cent as well as 2.1 per cent in 2016. Mr. Speaker, because of our diversified economy, Saskatchewan's outlook for the next two years is good.

In February of this year, our province had the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 5 per cent, which is well below the national average of 6.8. Compared to February last year, employment is up in Saskatchewan with notable increases of 1.6 per cent in Saskatoon and point five per cent in Regina. We will not be looking at a recession, unlike our neighbours to the west, because Saskatchewan's diversified economy has offset any weakness in the energy sector.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to this government's prudent spending, our focused growth plan, and our work in diversifying the economy, we are looking at a positive future for the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Brain Awareness Week

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly today to recognize Brain Awareness Week. Marked every year since 1996, Brain Awareness Week raises the profile of brain injuries and brain health on a global scale.

One in three Canadians will be affected by a brain injury or disease at some point in their life. These injuries and disorders can take a tremendous toll on both the individuals impacted directly and their families too. The pain and sadness felt by the loved ones of the victims of degenerative brain diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's can be particularly difficult and isolating.

Although we are still many years away from a cure for most brain injuries and diseases, research shows that prevention is a crucial step to reducing the incidence of brain injury. Acquired brain injuries from automobile, sports, and workplace accidents affect far too many young people in our province. Fastening a seatbelt, wearing a helmet or hard hat, and being safe at work are all easy, common sense things that everyone can do to help prevent brain injuries.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating all of the organizers and activists who are working so hard this week and every week to raise awareness about brain health in our province and also ask all members to take steps to prevent brain injuries and diseases in their own families and communities. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Juno Nominees Supported by Creative Saskatchewan

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Saskatchewan nominees at the Juno Awards held yesterday. Jess Moskaluke was nominated for Breakthrough Artist of the Year and Country Album of the Year. Shooting Guns was nominated for metal/hard album of the year. And The Deep Dark Woods was nominated for roots tradition of the year. While they all play different styles of music, they do have one thing in common. They all received support from Creative Saskatchewan.

Creative Saskatchewan supports not only music but all of creative industry within Saskatchewan. With funding from Creative Saskatchewan, these groups have been able to further their careers. But don't take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. This is a quote from Jess Moskaluke's manager, Mike Denney:

The funding provided by Creative Saskatchewan grants was crucial to assist Jess in breaking into the Canadian market as well as helping her attain international exposure

in the United States, Australia, and hopefully into Europe in 2015.

In closing, Jess would not be where she is in her career today without the support and funding she received from Creative Saskatchewan to expand her career.

Mr. Speaker, total funding for SaskMusic in 2014 was \$552,176. That's a 56 per cent increase from 2010 alone. That means great support for our musicians. We congratulate them on their success. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Social Work Week

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to announce that March 15th to 21st is Social Work Week in Saskatchewan. It was established by the Canadian Association of Social Workers in March 1990 to recognize the contribution of social workers across the country.

Each year a different theme is selected to serve as a focus for activities within the profession and promotion of the role of social work with the public. This year's theme is Social Work: Profession of Choice.

Social Work Week is a wonderful opportunity to highlight social work as a profession as well as the many contributions social workers make in the fields of mental health, addictions, child protection, and community development. Social workers are diverse, and they work in public and private practice, in our health and education systems, through community-based organizations or filling policy, planning, and administrative roles. Mr. Speaker, Social Work Week is an opportunity to highlight social workers and their unique professional skill sets, commitment to social justice, and passion for helping others.

I ask everyone to join me in celebrating Social Work Week and taking the time to recognize social workers across the province for their work in supporting some of our most valuable and vulnerable citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Long-Term Care Facilities Opened

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the NDP [New Democratic Party] argued that they have the best interests of rural Saskatchewan at heart. A simple review of the record shows a very different story. Our government's record is clear. Two weeks ago we celebrated the grand opening of the Radville long-term care centre. This past weekend in my constituency, we celebrated the grand opening of the new Kipling integrated long-term care centre. This 45-bed, two-unit project also has four rooms available for couples. A tour of the facility gave those attending the opportunity to notice the spacious rooms, and how well natural lighting is used in this building. For many residents of Kipling who thought this day would never come, the grand opening was truly a grand

celebration.

Once the provincial government pledged \$18 million to the project, it didn't take community leaders, local individuals, and companies long to step up to the plate to contribute the necessary 7.1 million, or 28 per cent of the funds needed to complete the project.

Mr. Speaker, this design-build facility is an excellent fit for the community, medical personnel, and residents who call it home. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Kipling District Health Foundation, the town of Kipling, and rural municipalities and individuals for their hard work and dedication to this project.

I also want to extend a special thank you to the contractors who brought this project to fruition ahead of schedule and under budget.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Costs and Benefits of the Lean Initiative

Mr. Broten: — We've been told that this government is still taking health care workers off the front lines, away from patient care, and forcing them into kaizen basics training where they're forced to memorize Japanese terminology and fold paper airplanes.

The latest numbers we have show that 23,000 health care workers have already been forced into this training, and the remaining 22,000 health care workers are expected to take it as well. Will the Premier tell us how much exactly will it cost in total to take over 45,000 health care workers away from their jobs for this kind of training?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The total cost for lean is \$40.5 million, Mr. Speaker, over four years. And the savings already accrued are about \$112 million.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, if the Premier thinks that the \$40 million contract with the one US [United States] consultant is the extent of the expenses related to this training, he is absolutely dreaming, Mr. Speaker.

We've obtained a one pager that was given out at the kaizen basics training from a health care worker who had to take this training just last week. This worker thought that it was pathetic and that it was a waste of time and money. This government is still forcing nurses and other health care professionals to memorize words like heijunka, jidoka, muda, and poka-yoke. And folding paper airplanes is still very much part of the kaizen basic lean training that we see promoted by this government.

So a straightforward question for the Premier: why is the Sask Party government still insisting that our health care workers learn Japanese words, go to training sessions where they fold

paper airplanes? What is the reason for this, and how much is it costing to send 45,000 health care workers to be taken away from their jobs for this bizarre training?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I've already answered the question with respect to the costs of lean. That answer remains unchanged and is the fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker. While the contract with the one particular consultant is wrapping up, we're going to continue with lean throughout the system with continuous improvement, Mr. Speaker, because it's delivering results. It's improving the patient care. We've had several examples by the Health minister in the House. We've had several examples given by the Minister of Health, Rural Health and Remote Health, Mr. Speaker. I've provided examples. The regions have. The quality care council has done that as well. And there are savings, Mr. Speaker, so we'll continue with the program so long as there are those savings and so long as there are improvements.

Mr. Speaker, if the member wants to talk about numbers of health care workers, we're happy to talk about that as well, Mr. Speaker, because there's 2,600 more nurses practising in the province than there were when his party was in power, Mr. Speaker. There are 400 more doctors practising today in the province of Saskatchewan than there were when his party was in power, Mr. Speaker. There are more health care facilities being maintained, Mr. Speaker, receiving capital investment. There are hospitals being opened.

And, Mr. Speaker, another very important point. Rather than seeing, as we did under the NDP, under the member's party when they were in office, the closure of long-term care beds, the closure of long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, we're building them anew: 13 in rural Saskatchewan, facilities coming in urban Saskatchewan as well, hospitals in Moose Jaw, the Sask Hospital, the children's hospital.

Mr. Speaker, any day of the week we'll put our health care record against members opposite record from the past or their plan for the future. And we'll talk more about that in a moment, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier can huff and puff, but he did not answer the question. Why is it necessary to have Japanese terminology for the health care workers in these training sessions? What is the total cost, including the staff costs and replacement costs, for 45,000 workers to take this training?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we've already answered questions on the cost.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier said he answered it. He's not addressing the costs, the staffing costs associated with this. The Deputy Premier beside him says, well what do you

have against professional development? Nothing against professional development, Mr. Speaker, but this isn't professional development. Forcing workers, Mr. Speaker, to learn Japanese words and fold paper airplanes is doing nothing to improve the quality of care here in Saskatchewan.

Internal documents, Mr. Speaker, that we've received raise major concerns about this John Black lean approach. Here's a quote, Mr. Speaker. I'll refresh members' memory:

Memorization and activities that are not meaningful and in some cases are insulting, all of which are part of JBA's approach, are not only not educationally sound and cause skepticism, alienation, and frustration.

With regard to the kaizen basic training, the administrator specifically criticized the "lack of relevance" and the "rigid approach." But despite that scathing criticism, Mr. Speaker, we have the Premier and we have that government sticking to the plan, rolling out with John Black like never before. You know, sure it's condensed it a little bit, and it altered the video a little bit that they see, Mr. Speaker, but it is absolutely continuing with the bizarre and with the insulting aspects of these kaizen basics.

How can the Premier possibly justify sending 45,000 health care workers to memorize Japanese words, to fold paper airplanes? Why is this going on, and what is the total cost?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I've sat beside the Deputy Premier now for a very long time, and I know exactly what he sounds like. It would be hard for people in Saskatoon not to know how he sounds like. He doesn't sound anything like what the Leader of the Opposition just portrayed in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I think we're going to take with more than a grain of salt any facts that are presented to this House by the Leader of the Opposition, especially on a day when he went out into the rotunda earlier before question period and presented his budget demands, Mr. Speaker, and some of them related to health care. Mr. Speaker, he didn't just present his demands. To be fair, he also said, here's how we'll pay for those. And he highlighted some savings.

Mr. Speaker, we've done the math. And there's more to come, but the preliminary math on what the Leader of the Opposition just said is that there are two . . . he's going to spend, he'll spend an additional \$261 million in this budget, according to his demands, on operating alone, 1.6 billion in capital this year alone in operating, and his savings that he identified, 96 million, Mr. Speaker. We'd have a massive deficit on the operating side. We'd have a capital deficit, Mr. Speaker.

And with respect to health care, we know what it would be like to go back to the NDP days of health care. We know what that was like. When they weren't funding training seats for nurses, then there was a shortage. They weren't funding training seats for doctors and then there was a shortage. They closed long-term care beds, Mr. Speaker. They refused to build a hospital in Moose Jaw. They refused to build the Sask Hospital and invest in capital and human resources in health care and

seek continuous improvement. They refused to do anything about the longest wait times for surgery in the history of our province and in the country.

All that's changed. We're not going back to the days of the NDP.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, there are huge savings that Saskatchewan taxpayers could achieve if we stopped with the wasteful pet projects that we see from this government, Mr. Speaker, if we started to see some common sense and some smart decisions being made.

One area to start, Mr. Speaker, would be to end the John Black training that we see going on. They said, Mr. Speaker, they're going to scale back the Japanese. They were going to have some common sense. We have, Mr. Speaker, workshops, these John Black workshops going on just last week where the same Japanese is being used, Mr. Speaker, with the same terminology, the same dismissive and offensive approach to health care workers.

And we know the effect that it's having on health care workers. Just 8 per cent of nurses say that the JBA [John Black and Associates] version of lean, Mr. Speaker, has improved morale and has improved the working situation. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, 60 per cent of nurses say that engagement has plummeted as a result of the John Black version of lean. And it's no wonder, Mr. Speaker, because they're taking highly trained health professionals, taking them away from the front lines, forcing them to go into training sessions away from patients, and then insulting their intelligence with bizarre training. And that's an assessment from senior administrators within the health system.

These horrible results in the surveys, Mr. Speaker, should've been a wake-up call to this government and to this Premier. It should have stopped with the nonsense, started to use some common sense, and saved a ton of money.

My question to the Premier: why didn't he listen to that wake-up call, and why won't he answer how much taxpayers are paying for 45,000 health care workers to go through this lean kaizen basics nonsense?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we've already answered the question with respect to cost of the lean project in health care; moreover the contract that he's referring to is over on the 31st of March.

Mr. Speaker, you know, we're discussing where there might be opportunities for savings in the upcoming budget, and the Leader of the Opposition just referenced it in his question, Mr. Speaker. He was asked actually at his scrum about that question. The question was, what's waste? There aren't going to be a lot of increases anywhere in this budget, so what are you cutting?

Here was his answer, and this is a quote: "Well it was this

government that eliminated the film employment tax credit. It would be great to have the industry here to make up for any temporary dip that might be there with oil.” He said, any dip that might be there with oil — \$700 million short in terms of revenue shortfall because of the oil price. Mr. Speaker, families in this province now out of a job because of the layoffs in this sector.

Mr. Speaker, his answer to the question today, well how would you make up that shortfall? He’d reinstate the film employment tax credit which, by the way, it’s a grant. We have a grant today. It’s not at the level it was, but we still have a grant. Mr. Speaker, no wonder the NDP don’t want their Leader of the Opposition talking about his alternatives or, worse, talking about the economy or his plan for the budget because what we get then, when he does, is nonsense.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the waste should be cut by this government, like the John Black version of lean that we see. And we should start to see some smarter approaches when it comes to the economy, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to fixing the procurement policy, when it comes to supporting Saskatchewan industry, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to stopping the huge increase we have seen in the use of consultants by this government.

And, Mr. Speaker, at the same time this government is shovelling incredible amounts of money out the door for things like the John Black version of lean. It couldn’t even tell us how much they’re paying for eight officials when it comes to lean travel. They said it would take 177 hours to calculate that, Mr. Speaker. This Premier can’t tell you the full cost of how much this lean project is costing because they’re not even tracking it, Mr. Speaker.

Here’s an example of what the highly trained health professionals are told at the John Black kaizen training, Mr. Speaker. They are told when they do, are forced to do these seminars, health care workers are told that when there is an empty box of supplies, “It signals that it needs to be replenished.” Well no kidding, Mr. Speaker. As if highly-trained health professionals did not know that an empty box of supplies meant that it needed to be replenished. The nonsense from this government, Mr. Speaker, keeps mounting day after day when it comes to this project, and sadly so too do the expenses related to this project.

Does the Premier see that the kaizen, the John Black version of lean, Mr. Speaker, is not only a huge waste of time and money, but it’s a massive insult to the intelligence of hard-working and trained health care professionals here in Saskatchewan?

[14:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, in regard to the language of lean training, Mr. Speaker, I’ve talked to front-line professionals who have said, you know, at first they were a bit apprehensive, but once they had been trained in the methods

and the phraseology they wouldn’t really understand any other way to communicate as effectively and efficiently as they can with that language, Mr. Speaker.

The Premier has spoken very in depth as to the savings and the benefits of lean, Mr. Speaker. But in regard to the eight officials that the member opposite is speaking about, I just want to put on record that admittedly 177 hours for eight official lean expense travel, to uncover those numbers, Mr. Speaker, what the member from Saskatoon Riversdale failed to mention was it covered five years of materials, contained extensive amounts of personal information that would have to be removed as required by the freedom of information and privacy Act, and also that member failed to mention that the privacy department worked with the NDP to reduce that request to just \$75.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Why do 45,000 health care workers have to learn kaizen basics training where they learn Japanese terminology and where they fold paper airplanes? Why is that?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, it has been stated the John Black contract is over at the end of this month. There is ample opportunity, with the experts and the lean leaders that have been trained, to further Saskatchewanize lean in this province, Mr. Speaker. The scope of lean that has gone over health care was virtually unattainable, when you talk to experts in the field, unattainable through any other source.

Evidently there has been some problems and some issues up to this point. We’re moving away from that contract. We’re engaging the professionals within our Saskatchewan health system that have been trained by lean, Mr. Speaker, lean leaders. I think there’s around 600 at this point. Further training needs to be done.

But, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the team-building exercises, the language, Mr. Speaker, admittedly there are some that really aren’t as engaging of the system, Mr. Speaker. But there’s many, many of the front-line workers and the lean leaders that have been engaged that see and appreciate the effects and the efficiencies of lean, and they’re telling us, Mr. Speaker, don’t go back.

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

Hyperbaric Therapy and Moose Jaw Hospital

Ms. Chartier: — Last week the second Health minister said, “. . . 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.” Well the truth is that the hyperbaric chamber is used for as many as 330 treatments per year. Despite being regularly used to treat patients, this government is ending that service because the John Black lean process shrunk the size of the new Moose Jaw Hospital and there’s no room for the hyperbaric chamber.

Now that this government has accurate information about the usage of this vital service, will the Health minister finally agree to keep providing public hyperbaric treatment in our province?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify what the member opposite stated, there's been 20 patients, under 20 patients per year, and admittedly some of them have had a few different treatments, Mr. Speaker.

When we look at the hyperbaric treatment, Mr. Speaker, granted there is benefits, definite benefits, as we have been hearing from the experts at hyperbaric treatment. But they too admit that it is secondary treatment. It's follow-up treatment to a primary trauma, whether it's CO₂ poisoning or whatever the case may be, Mr. Speaker, that is secondary to the primary high-flow oxygen treatment that's needed right at the source, right at the time, very close after the time of the trauma, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we are looking at options for this project, including community-based options, Mr. Speaker.

But I will say that when it comes in regard to the Moose Jaw Hospital, you know, the members opposite really aren't, don't seem very excited about the project. Although they had two cabinet ministers that couldn't get the project done, we have two aptly suited MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] that have got the project done, Mr. Speaker. And I look forward to more questions to talk further about the project.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Dr. David Amies who spent many years providing hyperbaric treatment in the Moose Jaw Hospital says, "It's disappointing . . . [that we] can take a sophisticated instrument like this out of our community, which was . . . [raised] through efforts of the community, and it'll be junked."

The Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association is also incredibly frustrated, because they helped establish the hyperbaric chamber in Moose Jaw. Even in its peak year in 2010-11 it cost the government just \$6,600 to operate the hyperbaric chamber that whole year. That's it. Yet it saves the government a tremendous amount of money because this treatment reduces the need for amputations and helps people heal more quickly.

To the minister: why won't this government reverse its decision and keep this vital public service in our province?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, as I just stated, we do recognize the value of hyperbaric treatment. We are open to options. We are looking at options but also including community-based options that might be presented throughout the community, Mr. Speaker, including the Moose Jaw community.

Mr. Speaker, as was pointed out earlier, two cabinet ministers

from Moose Jaw — as well as a premier, I guess, from Moose Jaw that never got the hospital built — these two members from Moose Jaw did, Mr. Speaker. One of the former members, current mayor of Moose Jaw, have to say:

"There (are) comments of energy efficiency, better use of resources within the new facility, a new facility maximizing the lean processes," she said. "We'll see how it works out but I'm sure the planning will go into it and it'll be a successful project."

That was then NDP MLA Deb Higgins, now mayor of Moose Jaw, said in 2016, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — If the Premier and his two Health ministers won't listen to common sense here at home, perhaps this will change their minds. We know how utterly obsessed this government has become with the Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle. The Sask Party government has sent over 800 of our health care workers to visit that hospital as part of the John Black lean field trips to the United States.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Virginia Mason Hospital has a hyperbaric chamber. Now that the Health minister knows that, will he finally change his mind and commit to keep this valuable public service in our province?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I don't think the member opposite heard my last two answers, so I'll repeat them. We are looking at options for hyperbaric treatment in the province, including community-based options that would possibly include Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker, and other areas of the province, any groups that would be interested in looking at it.

Here's another quote for them, Mr. Speaker:

The "patient-friendly" hospital is being built using lean principles and will incorporate flexible care whereby required services will come to patients rather than having patients moved unnecessarily throughout the hospital . . .

Mr. Speaker, that was again by a former deputy premier, Deb Higgins, and now mayor of Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker. We are very committed to this project, Mr. Speaker. We have to keep in mind as well the development of this project, the lean principles around this hospital have allowed for the installation of MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] that will serve area patients around Moose Jaw and the south part of the province, Mr. Speaker, by the thousands, not just 20.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Government Usage of Consultants

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Central Services: can she confirm that her ministry undertook

no analysis comparing the use of consultants versus the use of government employees?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Government Services.

Hon. Ms. Campeau: — Thank you. I would like to thank the member opposite for that question. Actually there was . . . The Ministry of Central Services has some analysis when looking at the IT [information technology] consultants that we do use. We do have different programs in place that are quite old, so we do need specialized IT consultants for that. We don't have consultants on our staff right now, and it would be . . . it wouldn't make any sense in order to hire these consultants full time if we're just hiring for specific projects.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we'd certainly welcome that being tabled. The independent Provincial Auditor was highly critical of this government for massively increasing the amount of money it's spending on consultants, overall government increasing the use of consultants by 228 per cent. In the Ministry of Central Services alone, the use of consultants has jumped by 168 per cent, and 70 per cent of the time, the auditor says, this government isn't even properly tracking what those consultants are doing.

We put in a freedom of information request for any analysis comparing the use of consultants versus the use of government employees which the government, which the ministry has undertaken over the last four years. And the government said there has been no such analysis, none, which again is very different from what the minister is saying here today. So to the minister: why is that the case?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Central Services.

Hon. Ms. Campeau: — Mr. Speaker, our annual number of consultants is down 33 per cent from theirs. And we have never had as many as 100 IT consultants, as that government had, on the IT file. And further, given the hiring constraints, I have instructed that when IT consultants' contracts come up for renewal, an evaluation and determination of whether they are required is done to ensure base services are maintained. Mr. Speaker, since December the Ministry of Central Services has terminated 12 IT contracts for a total contract value of 2.1 million.

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

Grain Transportation

Ms. Sproule: — A new report commissioned by the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, Sask Wheat, Sask Pulse, and SaskBarley shows that the big rail companies are overcharging grain producers. Over the last seven years, grain producers have been overcharged to the tune of at least \$2 billion. To the Agriculture minister: does the government agree with this assessment, and what are you going to do about it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Well you know, we've heard this allegation made, and we're looking into it and will act accordingly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we've seen time and time again how terribly hesitant this Sask Party government is to stand up to the big rail companies and to fight for Saskatchewan farmers. And we've seen that same hesitancy from the federal Conservatives.

To the Agriculture minister: does he agree with me that 2 billion taken from the pockets of farmers and put into the coffers of the big rail companies as a result of overcharging is absolutely outrageous? And will he push the federal Conservatives for a full-costing review and the appropriate adjustment to the maximum revenue entitlement so that Saskatchewan farmers don't keep losing out?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Well I'm going to start informing the member about some of the actions we've taken starting as early as May 2013, long before the NDP were even aware that this issue might exist sometime in the future.

We started work on that with the Ministry of Highways and Agriculture officials, met with CP [Canadian Pacific]; June 2013, began work on a New West Partnership port capacity study; July 24th, 2013, Ministry of Agriculture officials met with Mark Hemmes of Quorum consulting; early October 2013, Minister of Highways and Deputy Minister of Highways met with CP in Vancouver on grain transportation issues; October 25th, '13, Highways, Economy, and Agriculture met to talk about what was happening with the movement of commodities to port at that time; November 7th, 2013, Minister of Agriculture sent letters to federal government, railroads, grain companies, and all other stakeholders regarding the record crop and the importance of an efficient transportation system; November 7th, 2013, Minister of Agriculture . . . Ah, I'm out of time.

The Speaker: — I didn't know a person could hold their breath that long.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to questions 666 to 669.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered responses to questions 666 through 669.

[14:15]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again to speak to Bill No. 172, *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*. I had an opportunity last week to put some remarks on the record, and this bill will be moving to committee today where I look forward to having the opportunity to ask the minister some direct questions and look forward to his responses. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my remarks.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 172, *The Naturopathy 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, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 172, *The Naturopathy Act* be committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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 member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into discussion here this afternoon of Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*. My comments will be brief at this point in time. I do look forward to following up directly with the minister in committee. We know that this aims to have an arm's-length structure that would deal with some disciplinary processes and some aspects of certification, and certainly we want to make sure that we're engaging the minister to understand all potential consequences of that decision.

Certainly we've listened to the input from the education sector on this front: the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], LEADS [League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents], the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] — that's an important voice on these respective matters — from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations as well, Mr. Speaker. And so we'll incorporate some of those questions when we come forward with the minister.

I know one thing that many are wanting to make sure is clear is that the scope of this is well understood and that that scope doesn't creep just by way of this government choosing that all of a sudden this encompasses a whole bunch of other aspects, Mr. Speaker.

And I think of professional development as one thing, and I hear the Deputy Premier shouting across today. And this is a concerning aspect when we talk about professional development because professional development in the education sector is critical to making sure that teachers and that education workers can serve communities and improve outcomes and be as effective as they can be. And what the people of Saskatchewan don't need, what parents don't need, what students don't need, what teachers don't need is this government dictating a whole round of indoctrination as we've seen in health care where they now, as I understand, are going to actually have taken in over 40,000 workers for this process of understanding some of these Japanese terms and then paper airplane folding, Mr. Speaker, on the whim of this government.

So when we look at a committee like this and the certification aspects, it's important for us to make sure that scope doesn't creep on the whim of this government into all this sort of useless exercises that we see this government wasting dollars on in health care, Mr. Speaker, because we know that professional development is something critically important to the education sector. Certainly it's important that teachers have an important place on this committee, and certainly we can talk about the composition. There seems to strike some balance on that front, although certainly we want to engage in a bit more consultation on that front as well.

We know when it comes to education, Mr. Speaker, that this government's record is a poor one. It's one that, as presiding over a period of a real boom, Mr. Speaker, this government's failed to get the job done for students across Saskatchewan. They've left students without the supports they deserve, without the one-on-one attention that they deserve. They've stripped classrooms and schools of the professional services that are needed. There's been an absolute disrespect towards the hard-working teachers and educational workers in this province. We have class sizes that are having a negative impact on far too many Saskatchewan students, Mr. Speaker.

We know there's a better way forward than that, and it's disappointing that this government's record when it comes to education is a failed one and that far too often when this government engages in the education file, they simply ram forward with their own ideological agenda instead of listening and working with a sector that certainly has the long-term interests of Saskatchewan front and centre, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll engage in this discussion, making sure that we fully understand about the consequences of this mechanism. Certainly there's, you know, it's important that the ed partners have engaged in this process, and we appreciate and thank them for doing so.

With that being said, I will be following up in committee for Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers 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, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act* be committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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 member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bill that I'm speaking to at this point in time is simply Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act*. It relates directly to the Bill 174 that I just put comments on.

We'll follow up in committee with the minister on this front, but any chance I have to stand up for Saskatchewan students and for education in this province, I will, Mr. Speaker. Certainly it needs to be pointed out that this government's record when it comes to education and the treatment of our students is a failed one, Mr. Speaker, and they deserve so much better. The approach of this government does have long-lasting negative impacts, Mr. Speaker, both for the potential of each and every one of those students across Saskatchewan, but for us as a province as a whole, socially, economically, culturally. Certainly we'll continue to champion the needs in education, Mr. Speaker.

As I say, this is related directly to Bill No. 174. We will follow up in committee with the minister. And so at this point in time, that'll conclude my remarks as it relates to Bill No. 175, *The*

Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers 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. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014* be committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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 Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014*.

I just want to start out, I know one of my colleagues and a number of members opposite attended, and we had traffic safety hearings. We went around the province hearing issues and suggestions, recommendations from different, whether they were individuals, organizations, professionals that gave reports and submitted those I guess reports to the traffic safety hearings that went around the province. And from that, the government accepted and went forward on some of the recommendations and chose to move forward on some of them. And it came into law of course to protect . . . It was about safety.

When we went around doing the hearings, I know that there were some good recommendations made. Both sides agreed that we needed to protect our Saskatchewan residents and, you know, the government formed the Act, and it came in to be and it had . . . [inaudible] . . . But obviously there's I guess individuals brought forward some areas where they felt we missed an opportunity or government missed an opportunity, didn't understand some of the consequences that were going to be affecting the business sector out there when it goes to impounding vehicles. And at the end of the day it was about safety, to make sure.

We've seen the high cost of fatalities when it comes to, you know, excess speeding, handheld devices being operated while

people are operating motor vehicles and stuff. Having said that, I know the government came forward. They've had business people come forward with some concerns, and I think some of us seen it, you know, within the media.

The government decided to make amendments. And how they're going to amend that, I guess in one way it's bringing in this amendment they're trying to do, from what I can see from the minister's comments, where they're looking at an opportunity to be harsher on the actual drivers.

I think this has to do with the business and it has to do with you operating a vehicle. You're an employee and you're operating a business that is, you know, owned by a business. It might be a family business. It could be a big corporation. And you get a number of different violations, and there's an opportunity there for police to impound the vehicle, lay . . . I guess with the rules and saying harsher penalties to make it clear how dangerous this is. It's about safety.

There was an opportunity to impound vehicles up to seven days, and that has been some hardship. I guess government's looking at that, and I know we're going to have opportunity to ask questions. But I also know that the committee went around when they heard . . . There was different recommendations that were made.

And I know that we'll have an opportunity to ask the minister and some of the officials in committee as to some of those recommendations that were brought forward and some of the issues still facing Saskatchewan residents. And I know, you know, in one of the communities — and I'll be bringing some of those — concerns raised were about safety for residents who are travelling some of the roads and the highways, whether they're rural, north, somewhere in Saskatchewan. There are still some issues that need to be addressed, and I know that in committee we'll get an opportunity to bring some of those concerns that were raised and ask the minister and the officials some of them.

But I guess as far as the amendment that's going on here, it's going to allow now the police to lay a charge. And there's a provision in here too: if you're the driver of a vehicle and you fall in the guidelines where they can actually remove your driver's licence from you for three days, not only will they do the vehicle impound for seven days; they actually can give and take your driver's from you, a suspension, for three days. I think it gives a little more harsher penalty for those, that will remind how serious the violation is and how serious Saskatchewan people and the government and ourselves as a committee heard the concerns. And sometimes it's good to see when government and opposition works together to come up with a way to find a tool that will protect Saskatchewan residents, whether it's families travelling on our highways, seniors, it doesn't matter. You're working . . . It protects.

So at that point I see this as an opportunity. As the opposition there was two of us on that committee. We supported the vehicle impoundment. We've shown that it definitely helps to lessen fatalities in our province. In other provinces the numbers were clear. There is a provision so we did support that. Now we know that there's going to be a provision for an owner or a driver to appeal the decision of the impound for seven days, that

they can go before the traffic safety board I believe. And we're going to have to go in committee. We can ask more: who will be hearing that, and how that process goes through. And you know, we'll ask some more questions about that.

So if one vehicle is impounded and you're the owner of a business and your employee has done that for whatever the time and it warrants impounding, the police officer or justice and then the process that's there to deal with it can say, we'll impound your vehicle for seven days. There's now an amendment to have an appeal so that the owner can appeal that decision to the traffic safety board. We want to get some of those details out, and in committee we can do that. And at this point, I know we'll have more questions about it.

[14:30]

But the other area we're talking about was the three days where you would . . . Actually the employee will lose his vehicle or her vehicle. They'll lose their driver's licence for three days, up to three days, if they're caught and if they're violating. So I think it sends a harsher penalty, message, and I think people will take it serious. And it gives the law enforcement a tool to assist them to make sure that these individuals that are violating and creating, you know, concerns for Saskatchewan residents out there on the highways, whether, like I said, they're speeding, hand-held devices, and they're putting and jeopardizing other people's safety, then there's an opportunity to act on it.

So initially I know in committee we're going to have an opportunity to ask some questions and we do have . . . And I know it's about safety, and I know there's individuals out there that I have talked to and I will talk to again following up that have some issues that they would like to see where is the ministry dealing with the hearings and some of those issues that were raised. And we're going to get an opportunity to ask some of those questions, and I will ask those questions in committee.

So at this time I have no further questions on this amendment, and we'll wait to deal with it in committee, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister for Crown Investments that Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment 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. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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 Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 177, *An Act respecting Insurance and Insurers and making consequential amendments to other Acts and regulations*. Mr. Speaker, I'm holding up this piece of legislation because I think it has 300, about 300 pages, and there are a whole number of issues that are to be dealt with. And I'll spend some time going through a number of them but I think we need to give a bit of a background.

In Saskatchewan, as the province, we have the jurisdiction to regulate insurance. But for the public, there are other places where insurance is regulated — more importantly, maybe at the national level. And so what this insurance Act does is fits in with a national scheme.

Now it's my understanding from what the minister has said in his second reading speech and with others who have explained some of this bill or the purpose behind the bill . . . Plus in my previous role as attorney general, I know we started the revision of this piece of legislation which I think has been probably almost a total career task for one or two of the civil service lawyers. So, Mr. Speaker, what we have here today is the work of many people. But I think in a lot of ways we have to say thank you to Mr. Jim Hall, who is a lawyer at Saskatchewan Justice, and he has been regulating the insurance industry but also working on making and drafting a new piece of legislation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this legislation relates to a number of issues that are consumer protection issues for Saskatchewan residents. It relates to the licensing of insurers that's done in the province. It relates to insurance contracts, such as they are, and it relates to a number of other issues that are related to insurance, including actuaries and actual insurance corporations.

But I think I need to start off by saying that the most common contact with insurance companies in Saskatchewan relates to their contact with SGI, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, or SGI Canada. It relates to their contact with the medical care insurance and other health insurance-related ones which are either administered through the province or through the Saskatchewan Blue Cross and Group Medical Services. And I'd have to say probably that would be the majority of the kinds of insurance contracts that people deal with.

Well I'd like to inform you and inform the House that this bill doesn't apply to them. It doesn't apply to SGI. It doesn't apply to GMS [Group Medical Services]. It doesn't apply to Blue Cross. And it is, I think, a concern of some people in the insurance business that some of the rules that are in this Act, which I think are going to be quite good, don't apply across the board. And there is no sort of discussion about that in the minister's second reading speech. There's a recognition, I think,

that those types of insurance companies have their own insurance. But I think practically it may be a time that we should look at how the principles of this Act apply to all insurance in Saskatchewan so that we have basically fair rules for consumers, fair rules for companies, and that they apply right across the board.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we have this legislation, but it applies to a fairly narrow group. It doesn't directly apply to nationally or federally regulated insurance companies either.

So we're in a spot where we have this legislation, and it covers a whole number of areas. I think practically when we look at the legislation itself, you can see that the initial part deals with definitions of terms, definitions that are going to be applicable throughout the legislation. But it basically though does make sure that some of these terms and some of these perspectives are limited only to those provincially regulated insurance agents, insurance people.

Now there are some, I think, positive things. I know that in discussions with various people in the insurance industry, everybody is looking forward to this legislation because it does modernize or it does do some things that will help the insurance industry itself. One example is that insurance agents will be allowed to be adjusters. They'll be allowed to be adjusters in smaller claims, which means then that your insurance agent in a smaller community, if there's some kind of damage that's \$15,000 or less, they will be able to go and say, okay, you can replace that which has been stolen or that which has been damaged. And they don't end up having to bring in an adjuster and add that extra cost.

It also has some exemptions in this legislation around health benefit plans that are provided by employers or by unions. And that's, I mean, I think it's accepted and people want that to happen.

It also has some exemptions around salary continuance plans. So I guess these would be like disability plans or plans where salary continues when somebody has some other requirements. Also it deals with some of the issues that have been national and provincial issues, but more national issues around the solvency requirements for corporations must include provisions that make sure that the insurance for employees will be paid out — in other words, that they have a priority in the whole insolvency of corporations.

So we end up . . . The bill itself has 11 parts, and that first part deals with many of the definitions. There are some, I think, some technical parts to that that I may want to ask some questions when we get into committee.

It also raises the question around the technical aspects of whether, when we are in committee, we may want to consider as a committee that we bring in witnesses or people who could appear before the committee to raise some very specific issues. Because when the legislation has been drafted, we know that they've built on the Saskatchewan legislation with assistance looking at other pieces of legislation across Canada, but primarily in Alberta and in British Columbia. And some of the ways that they do things in Alberta, according to the people who are here in Saskatchewan, don't work quite as well as what

we do in Saskatchewan. So the question comes whether we should adopt the Alberta provisions or whether we should actually figure out a way to draft and use the provisions that we have here.

That raises the question of whether the minister will be willing to look at some amendments as we move forward in this, and my sense is that, given the size of the legislation, there may even be amendments that he is already willing to bring forward to correct any little things that need to be fixed. But I think there are some areas where we'll want to look at how the legislation is drafted.

The second part of the legislation, which is 69 sections long, deals with the licensing of insurers, and it sets out all of the rules around how insurers must be set up to basically provide fairness to the consumers in Saskatchewan. Practically it authorizes the appropriate capital requirements and the kinds of financial statements that are necessary, gives powers to the superintendent of insurance to regulate those companies, and it requires that the companies keep records around the classes of insurance that it provides.

There are not very many insurers that are licensed in Saskatchewan in the sense that they're based in Saskatchewan, and so there's a next section which relates to provincial companies itself. I think at this point there are two provincial insurance companies, but it sets out the regulations for that. It also sets out how other companies that are going to sell insurance in Saskatchewan will register in Saskatchewan to provide insurance. So part III is provincially incorporated insurance companies.

Part IV relates to fraternal societies, and this is insurers that are not maybe seen as traditional insurance companies. That includes the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, Knights of Columbus, and other organizations like that, that through membership in the organization, they jointly provide life insurance, accident insurance, sickness insurance for their members. This whole section or this whole part of the legislation, part IV deals with these fraternal societies, and so it also then has to address issues like annual meetings and the constitutions and bylaws and rules and other things like that that allow for these organizations to provide the services to their members.

I think everybody will be pleased to have these rules laid out in a relatively straightforward fashion and have them in one place where they can be reviewed and discussed. Now practically this may be another area where it would be interesting for the committee to have some expert witnesses who could explain whether these rules fit with their fraternal societies or whether there are some adjustments that need to be made, so we can look at that as well.

[14:45]

Part V deals with insurance intermediaries and insurance councils. This is an area where there have been some fairly interesting changes, and I think that we need to understand what the changes are and why they've been made.

One of them relates to having somebody who is either a

managing general agent or a third party administrator inserted into the process, and this I think is to deal with insurance agents who operate within a larger organization. But one of the provisions of the legislation that may need to be amended I think relates to the fact that you need to have an address for service for every single person or an address of their intermediary, and there's some quite convoluted steps that have been added into this that I don't think are necessary and don't really add any protection to the public.

I know that through the licensing agency or insurance brokers much of this information would be there already, but it sounds like this legislation is going to try to duplicate that, and I think we may need to ask some questions, have some clarification about why there is this duplication. My sense in looking at it is that it relates to the fact that they've maybe pulled in some legislation from other provinces without thinking through clearly how it's going to apply in Saskatchewan, but that's an area where I think we can maybe get some further clarification as we move forward in the committee process. And once again it may be an area where we would want some expert witnesses to come and be part of our committee process.

When you look at all of the parts or all of the areas in part V, it does fairly dramatically restructures insurance councils and redefines how they operate as well. It also, you know, consolidates hail insurance in with general insurance. It creates some other organizations that will I suppose over the longer term provide the kind of consumer protection that we want, but I think we need to understand fully what this means. And we also need to understand fully how it all is brought to bear in our Saskatchewan situation.

Another interesting factor in this whole area relates to the term "broker," "insurance broker." The legislation is going to make it very clear that an insurance broker has to sell more than one line of insurance. If you're only selling SGI insurance, or if you're only selling Wawanesa insurance, you're not a broker. You're an agent for that company, but you're not a broker.

Now we as consumers of insurance like to go to a broker because we've got a choice, and we end up having some advice from a broker as to which is the best product that's there. I think that most people are going to be pleased with that strengthening of the definition of "broker," but it may mean that they'll have to change a few signs around the businesses in Saskatchewan because a lot of people that hold themselves out as brokers really don't have more than one product and therefore shouldn't be using that term.

Now part VI in the legislation deals with unsolicited insurance, reinsurance, and special brokers. Now the unsolicited insurance issues relate to sort of the cold calls that you get on the telephone or on the Internet, or I suppose it would relate to some of the insurance kinds of things that are put out or touted on a television program or something like that. There's a good attempt here to protect the consumers around that unsolicited insurance. And I think part of what we'll have to do is understand what the protections are, but I think it's a good thing to do, and it builds on the experience of what's happening in Saskatchewan.

The whole area of reinsurance relates to the ability of insurance

providers in Saskatchewan to then spread that insurance risk across companies around the world. There are some very large insurance companies that really only operate in the reinsurance business, and we need to make sure that what we're doing here in Saskatchewan fits in with that world market. And so we'll be asking some questions around that, but I think practically the rules in this area should be rules that are the same as what we have right across Canada in other provincial and territorial jurisdictions and as well as the federal jurisdiction.

Now the new part VII of the legislation relates to market conduct. And this is I think a new part to the legislation that builds on work that's been done in the insurance industry around, what are the standards for insurance brokers or insurance agents in providing advice around insurance? This is I think a good provision. It will I think build on what's happened already in Saskatchewan. It'll build on what's happened in other provinces, and it provides some consumer protection provisions that will I think be helpful for Saskatchewan residents. But once again we have to make sure that what kinds of provisions are brought forward are fair both to the purchasers of insurance but also to the agents and the brokers who are involved in the business as well as the companies.

It does relate to some of the kinds of issues that we often get calls about in our constituency offices where people have not had a resolution of an insurance problem working with the agents or with some other groups, and they want to see if there isn't some way that we as members of the legislature can help them. I'm hoping that the fair practice market conduct kind of rules that are developed by the insurance industry will go a long way to addressing many of those kinds of problems.

The next part of the legislation relates to contracts of insurance, and it sets out a whole array of the types of contracts of insurance to make sure that they are properly described and that they're properly regulated.

And as you can see from the legislation, this is the longest part. It's got 212 sections in that area, and it goes through all kinds of issues that are related to very specific contracts, whether it's crop insurance or hail insurance contracts or whether it's life insurance contracts or accidents and sickness insurance contracts, as well as automobile insurance, other than SGI coverage. So this, in a lot of ways, will be the very practical part of the legislation that protects the consumers in Saskatchewan.

Now the importance of having this in the legislation I think can't be underestimated. But it also goes back to the very first point I made which is maybe these rules should also be set up in a way so that they apply to SGI and that the provisions around accident and sickness insurance apply to GMS and the Saskatchewan Blue Cross so that we have one set of rules for insurance in the province. And that will be I think part of some of the questions that we'll ask just so that we can understand why that next step wasn't taken when we started looking at this legislation. I note that I think it's about five decades, the minister said, since we've done some major review of insurance legislation, and this may be the time we get within our lifetimes as legislators to deal with this.

So anyway that whole part, part VIII, around the contracts of

insurance has got a number of questions, a number of issues that we'll have the officials explain those ones where we have some concerns. It's also another area where it may make sense to have expert witnesses to identify things that could be made better before we actually finally pass the legislation that we'll see as we move forward.

So the next part is part IX which is the enforcement provision, which is getting towards the end of the legislation. But this sets out the powers that are given to the superintendent of insurance around the scrutiny of the regulatory process, and I think it obviously strengthens those powers but does it in a reasonable fashion.

I think that we haven't had any sort of direct comments about some parts of this, but I know that there have been some issues around a couple of changes that are proposed in the legislation. One of those changes relates to an area of insurance which is actually quite obscure in one sense, but it does affect people who get into a jam on being able to pay for life insurance that is a whole life policy, and one of the things that this legislation does is it eliminates the ability of people to sell those whole life policies to someone else.

Perhaps I can explain briefly what this is. If you're a person who has a whole life policy and you maybe have three or four, five years left to fully pay it up and you run into a financial situation, there are companies now in Saskatchewan who you can go to and say, well I have this policy that's going to pay my family \$300,000 when I die. It has a certain cash value right now to me because I've been making these payments of probably . . . maybe say for example \$100,000, but I can't make the payments any more. If I stop making the payments, then basically the insurance company just cancels the policy and that's it.

What's happened is there are companies in Saskatchewan that will go to you and say, well, how about you let us pay your premiums on the basis that we get . . . you assign the assurance to us when you die, but right now we'll give you, say \$60,000 or \$70,000 against the cash value of that policy right now. And then you have your money; we then have your policy. We'll pay the other five years, and we might have to wait 25 years till you die, but when you die, we'll get the \$300,000.

[15:00]

This legislation totally eliminates that possibility. I'm not necessarily certain whether that's a bad thing, but it does eliminate the possibility of a company coming in and providing that kind of a service, and we have a number of companies in Saskatchewan that do that right now. The basis of their business or this piece of their business will be gone with this legislation.

So I think we'll need to understand why the choice was made to eliminate this possibility in Saskatchewan. And I mean I think there are probably some reasonable explanations about that, but it is clearly something that people have raised with us as an opposition about the bill that we're dealing with today.

So the last part of the legislation, part X sets out the general powers of the superintendent of insurance and the appeal processes and things like that. Those I think are fairly standard

and don't necessarily require much comment now.

And then part XI of the legislation deals with all the consequential amendments to other pieces of legislation where there are references to the present insurance Act, and that's to be expected when we're dealing with a large piece of legislation like this.

So we have legislation that I think has worked to protect the consumers and set out how insurance businesses are run in a fair way for everybody in Saskatchewan. It hasn't been necessarily really a long period of consultation to deal with this, but I think there's been quite a bit of consultation to try to understand what's there.

I think the actual wording maybe has adopted a little bit too much from Alberta and BC [British Columbia] without really thinking through the consequences, practical consequences for some of our agencies and brokers in Saskatchewan. I think that it would be a step to show how this legislation could be amended to include SGI Canada, Group Medical Services, and Saskatchewan Blue Cross because those types of insurance, which compete in the general insurance industry in Saskatchewan, could just as well be included in this legislation as well.

I think though, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the work in a very complicated area has been done pretty well. There still are some questions that arise. I'm thankful that the legislation has been brought forward so that we can deal with it, and I look forward to seeing whether the minister has some amendments in committee, and there may be some amendments that we will propose after we've had some of our questions answered.

But at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no further comments. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question? The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy

Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House adjourns. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:04.]

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