



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

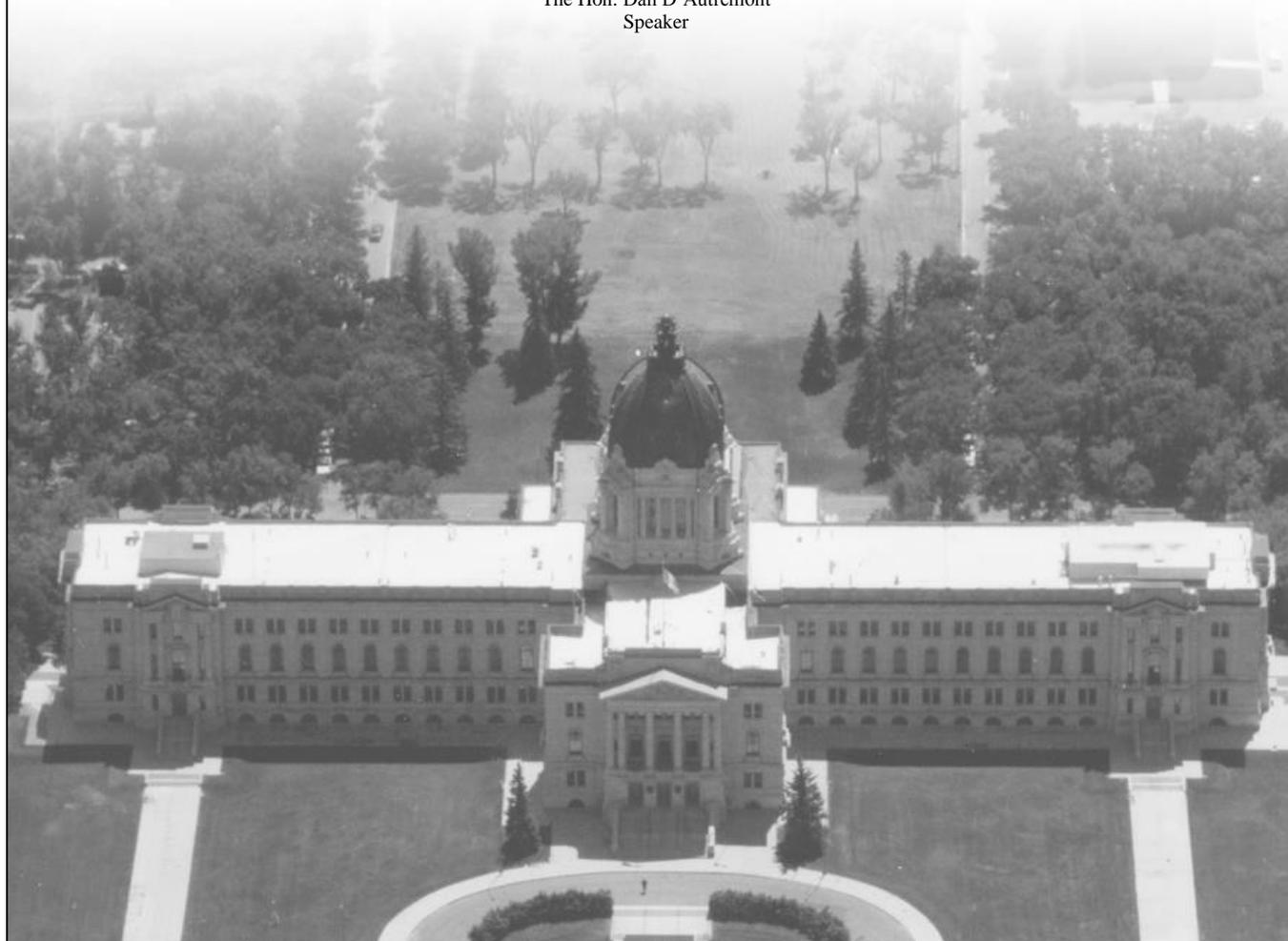
of the

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, Hon. 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, 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 Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave to make an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is it the pleasure of the House to accept?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to members for the leave to make a very special introduction to someone that has joined us in the Speaker's gallery. Last week he was re-elected, I think for the eighth consecutive time, as the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Wascana. Ralph Goodale has joined us in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

He's obviously no stranger to the province, to political life in the province. He's no stranger to this particular Chamber, as he was also the member for I think Assiniboia-Gravelbourg, looking over at the member for Wood River. When the member for Wood River was still flying Snowbirds, I think he was an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] here and the leader of the Liberal Party in the House, Mr. Speaker.

He has handled a number of files in the national government, including agriculture, natural resources. He's been the House leader for the national government and for his party I think in opposition, as well as Finance minister for our country, Mr. Speaker.

He has served this province very well and we're hopeful . . . Well we know that that service will continue, that service will continue, we would argue, in a senior role. It certainly should be a very senior role in the new government. I had a chance to meet with Mr. Goodale just before the session, and we talked about a number of issues, federal-provincial issues. We look forward to working on those issues in the weeks and months ahead.

And mostly we want to congratulate him on his victory. We want to thank him for his leadership in the province past, present, and future. And we want to welcome him here to his Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming Mr. Goodale to the Assembly and, first of all, congratulate him on his re-election and to congratulate his party on their election to government, Mr.

Speaker. It was not Mr. Goodale's only election. He's been in a few. But I imagine being re-elected is not something that grows old.

And people in Regina know, Mr. Speaker, that he's a fixture around the city at events and works hard for Saskatchewan's interests. And so I wish him all the best over the next four years as he continues to serve the people of this province, and I'm sure that he'll be a strong voice on the issues that matter here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So I ask all members in joining me in also welcoming Mr. Goodale to the Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to colleagues here in the legislature, some important guests that have joined us here today, Mr. Speaker. With us today are members of the western chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce in Canada which, just a few weeks ago, opened a Saskatchewan office located right here in Regina.

I had the opportunity to have lunch with a group of business people and government officials and these gentlemen earlier today. And I know that the chairman of the board, Mr. Tom Mudry, will be joining us shortly. He's not here quite yet, Mr. Speaker; his flight's been delayed in Calgary but he's on his way. But joining us today is Mr. Norman Leach, a native Saskatchewanian from Weyburn, Saskatchewan. Mr. Leach lives in Calgary now but he is the chapter's executive director. And along with Mr. Leach is Mr. Rick Mantey, and Rick is the Chair of the chamber's new Saskatchewan chapter.

Mr. Speaker, trade is very important to this province, and the advocacy work that the American chapter of the chamber of commerce can do to assist our province and the business in our province is very welcome. So welcome to the Legislative Assembly here today on the opening of your new chapter in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Finance minister and welcome these leaders to their Chamber here today, and welcome their chapter. Certainly we look forward to engaging and meeting in due course as well, and thank them for their leadership within our province.

I'd also like to very briefly welcome the member from Wascana. It's certainly an experienced and effective cabinet minister, somebody who's been a very strong parliamentarian. And anyone in and around Regina knows that Ralph Goodale is somebody that is dedicated to his service, the people, the groups, the events that strengthen our community in so many good ways. Of course his wife, Pam, has also served her province in so many ways, as an educator and also supporting very important causes within this community. So I thank Hon. Member Goodale for his continued service, and look forward to working co-operatively towards those matters that are in the best interests of Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and

Sport.

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to take the time to introduce the rest of your gallery here. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce some of Saskatchewan's accomplished young athletes seated in the gallery today.

Mr. Speaker, in May, Saskatchewan water polo athletes travelled to Calgary, Alberta to participate in the 2015 National Championship League. The Regina Armada water polo under-14 boys team went undefeated in winning the first-ever under-14 NCL [National Championship League] Western Canadian championships.

Two members of the team received special recognition: Brody McKnight won the Best Goaltender of the Tournament Award; Callin Chimilar won the Best Offensive Player of the Tournament Award. Just one week later, Team Saskatchewan under-16 boys travelled to Calgary and won gold and the title of 2015 NCL Canadian National champions.

Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce the athletes and coaches that are seated in the gallery today. From the under-14 boys Regina Armada water polo, our Western Canadian champions are Brody McKnight, Callin Chimilar, Noah Katchuk, Josh Teichroeb, Keller Woloshyn, Nathaniel Eidsness, Jacob Brentnell, Coach Eric Graham, as well as Assistant Coach Auriel Bill. From the under-14 team but not here today is Josh McKnight.

Mr. Speaker, we also have with us members of the Saskatchewan 16-and-under boys, Canadian national champions already mentioned: Brody McKnight, Callin Chimilar, Jake Morris, Bryden Goosen, Stephen Gloade, Jaime Flaman, Connor Sunley, Hunter Kelly, Bruno Marunica, Tyler Grieve, Ben Guest, Coach Cyril Dorgigne, and Assistant Coach Dave Boan. Although he could not be with us today, I also recognize Drew Barsness who is from Weyburn.

Thank you to the Regina Armada water polo 14-and-under boys' team and team Saskatchewan under-16 boys' team, the coaches, volunteers, and families for your dedication to the sport. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that all members please join me in congratulating and welcoming these guests to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize four members from the Western Development Museum here with us, and I'd like to thank them for all their great work. And with us today is Susan Lamb, Diana Ireland, Janice Hobbs, and Dennis Naphin. And again, Mr. Speaker, there'll be a reception a little later today and we thank them for all their work.

And while I'm still on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to . . . I'm pleased to introduce sitting in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Roz Kelsey from the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, and Dena McMartin, the associate vice-president of academic and research. They're involved in the Man Up Against Violence and plus the other initiative that we were at today, sir, which was . . . They invited me and the Minister of Advanced Education and a number of other of my colleagues again to remind us to remain vigilant in the cause to spread awareness against domestic violence. And again, the Man Up Against Violence initiative is very important.

I'd like all members to join with me in applauding the initiative and to welcome them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I guess first off I'd just like to say a quick word of welcome to the guests that are here for Man Up Against Violence, and certainly Professor McMartin comes from a family of folks that are very interested in education matters but certainly in the betterment of the community around them. So I want to say a special word of welcome to Professor McMartin.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's always with a lot of pride to look up and see a gallery full of water polo players come to the Legislative Assembly. And we've had national championship teams come in before for a greeting but it's been a while.

We're here today to acknowledge that this is a team that's not won just one national championship but two national championships, Mr. Speaker. It's quite an event. It is quite an achievement. Great work to the players. I've seen some of them in action and they're a pretty tough calibre of player.

And I want to say a special word of thanks, of course, to the coaches, Coach Graham, Coach Bill, but also to Coach Boan and certainly Cyril Dorgigne who's come here from France. And it's safe to say that he's kind of turned Saskatchewan water polo on its ear in a lot of ways. There's been a strong tradition in this province, Mr. Speaker, but this is an individual that's really done some amazing things and really spread the reach of water polo throughout the province and not just in Regina.

But lastly I'll say this, Mr. Speaker. The Lawson Aquatic Centre is the home of the Armada and it's going to be, you know, the additional championship banners that they're bringing to hang on the wall of that pool, which is of course located in Regina Elphinstone-Centre, something we're very proud of. It's a great thing.

So again I join with the minister in welcoming these champions to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to join with the Minister of Parks and introduce one member that's with the Western Development Museum up there, but also his wife, very good friends of mine and also constituents, Mr.

Speaker.

Linda Hydamačka is a 35-year administrative person with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and has done a great amount of work with them in the local area for those many years. I was kidding with her earlier, since she was about 10 years old, Mr. Speaker. And Dennis is also a 10-year employee with the Government of Saskatchewan under a couple of different governments, but also a 30-year businessman, has Manitou Concessions out at Good Spirit Lake Provincial Park. Him and Linda have run that together for 30 years and very appreciative members of the community, very supportive of the community, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to give a special thank you to both of them. In their community spirit, together have helped contribute tens of thousands of dollars to Brayden Ottenbreit Close Cuts for Cancer local initiatives fund, and very appreciative of all the work they do locally. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off I just wanted to also extend congratulations to Mr. Goodale. When he was a provincial politician, he used to bravely come to our home, which is notably an NDP [New Democratic Party] home. But my grandmother was living there at the time and she would say, "Who are you for?" And he'd say, "Liberals." And she'd say, "I'm voting for you." So that was my grandma. So I think he'll remember those days.

But especially I'd like to also welcome the individuals here representing the Western Development Museum and congratulate them for all the work that they do. Certainly the Saskatoon Western Development Museum is part of my riding and Boomtown is a cherished part of Saskatoon's fabric, and I even took a blacksmithing course there a few years ago. And so I can actually forge a chain link if anybody's interested.

But certainly the stories they tell and the new logo that they've come out with is very impressive. We look forward to meeting with them later today. But on behalf of the official opposition, we'd like to welcome all of you to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce today a group of 52 grade 6, 7, and 8 students from Lakeview Elementary School, and they're accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Jared Clarke and Mrs. Tanya Friske-Welburn. And I ask all members to welcome them here to the legislature. Thank you.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to take a moment and join the many other folks who've welcomed the Western Development Museum folks here, especially if I could single out one, is Susan Lamb, a good friend who I've worked with many years at the Meewasin Valley Authority. And she's such a booster of conservation in

Saskatchewan, but particularly along the river systems. And I just want to ask all members here to join me in welcoming Susan to her legislature. Thank you very much.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make special recognition to Diana Ireland, in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. She is a constituent of mine and been very involved with Moose Jaw. One of the reasons Moose Jaw is doing as well as it is, is because Diana Ireland was the economic development officer for a number of years, and I see she's still very active in the community. And we're certainly proud to have her here and I'd ask everybody to recognize Diana. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to stand today and present a petition in support of GSAs [gender and sexuality alliance] in Saskatchewan schools. We know that this government is not doing enough to create safe spaces in our schools for sexually diverse students or students who are being bullied because of their sexual identity or sexual orientation. And we know that gender and sexual alliances offer opportunities for gender- and sexually diverse students to assert their needs and have their voices heard. And we know this government must act so that under no circumstances are gender- and sexually diverse students denied the right to form GSAs within their schools. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on this government to take immediate and meaningful action to pass *The Respect for Diversity — Student Bill of Rights Act* and enshrine in legislation the right of Saskatchewan students to form GSAs within their schools in order to foster caring, accepting, inclusive environments and deliver equal opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing the petition today come from Regina and Moose Jaw. I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to stand in my place today to present a petition on highway construction in northern Saskatchewan. And we presented petitions for highway construction through all of the province but, Mr. Speaker, this petition is in relation to Highway 155, which is the primary highway that serves northwestern Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the people want to see this highway repaired and therefore their prayer reads as follows:

To cause the provincial government to finally commit to requiring and upgrading Highway 155.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are primarily from Ile-a-la-Crosse, and I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today again to present a petition in support of better seniors' care. The petitioners point out that we continue to hear an increasing number of stories about the adverse effects of chronic understaffing in seniors' care facilities, including things like unanswered calls for help, seniors being left unattended on toilets for hours, and seniors not receiving baths for weeks at a time. We heard some stories last week again, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to immediately undertake meaningful steps to improve the quality of seniors' care in our province, including 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 senior 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 by residents of Regina and Yorkton. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition from citizens concerned with the high cost of post-secondary education in Saskatchewan. They point out that in 2014-15, Saskatchewan led the nation in terms of the highest increase in tuition overall, and they also point out, Mr. Speaker, that the average Canadian student in 2014 graduated with debt of \$27,000, not including credit card and other private debt. In the prayer that reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

They respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to immediately increase the funding for post-secondary education in this province, with a legislated provision that this increase in funding be used to lower tuition rates.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens in Regina. I so present.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of better schools:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on this government to immediately stop ignoring schools and start prioritizing students by capping classroom sizes, increasing support for students, and developing a transparent plan to build and repair our schools.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by residents of Regina. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Violence Prevention Week

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the unfortunate distinction of having the highest rates of violence in our country. To bring awareness and to work to eliminate physical and sexual assault in our province, we are once again proclaiming this week Violence Prevention Week.

Earlier today I, along with the ministers for Parks, Culture, Sport, Advanced Education, Social Services, as well as the member from Qu'Appelle Valley, attended the announcement of a new sexual assault policy at the University of Regina. Along with that, the Man Up Against Violence initiative on campus will help challenge mindsets and behaviours with regard to the social construction of masculinity and its relationship with violence. Policies like these are important for staff, students, and faculty on all of our campuses. While we hope these policies prevent these life-changing incidents from occurring, they are also crucial in helping all those affected when they do happen.

Mr. Speaker, we realize that bringing awareness to this issue is what will make the biggest change. This is why this government recently launched the Who Will You Help? campaign. This campaign highlights the realities of interpersonal violence and abuse in our province and what you can do to help when these situations occur.

I would ask all members to join me in thanking the University of Regina for taking this step forward and making the prevention of sexual assault a priority. Domestic violence and assault is not something that should be ignored. Thank you.

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

Installation of New University of Saskatchewan President

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I had the pleasure of attending the University of Saskatchewan's fall convocation ceremony. Although every convocation marks an important milestone for the graduates and their families, this year's ceremony also marked an important milestone for our province's oldest university. It was at this ceremony that Dr. Peter Stoicheff was installed as the 11th president of the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Stoicheff is certainly no stranger to the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], having served for many years as the dean of the College of Arts and Science. From his extensive experience, Dr. Stoicheff shared with us that he views the university's role as threefold: to inquire, to inform, and to innovate. And he pledged to continue the important work of indigenizing the university and making it more inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

As a proud U of S grad, I am pleased that Dr. Stoicheff has

taken on this vital role. I'm excited by his vision and his desire to indigenize the university and I'm confident that his leadership will serve the University of Saskatchewan and our entire province well. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Dr. Stoicheff on his appointment as the U of S president and in wishing him all the best as he begins the important work that lies ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this last Saturday I was very pleased and honoured to be able to join the Minister of Advanced Education, among others, for a terrific and important historical moment for the University of Saskatchewan.

This past Saturday the University of Saskatchewan installed Dr. Peter Stoicheff as its 11th president and vice-chancellor. Ushering in a new era of innovation and inclusion, the installation took place as part of the university's fall convocation held at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, prior to being appointed president of the university, Dr. Stoicheff was the distinguished dean of the College of Arts and Science. He takes over from Dr. Gordon Barnhart, former lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, who served as interim president for more than a year. Dr. Barnhart helped guide the university through a time of transition, and we appreciate his service.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Saskatchewan is in a strong position to continue moving forward under its new leader, Peter Stoicheff. In his address on Saturday, Dr. Stoicheff pledged that as president, students, faculty, and alumni, among others, can look forward to a redoubled commitment to academic freedom and to increased efforts to engage Aboriginal peoples both on and beyond campus.

Mr. Speaker, I'll ask all members to join me in congratulating Dr. Peter Stoicheff on being installed as president of the University of Saskatchewan and also in thanking Dr. Gordon Barnhart for his important work. I'm sure members would also like to join me in wishing the University of Saskatchewan continued success as it begins its new chapter along its esteemed history. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Queen City Pride Festival

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again had the honour this June to support and participate in the Queen City Pride Festival. The festival is an annual week-long celebration of the LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning] community of Regina and the greater region of south Saskatchewan. The festival, held during Pride Month in Saskatchewan, features a series of events highlighting the culture, history, achievements, and struggles of the LGBTQ community.

This year there were 30 unique events throughout the Queen City. Each event in the festival strives to educate, entertain, and

inform participants. This festival offers opportunities to celebrate gender and sexual diversity as well as to raise awareness within the larger community.

On June 20th I marched in the Queen City Pride parade. It was great to be joined by my own family along with many other members and allies of the LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender] community, including the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre as well as the member for Coronation Park, the federal MP [Member of Parliament] for Wascana, and the new MP for Lewvan. The streets were filled with bright colours and people showing their pride and support for diversity.

I ask all members to join with me to extend thanks to the sponsors of the events as well as to thank the 2015 Pride board for all their tireless work planning and executing this festival. Without a doubt, their efforts strengthen our community and help build our bright future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Prince Albert to Host World Softball Championship

Ms. Jurgens: — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to congratulate Prince Albert on being awarded the 2018 WBSC [World Baseball Softball Confederation] junior men's softball world championships. The announcement made last week by the World Baseball Softball Confederation and today by Aallcann Developmental Fastball Organization and Project Triple Play is an exciting opportunity for the people in my constituency, in Prince Albert, and indeed in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Ian Litzenberger, one of the Co-Chairs of the event, talked about the impact that hosting such a prestigious international tournament would have on our community. Not only is the tournament notable in terms of the talent it attracts, but also the economic benefits it will bring to our region. According to Mr. Litzenberger, the tournament will have an economic impact to Saskatchewan of about \$12 million with 8 of those million staying in P.A. [Prince Albert].

Mr. Speaker, I would invite members of this House to commend all the volunteers, athletes, and organizers who have worked tirelessly to attract this major tournament to Prince Albert. The 14 teams that will gather in P.A. in 2018 will not be disappointed by our city's hospitality. This championship softball tournament is sure to have some hard-hitting action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Team Canada Shows Well at 2015 Special Olympics World Games

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the 2015 Special Olympics World Games were held in Los Angeles from July 25th to August 2nd. Sixty-five hundred athletes, 2,000 coaches from 165 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and 500,000 spectators made it the largest sport and humanitarian event of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, the Special Olympics World Games celebrates

those with intellectual disabilities. It unites a world through sports while celebrating the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities to form a new global vision of acceptance through sport.

This year Team Canada consists of 11 mission staff, 32 coaches, and 115 athletes from 10 different sports. This includes, Mr. Speaker, some very talented Saskatchewan residents: Michael Qing, member of the swim team; Lindsay Kinnear, member of the athletics team; and Jackie Powell, one of the swim team coaches.

Mr. Speaker, both Michael and Lindsay earned three medals each. Michael won gold in the 4 x 100, silver in the 200-metre individual, and bronze in the 400 freestyle. Lindsay won gold in the 4 x 100 relay, gold in the 200-metre run, and bronze in the long jump.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Michael, Lindsay, and coach Jackie and all of Team Canada for an incredible showing at this year's World Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[14:00]

Health Care Providers Week

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House today and recognize October 25th to November 1st as Health Care Providers Week.

Mr. Speaker, health care providers are highly skilled professionals who work tirelessly to provide their patients with high-quality care. They are dedicated to the people of Saskatchewan and help keep the health system focused where it should be — on the patients and the families they serve.

Mr. Speaker, there are 26 self-regulating health professions in Saskatchewan, ranging from speech-language pathologists, dietitians, lab technicians, dentists, doctors, and nurses, just to name a few.

Our government is working to ensure we have the right mix of health care providers to offer the best possible care for citizens across Saskatchewan. Over the past eight years, Saskatchewan has seen significant increases in the number of physicians and nurses working here, and our government is working hard to ensure we have the many other health care providers that patients and families across our province need.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking the tens of thousands of health care providers that work tirelessly across our province each and every day to keep patients safe.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Surgical Wait Times and Provision of Health Care

Mr. Broten: — We learned last week that this government has cut funding for surgeries. In fact just here in our capital city, the Sask Party has cut \$8 million for surgeries. Internal documents show that this means 1,000 fewer surgeries in Regina alone. Not surprisingly, as a direct result of these cuts, we now see wait times for surgeries getting worse. Since March, when the Sask Party cut funding for surgeries, the number of people waiting more than three months for their surgery has jumped by 50 per cent. What does the Premier have to say about this 50 per cent increase since March?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that, as a result of the Government of Saskatchewan's surgical wait times initiative where we're now deploying some private surgery clinics in the public system, 91 per cent of Saskatchewan people are receiving their surgery within three months, 91 per cent within three months. Mr. Speaker, this is a marked change, a marked contrast from what used to happen here in Saskatchewan when members opposite were the governing party. In fact when the member for Lakeview, who's still with us, was the minister of Health, he presided over the longest surgical wait-lists in all of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

So we've been working, through the deployment of additional surgical resources, additional specialists, more doctors, more nurses, more resources, more theatres frankly, offered through some of the private clinics, we've been working to deal with this backlog, Mr. Speaker. Some of the reductions that the hon. member would be referring to is the fact that we are slowly making our way through backlogs across the system with more work that is needed. But 91 per cent of Saskatchewan people today receive their surgery within three months. And the question today is again for the member opposite: will he eliminate private surgeries? Will he end the surgical wait times initiative should he be elected on the 4th of April next year?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, similar answers from last week, and what the Premier needs to do is update his numbers and update the speaking notes that he has because back in March, 1,664 people waited longer than three months per surgery in our two largest health regions. The most recent numbers show that has now jumped to 2,485.

Now of course, Mr. Speaker, that's not what the Health minister said last week. He claimed that the government is, "doing a much better job of matching up real-time supply and demand for surgeries." And he said, Mr. Speaker, they've reduced the number of people waiting in Regina to, "a couple of hundred." Mr. Speaker, that is so far from reality that it is offensive. He said a couple hundred, but the real number is at least four times that.

So my question to the Premier: why isn't the Sask Party just being upfront about surgical wait times getting worse since March as a direct result of the Sask Party cuts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to have this debate with my hon. friend because, again for ideological reasons, the NDP have said they will wipe out the surgical wait times initiative of the government. They'll shut down the private clinics currently operating within the public system. Mr. Speaker, when they do that . . . Well they won't be able to do that, Mr. Speaker, but were they ever to get the chance to do that, here's what might happen, Mr. Speaker. Because when members opposite sat on this side of the House and when they were in government, with their ideological government public sector approach only, 6,000 people in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health District — 6,000 people — were waiting for surgery longer than three months, Mr. Speaker.

Now the number is somewhere between 3 and 400. We'll put that record against their record any day of the week. And moreover, I ask the member again, will he stand up and confirm for this Assembly and the people of the province that, should he form the next government next April, that he will eliminate the surgical wait times initiative, that he'll shut down the private clinics and drive up the wait times like they did before when they were in government, Mr. Speaker?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, similar to last week, we see the volume. We see the agitation, Mr. Speaker, but we see no comment, Mr. Speaker, about this 50 per cent increase for those waiting longer than three months, a direct result of this Sask Party cut.

You know, last week, Mr. Speaker, the Health minister just didn't give wrong information about the number of people waiting for more than three months for surgery. They also said the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is "comfortable with removing the dollars from the surgical budget." But that's actually not what senior health officials said. They said that because of the Sask Party cuts, "There is a risk that patients will experience longer wait times."

Mr. Speaker, they were talking about the risks associated and the longer waits. That sure doesn't sound like they were comfortable, Mr. Speaker, with the cuts. And they were right. We have seen, we have seen — and it's very clear in the numbers — a 50 per cent increase in the number of people waiting more than three months for surgery. So to the Premier: why would the Sask Party say senior health officials were comfortable with these cuts when officials were actually sounding the alarm about longer surgical waits?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the facts are pretty clear with respect to this debate. When members opposite were the government, when they had this ideologically hidebound approach to only using the public system . . . Well the Leader of the Opposition is laughing. I mean he's asked this question. These are pretty important facts, especially if you're waiting for surgery.

And the fact of the matter is that when they were in office, in their last full year in office, 6,000 people in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health District alone were waiting for three months

or longer for surgery. It was the worst record in all of Canada, right here in the birthplace of medicare, presided over by members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, how many people are waiting today longer than three months? Well it's around 400. In fact, 91 per cent of the people of this province are getting their surgery within three months because we've deployed private clinics in the public system. They've said, you know, Mr. Speaker, in a choice between NDP ideology and actual results for people, we'll choose results. That's what people across the province have been saying. Mr. Speaker, across Saskatchewan it . . . Across Saskatchewan, in terms of cases waiting more than three months, as of March the 31st, 2010, the number was 15,291. The numbers today, July 31st, 2015, is 2,270, Mr. Speaker. This is progress by any reasonable measure, made in part because we're using the public system but we're allowing the private system.

And so I say again to my hon. friend, why is he ideologically opposed to using private clinics in the public system — no queue jumping — but just as a matter of increasing resources? Why would he be opposed to that when we see real results for Saskatchewan people?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier doesn't have his facts correct. Right now he just said there's 400 waiting, Mr. Speaker. In reality, 820 are waiting. As I said, he needs to update his numbers. And this is the question: they decided to cut \$8 million from surgeries. They said everyone's fine with it, Mr. Speaker — officials are good with it; regions are good with it. In reality, we had health officials sounding the alarm saying that these are concerns.

Mr. Speaker, we know that this government, because of cuts, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's looking at 38 million less in funding this year, \$38 million in health care cuts just in Regina. And with specific reference to the government's surgical initiative, the official said, "The goal has changed from one of growth to one where contraction of services in order to meet a reduced target is the overall goal."

And now, Mr. Speaker, despite the over-the-top rhetoric that we see from the Premier and from the Health minister, we are seeing the result. We are seeing the outcome of the Sask Party's cuts. The number of people waiting more than three months for surgeries has jumped by 50 per cent just since March.

Mr. Speaker, after a decade of record prosperity, how on earth can the Premier justify cutting health care funding, slashing surgeries, and reducing targets?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, to be fair to the debate in terms of looking at the columns, the member's right. There was 800 people waiting for the surgery in this particular district. But again, the comparison stands. Even if that's the number — and we readily admit we need to do better — the numbers when members opposite were the government, because of their ideological, hidebound policies to delivery of surgeries, the fact

that they were under-resourcing nurses and doctors and specialists in the province, there were 6,000 people on the list, 6,000 people, in their last full year in office.

And now what's inferred by the member's question is, let's just go back to those days. Let's go back to the days where we didn't bring any innovation, and heaven forbid we allowed any private sector involvement in the health care system. Let's go back to those days where we had the dubious distinction in this province, under the New Democrats, under the NDP, of the longest surgical wait times in the country. He would say, let's go back to those days, versus the innovation that we brought which will provide around 85,000 surgeries in the district this year alone. Much, much higher than was ever provided by the members opposite across the province. Much, much higher than was ever provided by members opposite when they were the government.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan, given a choice between tired, old ideology and surgery, will choose timely surgery. They'll choose innovation. They'll choose targets. They're never going to go back to the longest surgical wait times in Canada. That was the NDP gift to them and it's been soundly rejected, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, you'd think you might see a bit more contrition when the Premier's caught right there with the incorrect numbers. We had the Health minister, Mr. Speaker, saying 200 was the waiting list. We had the Premier say, 3 to 400; 400 in this question period, Mr. Speaker, and the reality is 800. Only when caught would they admit, Mr. Speaker, that that is the reality. We need a major fact check when they were talking about their numbers and the notes that they're using, Mr. Speaker.

When the Health Minister was asked last week about the cuts, Mr. Speaker, this is what he said:

We'll be watching that. We'll see what wait times look like and whether or not we're seeing that three month wait getting longer, but we'll be paying a lot of attention to that. But we're comfortable with the decision.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party clearly has not been paying attention to surgical wait times since they cut that funding in March. Or perhaps, Mr. Speaker, they've been paying attention but they just did not want Saskatchewan people to know the truth about the outcomes. Mr. Speaker, either way that is completely unacceptable.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, the Premier was boasting about surgical wait times here in the Assembly. Was he aware that there's a 50 per cent increase that we've seen since March? Did he know and choose not to share that information, or did he simply not know?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, we've been hiding all of this information right there on the Internet, right there on the website, right there on the website, on the Saskatchewan

surgical initiative website. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I invite the member to read all of the facts on the website. And then maybe he wants to be a bit introspective about his own policies that he's proposing to Saskatchewan people. Because let's be very clear. He's pointing out what he sees to be problems in the system and it's true that more work needs to be done, Mr. Speaker. But the record of the NDP's ideological approach gave us the longest surgical wait times in the country, and we'll keep repeating it because those are the facts, Mr. Speaker.

And now we have the shortest surgical wait times in the country. In fact, if he looked at that same sheet, the same statistics also hidden away on the Internet, he would find that surgeries performed within three months, Mr. Speaker, in terms of access to surgery, 90.7 per cent. Ninety-one per cent of people are getting their surgery within three months.

So I think it's fair, by the way, for the member to be critical, to say, you know, you need to do a little bit better and in certain regions maybe need to do a little bit better. But here's what also might be fair. It might be fair for the hon. member to stand up and say, you know, we were wrong. We were wrong. These private clinics in the public system, the surgical wait times initiative, it is delivering results. He could say, we'd like you to do more. But if he was fair, if he wanted to actually relate to Saskatchewan people, he might say, I think progress has been made here using these private clinics, and we'll continue that or we'll support it as a matter of public policy.

But you won't hear that from them, Mr. Speaker. You won't hear that from them because for the member opposite especially and for his colleagues, ideology is way more important than actual results. That's not the way it is on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Will the Premier admit that there has been a 50 per cent increase for those waiting for surgeries since they have made the cuts in March? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that the people of this province know that the surgical initiative, since 2010, we've invested nearly \$300 million in the surgical initiative that has seen a reduction in wait times. For those waiting three months for surgery, has gone from 15,291 waiting three months for surgery down to 2,270 across the province, an 85 per cent reduction across the province. And those waiting longer than six months has gone from 9,871 down to 487, a 95 per cent reduction.

[14:15]

So, Mr. Speaker, we do know that there are some people that are still waiting longer than three months, but let's put this in context. Your surgical date may not be within three months. It may be within four months. It may be within four and a half months. And we recognize that we're still trying to keep to the three-month goal, but that is a far cry from when people waited 18 and 23 and 30 months for joint replacement in this province. They're waiting three months and four months in this province,

and that is a record we will defend every day of the week in this province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know why it's so difficult for the Premier to get up and say, yes or no, whether or not he admits that there's been a 50 per cent increase in the waits, Mr. Speaker. I don't understand.

I also don't hear any reference, as we've talked on previous days, Mr. Speaker, about the huge waits we have actually to see specialists. The Premier promised one week, Mr. Speaker. We know it's like 11 months now. So it's far out of step with what the reality is.

The Premier should have known, Mr. Speaker, that surgical wait times are getting worse. In fact he should have known that this would happen before, before he cut the funding for surgeries. Here's a quote from an internal document: "The ministry by their own calculations realizes that maintaining a strict three-month target is going to be a challenge based on projected availability of surgical resources."

So, Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Health knew that this cut would put at risk the gains that have been made. And this government knew that wait times for surgeries will get longer.

But the Premier, Mr. Speaker, still just chose to plow ahead with this funding cut for surgeries. He could have, Mr. Speaker, cut his own government's waste, but instead he chose to cut funding for surgeries.

My question to the Premier: will he admit that cutting funding for surgeries was indeed a mistake?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well let me talk a little bit about the gains that were made. Because this is what was reported in the *Leader-Post* in 2001 . . . sorry, pardon me, *The StarPhoenix* in 2001, November, 2001. In 1999 the waiting list for joint replacement in this province was 18 months. And at the time in the '99 platform, the NDP promised a 30 per cent reduction in wait times for surgeries. What happened in that term of government? Wait times went up in this province 61 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

So the story goes on to say that the wait list for joint replacement was 18 months. But the head of surgery in Regina says, "The numbers don't surprise me. Critical cases are handled quickly, but others may wait up to three years." And the member opposite wants to talk in this House about the waits going from three months to perhaps four months in this province.

Nine times out of ten, in this region, in this province, people are getting their surgery within three months. I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to show me any other province in the Dominion of Canada where that's happening. I don't think it's happening anywhere else.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Nutana.

Carbon Capture and Storage Agreement

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we've long had concerns about the economics of this government's carbon capture experiment because the calculations show a huge net loss to Saskatchewan families and a massive financial gain to a Calgary-based oil company called Cenovus.

But it turns out that the Sask Party has handed even more public money to Cenovus than we knew about. Internal documents show that SaskPower cut a cheque for \$12 million to Cenovus as part of its top secret agreement. And those internal documents clearly call into question whether this massive payment was even necessary.

So what is the minister's explanation for this highly questionable \$12 million payment to Cenovus?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the carbon capture and storage project down at Boundary dam 3 is getting accolades from around the world. People from all over the globe came to Regina here just recently, Mr. Speaker, to attend a symposium here.

They were most appreciative of the fact that SaskPower was hosting it, first of all, but they also went on to say about how important the innovation was on a global scale. They were simply saying that this is setting the stage throughout the world for carbon capture and storage, a very, very important project, Mr. Speaker.

Indeed there is a component of it where the carbon, CO₂, that is sequestered is sold to an oil company for sequestering to help with enhanced oil recovery here in Saskatchewan. That's a very important part of the economics that support the project, Mr. Speaker, and that project will continue because of the success that it enjoys.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, a briefing note was given to that minister on February 17th of this year, and it says that SaskPower paid a \$12 million penalty to Cenovus for supposedly failing to deliver the amount of carbon dioxide specified in that contract. But that doesn't make sense because a briefing note written by SaskPower's head of carbon capture on November 13th, 2014 says, "The carbon capture facility has not been run at full capacity at this point, partially due to Cenovus not needing the CO₂ to that level . . ."

And that briefing note makes it clear that SaskPower was meeting their contractual obligations. So how can the minister possibly justify handing a \$12 million cheque to Cenovus when internal documents show that it wasn't necessary?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — As I have said earlier, the project is

enjoying accolades from around the world. It's a very, very important project for Saskatchewan and for the advancement of CCS [carbon capture and storage] technology worldwide.

As a part of that symposium, SaskPower was very happy to sign an agreement with BHP Billiton around this very subject, about advancing the technology going forward. Within the contract, when it comes to the sale of CO₂ to Cenovus, there are exceptions and there are penalties, provisions if we are not able to . . . SaskPower is not able to provide CO₂ for some reason, Mr. Speaker. That's a part of the contractual agreement that we have in place with Cenovus. So there's nothing unusual about that whatsoever, Mr. Speaker.

The good news is that since the project has been up and running, it's the equivalent of taking about 250,000 cars off of the highways of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the minister is going to have to explain much better than that because this is very disturbing. In mid-November of last year, SaskPower's head of carbon capture wrote a briefing note saying Cenovus didn't need the level of CO₂ required under the contract and that's one of the reasons the carbon capture facility was not yet running at full capacity.

But six weeks later the Sask Party still gave Cenovus a cheque for a whopping \$12 million as a supposed penalty for failing to deliver enough CO₂, despite the fact that one of the main reasons why the carbon capture facility was not running at full capacity is that Cenovus didn't need the full level of CO₂. What's the minister's explanation for this?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, the BD3 [Boundary dam 3] project will reduce emissions by 90 per cent, the equivalent of taking about 250,000 cars off the road annually here in our province. SaskPower is the leading company in terms of carbon capture solutions. BD3 powers the equivalent of half the city of Regina while removing the equivalent CO₂ produced by all the cars and houses in the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker.

The contract has provisions in it. It was a publicly tendered contract, Mr. Speaker, something that is done on a regular basis by SaskPower, a completely transparent and open project, Mr. Speaker. Obviously there are benefits to the province of Saskatchewan when it comes to CO₂ capture here in the province, Mr. Speaker. And obviously as a result of the project, we are seeing tremendous benefits to our province.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, here's what the briefing note from February 17th of this year says:

As a result of capture plant schedule delays caused by SNC-Lavalin and other contractors, SaskPower was unable

to commence CO₂ deliveries to Cenovus until October 1st, 2014. Since that time, the BD3 capture plant has been operating at approximately 45 per cent capacity.

As SaskPower was unable to make up the shortfall product by 2014 year-end, Cenovus invoiced SaskPower for the penalty amount of \$11,791,329.17 plus GST.

But here's what Mike Monea wrote on November 13th of last year: "The carbon capture facility has not been run at full capacity at this point, partially due to Cenovus not needing CO₂ to that level . . ."

So Cenovus didn't need the CO₂ to the specified level and, as a result, they didn't run it at full capacity. But they still cut a cheque to Cenovus? What's the real reason for the \$12 million cheque to Cenovus?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, the project is up and running. It's working very well. There were some initial problems with a scrubber, I believe it was, in one of the vessels, the pressure vessels at the facility. I understand that that has been corrected, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is that yes, there has been some delays in the delivery of the CO₂ to Cenovus, who was the company who was the bidder, a successful bidder in the open project that there was there, Mr. Speaker. As a result of that, there were some penalty clauses. I understand SaskPower is having some discussions right now with Cenovus with respect to that, Mr. Speaker. I think the really good news here in this project is that it's up and running. It's proving to be very, very successful, Mr. Speaker.

There were maybe some initial start-up problems associated with CO₂ capture, Mr. Speaker, but now the project is very, very successfully running. We're seeing that it is capturing a large amount of CO₂. The projections are even better as we go forward, Mr. Speaker, for the project. We are hopeful that we will see somewhere in the range of about 97 per cent of the carbon . . .

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

Ms. Sproule: — This is what we know, Mr. Speaker. Under the Saskatchewan Party, power rates for Saskatchewan families have increased by an incredible 42 per cent. So when SaskPower cuts massive cheques to out-of-province corporations, I think Saskatchewan people have a right to know, especially when internal documents are questioning the rationale for that massive payment. And let's not forget that Cenovus is the top corporate donor to the Sask Party. So it's hard not to see this questionable massive payment as a special gift to Sask Party friends, especially when the minister refuses to give proper answers.

Why won't the minister just be fully transparent with Saskatchewan people so we can get to the bottom of this and find out the truth?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the topic that the member raises, opposite, is very interesting because all of the information that the member is raising is in the annual report, hidden away, hidden away on the Internet for everyone to see.

Mr. Speaker, it has provisions in it for the start-up of the facility. It has provisions for going forward, Mr. Speaker. It has provisions if SaskPower isn't able to deliver, as was the case initially, Mr. Speaker. But now the project is up and running. It's working very well. And I would say, Mr. Speaker, that's why we are getting, SaskPower that is, is getting accolades from around the world. International agencies around the world are recognizing that it's an exceptional project, and that's why we are very, very pleased to see how it's working out so far.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 188 — *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to rise and move second reading of Bill No. 188, the best value in procurement amendment Act. The best value in procurement amendment Act amends *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997* and *The Public Works and Services Act* by establishing best value as the foundation for government purchasing of construction services.

This is a significant change, Mr. Speaker. Until now, the legislation restricted the Ministry of Highways and Central Services to select proponents based on the lowest priced technically compliant bid. Yet every Saskatchewan family knows choosing a certain product only because of its lowest price does not always mean it's the smartest purchase.

Obviously the purchase price of a product matters. However, the problem with looking at only the price is that it overlooks a number of other important factors that will affect the usefulness and the long-term viability of any product. This might include price; product quality; vendor experience, including their performance history and their demonstrated ability to deliver what's being promised; a vendor's safety practices; the potential for innovation, creativity and originality of design; the vendor's knowledge of local conditions such as Saskatchewan's geotechnical and environmental conditions, local laws and building codes; and overall how these and other factors affect the cost of operating and maintaining an asset over its lifetime.

Criteria for each competition are selected in advance by knowledgeable staff to meet the specific needs of each project. Taking this approach promises to benefit both the taxpayer and those businesses who work with government. Not only will government have high-performing products to serve the public well, but a more holistic view of value as the best way to be respectful of taxpayers' dollars.

[14:30]

I want to be clear, Mr. Speaker, that while this is a shift in the way Highways and Central Services procure construction-related services, best-value procurement is already in practice. It is widely used by ministries and Crown corporations purchasing other goods and services, as well as used by many other Canadian and international jurisdictions.

P3s [public-private partnership], Mr. Speaker, are the best form of best-value procurement, and are delivering some of the most ambitious and promising infrastructure products this province has seen.

Credit for beginning this process, Mr. Speaker, begins with the Premier. It was him who listened to the concerns of local businesses and responded by creating Priority Saskatchewan as a branch of SaskBuilds in June of 2014. The next stage was our early meetings. Under the leadership of Lionel LaBelle, Priority Saskatchewan then took more than 160 meetings with local companies, industry associations, public sector partners in the MASH [municipalities, academic institutions, schools, and hospitals] sector, and government ministries and Crowns.

This informed a 13-point action plan that we unveiled at the North Saskatoon Business Association event this spring. Responses from stakeholders at the time was encouraging. The Saskatchewan Construction Association said, and I quote, "The provincial government is demonstrating its commitment to global best practices in developing a fair, balanced, and vibrant Saskatchewan economy."

The Saskatchewan Manufacturing Council issued a media release that read:

I commend . . . [the minister] and the Government of Saskatchewan on their initial steps towards the development of a strategic procurement policy that promotes fairness and competitive reciprocity for Saskatchewan manufacturers, as well as best value for Saskatchewan taxpayers.

It goes on to say, Mr. Speaker:

Procurement is both a large and delicate file to navigate. While there is much more work to be done, the action plan set out by . . . [the minister] through Priority Saskatchewan addresses the core recommendations CME has made to government, and charts a clear path forward for timely implementation.

And that's only a snapshot of the positive feedback. But, Mr. Speaker, the consultations did not end with the announcement of our action plan. We continue to solicit feedback to this day, hosting workshops and inviting correspondence to ensure our efforts are in line with industry needs.

The best-value approach contained in Bill 188 is supported by industry and serves the needs of Saskatchewan taxpayers. And, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this bill, along with everything in our Priority Saskatchewan action plan, is 100 per cent compliant with our trade agreements. Mr. Speaker, you will recall when I introduced the bill on October 21st, we were joined in the gallery by several representatives of Saskatchewan's largest industry associations. There to support

the bill were the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, the North Saskatoon Business Association, Carol Morsky of the Morsky Group of Companies on behalf of Merit, the Saskatchewan Construction Association and Heavy Construction Association, and the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of Saskatchewan.

It's clear that Saskatchewan businesses support our government bill, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the changes proposed in this legislation will promote innovation by expanding the selection criteria to more appropriately balance cost and value. I look forward to receiving the support of all members on this Assembly as we take this important step forward. So, Mr. Speaker, I'll therefore conclude my remarks and move second reading of Bill 188, *The Best Value in Procurement Act*.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 188, *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand in my place today to speak about Bill 188. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a very interesting bill coming from the Saskatchewan Party government because this really is a bill that really speaks about the incredible need for us to pay attention to all our trade agreements, Mr. Speaker.

And one of the things that's really, really important and I want to say at the outset, that as the minister introduced Bill 188, the best-value approach, I wanted to share with the people of Saskatchewan, particularly those that might be watching this afternoon, how trade affects the province of Saskatchewan. And certainly from our perspective, as a New Democratic opposition team, we want to make sure that we are very, very . . . we take our time and we are very, very studious in terms of making sure that we understand what these trade agreements are all about, how these bills impact certain agreements, Mr. Speaker.

And it's very interesting as to the reaction from the Saskatchewan Party on their Bill 188. In a sense they're basically telling people that, look, when we're looking at procuring services or products from the people of Saskatchewan, we want to have a new approach. And that's called the best-value approach, 188, to give Saskatchewan people and businesses opportunities to provide service to the government overall.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a very interesting bill, very interesting indeed. Because not more than several years ago there was great fanfare under the Premier's initiative called the New West Partnership, Mr. Speaker, in which he talked about mobility of investment, mobility of services and working together in the western part of Canada and being good trading partners and so on and so forth, Mr. Speaker. And this bill, again it's a bill that really, I think, doesn't really coincide with what the Premier said at the time that the New West Partnership was all about, and that's opening up the borders, opening up opportunities, and so on and so forth.

We also know, Mr. Speaker, that there is a little thing called agreement on interprovincial trade. And what that agreement is, as we all know, there's a number of provinces that have agreed

not to put barriers, and certainly not to put up walls in terms of being able to freely pursue business opportunity in each jurisdiction. They're talking about . . . a lot of the business community is saying that we don't need to have protectionist measures, Mr. Speaker. And I'm certain that some in the business community outside of our borders would certainly view Bill 188 as a protectionist measure, Mr. Speaker.

Now one of the things that's also important is the most recent example that I would use, Mr. Speaker, is the TPP [Trans-Pacific Partnership] agreement in which they asked us information and they wouldn't share with us the information that they received as a government as to what outgoing Prime Minister Harper was talking about under the TPP agreement. And, Mr. Speaker, all the details in that particular agreement we are not privy to yet. And certainly as a caucus we're asking for more information on that particular agreement because you want to know how it impacts and how it affects Saskatchewan-based businesses.

Now, Mr. Speaker, at the outset, best-value approach Bill 188 really talks about local knowledge and local conditions and local intelligence, if you will, as to allow the local people to compete with out-of-province and perhaps out-of-country businesses when it comes to providing services to the provincial government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we in the NDP certainly saw that this was an issue for the small-business community and for the larger corporations as well. And this is why we introduced the buy local Act in which we are encouraging not only the province or the government, Mr. Speaker, but the entire province — the consumers, other businesses, other communities, and other people that buy goods — to look at Saskatchewan's businesses first because they do create an incredible amount of opportunity for not only employment, Mr. Speaker, but services that the people of Saskatchewan need. And that money of course is being kept here and kept within the communities and certainly kept within the spending patterns of the whole area, Mr. Speaker.

So there's been study after study that shows that if you do buy local, Mr. Speaker, that that money certainly is recycled seven or eight or nine or ten times within the local communities. So it's really advantageous. It's really good that we see that when you encourage people to buy local, it does have a positive, positive effect on the economy overall.

But, Mr. Speaker, this particular bill, Bill 188, goes beyond that. We've got to really make sure that some of our trade agreements . . . And this is what I kind of take a bit of exception when the minister indicates to us that this Bill 188 is compliant with our trade agreements and when we all know that most recently one of the biggest things that they were speaking about — I'm talking about the Conservatives, Mr. Speaker — and Harper was talking about the TPP agreement, and we didn't have any information yet. And so for the minister, a week later after that announcement was made as it relates to the TPP agreement, Mr. Speaker, saying that this Bill 188 is compliant with our trade agreements, we need to make certain that is the case, Mr. Speaker.

And my point is, I don't believe that they have done their

homework. They haven't properly researched exactly the impacts of all these major agreements and how we can position, as they are trying to do under Bill 188, how we can position our local businesses, our local people to be able to provide services to the government without impacting some of the trade agreements that we have and some of the constitutional agreements we have as a country.

So, Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest things I would encourage people out there is to pay very close attention to what the Saskatchewan Party is trying to do. And this is where it goes back to my earlier statement, as I spoke on a number of bills, Mr. Speaker. And I really don't think that the Saskatchewan Party have a clue what they're doing on Bill 188, as evidenced under other bills, Mr. Speaker. And this is where I get to my point that the people of Saskatchewan ought to know that some of these efforts by the Saskatchewan Party is just for posturing, that there is no real intent to change how they're doing business, which is unfortunate.

And the reason why I say that, Mr. Speaker, is the past behaviours and patterns of the Saskatchewan Party government, when it comes to positioning our business community better to be able to take advantage of some of the projects here in the province of Saskatchewan, you look at some of their record, Mr. Speaker. It is just an abysmal record. And I'm going to go down the list, Mr. Speaker, of some of the deals and some of the agreements and some of the failures of the Saskatchewan Party when we should be trying as a government to try and position Saskatchewan-based companies better, Mr. Speaker.

The Saskatchewan Party has failed on a regular basis as to what they say they're trying to achieve today under Bill 188, Mr. Speaker. And I'm going to share with the public of Saskatchewan some of the examples of what the Saskatchewan Party done to outsource the work, outsource the work that many Saskatchewan people and many families benefited from in the past.

And I'm going to go through a laundry list, Mr. Speaker, of the services sent out of province. These are the services sent out of province by the Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker. The biggest one is in Prince Albert. The laundry services in Prince Albert to K-Bro Linens in Edmonton, Alberta, Mr. Speaker. How many people they put out of work in Prince Albert area. That's one of the most glaring, recent examples, Mr. Speaker, where the Saskatchewan Party said we're shutting down laundry services in Prince Albert.

And all the people that have worked in those laundry services, the men and women of Prince Albert that had families, Mr. Speaker, that had children going to school, that were paying their municipal taxes, Mr. Speaker, that were contributing to the local economy, and the list goes on and on and on, what did the Saskatchewan Party do, Mr. Speaker? They turned around and they told the people of the Prince Albert area that your work is not good enough. We're now going to take your jobs away. We're going to have K-Bro out of Edmonton, Alberta start doing the laundry services in Prince Albert.

And the mayor said, remember April 4th and what they done in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. And then you come along with Bill 188. You come along with Bill 188, which to us isn't worth the

paper it's written on, Mr. Speaker. It's a day late and hundreds of millions of dollars short for the people of Prince Albert.

So again, the laundry services in Prince Albert to K-Bro Linens in Edmonton, Mr. Speaker, is what the Saskatchewan Party done most recently to try and protect the workers. Instead, Mr. Speaker, they fired those workers. They said their work wasn't good enough. And as a result of that, Mr. Speaker, that's going to have an economic downturn, an incredible economic downturn for the city of Prince Albert, for the families of Prince Albert, for the business community of Prince Albert, and especially for those that lost their jobs. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many times the Saskatchewan Party has to be told by the New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan that those jobs in P.A. were needed.

It's all about the economy. This is something that people have to understand. You've got to protect Saskatchewan jobs. If you don't protect them, then you're not doing your job as the government. And that's why I think the people of Saskatchewan are looking forward to laying off and firing the Saskatchewan Party MLAs that come out of Prince Albert because they refuse to stand up to their political masters in protecting P.A.'s interests, Mr. Speaker. And that's an example of why Bill 188 today that we're talking about procurement, Mr. Speaker, it's a day late and hundreds of dollars short for the people of Prince Albert. And that's a crying shame.

[14:45]

And I'd like to echo the mayor of Prince Albert's comments. Remember that, Prince Albert, on April 4th. These are the people that ship jobs out of your community and they headed west to Edmonton. And now these people attempt under Bill 188, Mr. Speaker, to try and reverse that tide. It's exactly what is described as a dollar short and a day late.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the most glaring example we've been speaking about most recently the last several months has been the \$1.8 billion bypass, Mr. Speaker. And the Regina south bypass, this bypass, \$1.8 billion was awarded to build this bypass, Mr. Speaker. And which company got that, Mr. Speaker? It wasn't a Saskatchewan-based company. It wasn't a Canadian-based company, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't a North American-based company, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Party dug far and wide and made many phone calls and they found a contractor out of Paris, Mr. Speaker, out of France. This is exactly where they got this contractor, Mr. Speaker.

And I say again, and I hope the media picks up on this, Mr. Speaker, in due time, in due time . . . We have some information, Mr. Speaker, that I don't want to say too much about. But in due time the Saskatchewan Party is going to realize that they have been played big time on the Regina bypass, Mr. Speaker. They have been played big time and now we're sending \$1.8 billion, \$1.8 billion to a France-based company to do highways work, Mr. Speaker. And they have mismanaged that file completely.

We see, we see, Mr. Speaker, that as a result of some of the planning, not only the design work that they stubbornly insist is correct, Mr. Speaker, that's why people out there in Saskatchewanland should listen very carefully and watch the

advertisements around why Tower Road. There are people out there that are running advertisements saying, why Tower Road, and there's hundreds and thousands of people that are very angry, Mr. Speaker, because the bypass doesn't bypass the city, and they are quite angry about that, Mr. Speaker.

Now we want a bypass, and I want to make that absolutely clear. The Saskatchewan Party certainly wants to have their bypass, but they ship all the money to France. The Saskatchewan New Democratic Party supports the bypass. We started the bypass up in the Northwest, Mr. Speaker. We're the ones that brought the bypass into place. And then we handed over to the Saskatchewan Party and they made a big mess of it.

And just to add insult to injury, Mr. Speaker, they searched throughout the whole world and they found a Paris-based company called Vinci, Vinci Group. And, Mr. Speaker, they're going to come along and not only are they going to build a bypass, but they're going to own the bypass. They are going to put a higher interest cost on this P3 model that the Saskatchewan Party put in place, and to add insult to injury, Mr. Speaker, they are going to maintain that bypass for the next 30 years, Mr. Speaker — 30 years, Mr. Speaker.

Now we sit here, and the working people of Saskatchewan are looking at this saying, well why couldn't that investment be made here in Saskatchewan? Why couldn't they get a conglomerate of companies to build that bypass? There's nobody else in the province that's able to position themselves well to do this work, Mr. Speaker?

They didn't take the time to look. They didn't take the time to think out the route. They certainly didn't take the time to protect Saskatchewan's investment, Mr. Speaker, and Saskatchewan companies. And that's exactly why you look at some of the examples. The \$1.8 billion bypass to a Paris-based company to me doesn't talk about supporting local people, to me doesn't talk about what was mentioned in Bill 188, to talk about local knowledge, to talk about local experience, Mr. Speaker. We had companies that could have been used. Had the bypass been designed correctly and financed correctly, Mr. Speaker, we would have had the Saskatchewan-based companies positioned much better than we have under this current Saskatchewan Party government.

So, Mr. Speaker, the \$1.8 billion bypass boondoggle to the Paris-based Vinci, Mr. Speaker, is exactly why we in the NDP do not believe for one minute that Bill 188 is going to achieve any of the objectives outlined by the minister.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what's really important, what's really important to this is that we know that there's three particular benefits of the bypass. And this is where Bill 188 is so applicable, Mr. Speaker, because there's three tranches of opportunity, three main sections of the bypass that would really have companies interested in doing this work, but a Paris-based company got the benefit.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, they get to build the bypass at a profit. And, Mr. Speaker, nothing's wrong with that. If you run businesses in the province of Saskatchewan, well profit is a word that every business community and every business member knows, and we certainly support that notion. In order

to be in business, you have to have profit. We understand that, Mr. Speaker. So we're not arguing about the profit aspect of building that bypass. We understand that's part of how the economy should work.

But the second part is where we also have some very basic difficulties, Mr. Speaker. One of the basic difficulties is around the interest that the company is charging, the interest that the company is charging to the Saskatchewan taxpayers for using their money, Mr. Speaker, for using their money to build this bypass. So the Saskatchewan Party is not putting any money into it. They're borrowing off this company that's building it. So the company gets to build it. They determine their profit. And yes, okay, we're not saying profit is bad for building roads, but, Mr. Speaker, what is the interest rate on that particular loan that this Vinci Group is giving to the Saskatchewan Party?

And then to add insult to injury, the third component, Mr. Speaker, is the Saskatchewan Party awarded the maintenance contract for the bypass for 30 years to this particular group. So the two added costs, Mr. Speaker, of the interest on the Regina bypass cost is going to be higher through this group than traditional sources of us going to the bank. And the third component, Mr. Speaker, is they're giving this company a 30-year maintenance agreement.

Now imagine for a moment, Mr. Speaker, if our working men and women, the working men and women in the Highways department, if they had job security for 30 years. That would be a phenomenal opportunity for them, Mr. Speaker. But the Saskatchewan Party instead has laid off many of these workers. They have disregarded the Highways workers on a continual basis. And as my colleague from Regina said, Mr. Speaker, that now, as a result of this group from France getting the maintenance contract on the ill-designed bypass, now our workers from Saskatchewan, our men and women that work in the Highways department, when they come to the bypass area they're going to have to lift their blades, drive by the bypass, and once they're past the bypass, Mr. Speaker, they can put their blades down again and start maintaining the other part of the bypass.

So that's the second example. First of all, Prince Albert loses their laundry service to an Edmonton-based company — not a peep from the Saskatchewan Party representatives. The \$1.8 billion bypass to a Paris-based group, Vinci, Mr. Speaker, once again the Saskatchewan Party stubbornly insist that's a good deal for Saskatchewan. We say absolutely not.

The most recent example, the SaskPower outsourced meter installation on our homes throughout Saskatchewan to Grid One, and we see trucks going all throughout Saskatchewan with Texas plates, Mr. Speaker. Grid One were the ones that got the installation contract to quite frankly put the meters on the homes throughout Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, the smart meters that were installed, some of them actually caught fire. I think there was a number of homes that were impacted, Mr. Speaker, again because quite frankly there was not due diligence on the Minister of the Economy's part, who is the Minister Responsible for SaskPower. He didn't pay attention to a memo and as a result of that, SaskPower ended up having to pay millions of dollars. And, Mr. Speaker, the people that installed these meters, these smart meters, Mr. Speaker, were

Grid One and they're a company, I believe, out of Texas.

Now, Mr. Speaker, another good example was the prison food services where we had again another dubious example of the Saskatchewan Party's ineptness as a government. So, Mr. Speaker, what they've done recently is they have now provided or have given the prison food services to Compass, which is based out of the UK [United Kingdom]. So they found another country that they can send our money to, Mr. Speaker, and those are people that are working for Saskatchewan, people that are working in some of these communities.

And, Mr. Speaker, the list goes on. You look at the fishing and hunting licences, Mr. Speaker. We outsourced that to again to a US [United States]-based company. I believe this company is out of Nashville. And you look at again another example: P3 school maintenance has been outsourced to a company from Milwaukee, Mr. Speaker. Another example: the North Battleford hospital maintenance has been outsourced to another company out of the UK, Mr. Speaker.

So as you look at all these examples, Mr. Speaker, the examples, there's hundreds of examples of how the Sask Party has failed miserably on some of these fronts. And yet they come along with the feeble attempt under Bill 188 to try and say, look, we're trying to take into consideration some of the local knowledge, some of the local benefits if we buy local. And, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are basically saying that, I think the corral door has been open too long, and all the great opportunities have now left Saskatchewan-based companies. All the great opportunities have long been lost by the Saskatchewan workers, Mr. Speaker.

And this is why, from our perspective, we look at the opportunities that the Saskatchewan Party had — record revenues, Mr. Speaker; population was growing; we had great investment, Mr. Speaker — all the great opportunities that Saskatchewan has enjoyed the last eight years, Mr. Speaker, eight to ten to twelve years. What you can see now, Mr. Speaker, is the Saskatchewan Party has quite frankly messed it up very, very badly. And I think if you look at the examples that I alluded to, Mr. Speaker, never mind the argument around Bill 188 as it applies to our trade agreements, Mr. Speaker. But really if I look at the effort behind Bill 188, it is something that is a little too late. It's a little too late. I think the people of Saskatchewan know that.

And the reason why it's a little too late . . . It's too late for the laundry services workers in Prince Albert. Their jobs have now gone to an Edmonton-based company, Mr. Speaker. It's a little late for the \$1.8 billion being sent to a French-based company overseas, Mr. Speaker. It's a little too late for that project, Mr. Speaker. SaskPower outsourced meter installation to Grid One, a company out of Texas. Well guess what, Mr. Speaker? For the contractors and the workers in Saskatchewan, well this bill's a little too late, Mr. Speaker. And look at the prison food services to another company based in the UK. Well guess what? All those employees that provided that service, well this bill's a little too late for them as well, Mr. Speaker. And for those that have to go online to buy their fishing or their hunting licences, Mr. Speaker, that particular service is no longer available in some of our businesses in the province, Mr. Speaker, because quite frankly the company that got the contract wasn't

Canadian-based; it was an American-based company, Mr. Speaker. And again the P3 school maintenance, gone to a Milwaukee firm, Mr. Speaker. The North Battleford hospital maintenance has been awarded to a United Kingdom-based company called Carillion.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are tons and tons and tons of examples of how the Saskatchewan Party have not taken into consideration the fact that some of their decisions had negative effects on many workers in many quarters, in many sections and many areas of our province. And now they come along with Bill 188 to try and pretend to dress up their concern, Mr. Speaker, because we know that they have been getting a lot of feedback on some of the issues around the bypass, have been getting a lot of feedback around the laundry services out of Prince Albert. They've been getting a lot of feedback out of the Texas-licensed trucks that are putting in or installing some of our meters, Mr. Speaker.

We know they're getting a lot of feedback on all the decisions that they've made, Mr. Speaker, to send our money out, our opportunities out, and simply provide layoffs to the people of Saskatchewan that have given us their best years and certainly have given us top performance when it comes to providing these services that we're now seeing the Saskatchewan Party send elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of challenges. There are a lot of challenges around Bill 188. And it's not so much, Mr. Speaker, from the perspective of the opposition that we know that the small-business owner, the local business owner, they provide incredible opportunity. And that's one of the reasons why I, as an NDP opposition, as a caucus we put this buy local Act day. What we want to do through that particular bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide the local business community the opportunity to provide as many services and supplies and services as they possibly could to Saskatchewan people and to our Saskatchewan government.

[15:00]

And that Buy Local Day, Mr. Speaker, certainly had a lot of supporters. And I think people out there understood that as long as you have a party that is promoting local businesses, like the New Democratic Party is, Mr. Speaker, and you keep that promotion on a continual basis, you keep harping on the values of some of these companies and some of these small businesses, then eventually people at the local level will get the message and they'll start shopping locally as much as they can.

And that's one of the reasons why, Mr. Speaker, we had a shop local day just to recognize the local business community. And that particular day, Mr. Speaker, is of course something that's going to highlight all the annual effort to recognize the business community. And obviously our argument is that you should shop local every single day because there's great opportunities locally and it certainly, as I mentioned at the outset, it recycles our dollars in the local community time and time again.

So it's one of those things, Mr. Speaker, that when we introduced that particular bill, it was designed to put the Sask Party on notice that they're not doing enough for the small-business community. They're not doing enough for the

local business community. And we within the NDP caucus wanted to take the opportunity to highlight that issue.

And here we are, Mr. Speaker, eight years later, the Saskatchewan Party, despite handing out billions of dollars to countries all over the world for business opportunity, they come along with Bill 188 to try — it is a feeble attempt on their part — to try and correct a huge error that they've made time and time again, and that is sending out dollars and opportunities beyond our borders, beyond our country even, Mr. Speaker, at the expense of local businesses, at the expense of local workers, and certainly at the expense of local economies.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know there are a number of companies that are looking at this particular process with a lot of interest. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that I've had a conversation with a number of companies. One particular company, Mr. Speaker, that has some interest is a company called Saskatoon Fastprint. Now one of the . . . It's owned by a northern Indian band, Mr. Speaker, and one of their recent employees was a former chief, Robert Sylvester. And the former chief, Mr. Sylvester, has indicated that he is now working with this company, and they're quite interested, Mr. Speaker, in providing services and supplies to the Saskatchewan government.

Now I'm going to ask the question today, when you look at the whole notion of Saskatoon Fastprint . . . If anybody wants to know the services that this particular company does, all they have to do is google it. But they are keenly interested in trying to provide services and supplies to the Saskatchewan government. Now where does a company like that go, Mr. Speaker? The majority owned . . . The company is owned by the Birch Narrows First Nation. They've been doing an incredible amount of work, Mr. Speaker. They're a very aggressive company, and they are trying their darndest to get in on the ground floor to try and provide services and supplies to the provincial government.

And how does this particular bill affect them? How does it impact them? These are some of the questions that people are asking me, Mr. Speaker. And I want to point out that this is something that they ought to, Saskatoon Fastprint ought to pay very close attention to this because obviously the more information they get, the better they are to position their company well. So how does this particular Bill 188 affect that particular company? How are they going to position their company to continue providing opportunity for their employees but, more so, good services to the provincial government, Mr. Speaker?

Now I want to also identify northern Saskatchewan. Just from my background, Mr. Speaker, is that we know that there's been a lot of companies over time that have done a lot of wonderful work. And because they're so far north, Mr. Speaker, I want to know how Bill 188 impacts them as well. Is there going to be an effort, say, in some of the northern communities — La Ronge, La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, Creighton, you know, to name a few — is the government going to make the effort for some of their northern-based operations to reach out to the local business community, or does the business community themselves make the initial contact?

These are some of the questions I think we have to ask in Bill 188. And we encourage the companies to pay very close attention as to how Bill 188 would impact them and what opportunities it could provide them.

Now as I said at the outset, I'm a skeptic. I don't believe this current government knows anything in terms of their failed attempt at trying to position local communities and local businesses to match and to get together to see what services that could be provided locally because, Mr. Speaker, at the outset I said that, or I gave a number of examples of how the Sask Party has shipped out opportunities, have shipped out dollars, has shipped out jobs. And, Mr. Speaker, the list goes on.

So I want to refresh very clearly that we've got a lot of issues around Bill 188. We have got to pay very close attention to these bills because we're not certain where the Sask Party's logic on putting some of these bills out there now, especially now that the vast majority of contracts that I spoke about earlier have now been awarded to out-of-country companies. And we're talking billions of dollars, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen opportunities shipped out of Prince Albert. We've seen opportunities shipped out of North Battleford. We've seen opportunities shipped out of Meadow Lake. We've seen opportunities shipped out of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. The list goes on as to how the Sask Party has failed to protect local businesses and local jobs; therefore, that has an effect on the local economy, Mr. Speaker.

And I think the people of Saskatchewan are fooled no more. They know that the Saskatchewan Party made a big mistake here, and now they're simply trying to recover from that and do a veiled cover-up of their failures as a party to protect Saskatchewan-based interests. And that's why we have Bill 188 coming along at the last second, at the last minute. And, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan aren't buying that. They know that there's been some very serious mistakes.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a list of people that do want to speak to this. I would encourage the business community that's out there listening to this to do a couple of things around Bill 188. First of all, we would encourage them to try and take advantage of what Bill 188's trying to do and to not leave that opportunity with the Saskatchewan Party government, that they have to become very aggressive, very knowledgeable. Because my advice to them, even though they say Bill 188 is to deal with \$200 million on procurement — I'm trying to look at the local business community, Mr. Speaker — do not leave it in the hands of the Saskatchewan Party to figure out that opportunity because their history would dictate that they're not going to do that work.

I would encourage the local business community to be very aggressive, to be very visionary, Mr. Speaker, and for them to follow very closely Bill 188 to make sure that they are able to position their company to be able to benefit from that. Because if you wait for the Saskatchewan Party, under Bill 188, what you might find is the vast majority of the procurement services will be shipped beyond our borders, and that loses the opportunities for Saskatchewan families.

And so therefore, I think a lot of the business community that

may be paying attention to Bill 188, again my advice would be aggressive, to become very knowledgeable of what the bill's all about, and to push the agenda and the envelope, and to get into Saskatchewan Party members' faces to make sure that that opportunity is awarded to Saskatchewan-based companies, to local-based businesses, Mr. Speaker, because they haven't got the history of protecting jobs. Their ideology and agenda is privatization and, Mr. Speaker, as I said, we have tons of examples of how the Sask Party has failed to support local opportunities, local jobs, and local investment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's tons of examples of . . . Most recently, this afternoon we heard of \$12 million going to Cenovus, Mr. Speaker. We're hearing that the liquor stores that were publicly owned one time, and the revenues of that came into Saskatchewan coffers who are financing schools and health care and housing and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party want to do away with that. You look at the highway construction challenges, Mr. Speaker, as it comes to a lot of the local businesses where they are subcontracting under a main company, many times their issues aren't resolved. We've heard evidence of that last year.

And, Mr. Speaker, everything from the laundry services to food services; to the \$1.8 billion bypass project, all that money going to France; privatizing liquor stores; the highway construction problems that I spoke about; the \$12 million to Cenovus; laundry service again out of Prince Albert. Fishing and hunting licenses now being purchased out of the States. P3 school maintenance being done by a company out of Milwaukee. North Battleford hospital maintenance is being outsourced to a company out of the UK. And again, Mr. Speaker, we see all kinds of examples of how the Saskatchewan Party has not protected Saskatchewan-based industries.

And yet at the same time, when you see all this example, Mr. Speaker, they sign things like the New West Partnership. They're signatories to the agreement on interprovincial trade. They're talking about TPP last week, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Mr. Speaker. And it's really confusing to the average person, and really frustrating to us within the New Democratic caucus, Mr. Speaker, when you have a government that says, okay, well we're supposed to be free enterprise. And they talk about all these agreements, New West Partnership and the TPP, and then they turn around and say, well because we're free enterprisers we can't put any protectionist measures in. Then all this whack of opportunity and money gets shipped out of province, and then they come along six months before the next election and say, oh we're going to have now Bill 188, which talks about positioning our local companies to take advantage of some of the procurement opportunities, when absolutely everybody who has any sense, Mr. Speaker, when they look at the Sask Party record they say, what are these guys doing? Exactly what are these guys doing, Mr. Speaker? And we can answer that. They do not know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker.

And that's the single fundamental message that we have from within the NDP caucus, and that's why we keep speaking about our vision for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, our plan for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And that plan, Mr. Speaker, is all under the guise of smart growth, Mr. Speaker. And the members over there laugh, Mr. Speaker. They laugh. They

laugh at the hundreds of jobs being shipped out of Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. They laugh at the hundreds of millions of dollars being shipped to Paris, Mr. Speaker. They laugh about those people that are losing their opportunity in the publicly owned liquor stores, Mr. Speaker. They laugh at the people that want to buy a fishing licence but have to go through an American-based company to do so. They laugh at the hospital maintenance contract given to a UK company for a North Battleford hospital. The list goes on and on and on.

Absolutely everybody in Saskatchewan knows that the economy was picking up, Mr. Speaker, the good times were coming to the province, and all of a sudden the Saskatchewan Party get elected in 2007. And they started claiming credit for all the hard work that the Saskatchewan companies and Saskatchewan people undertook to rebuild this province, Mr. Speaker. And eight years later, after giving away billions of dollars in this day and age, on October 26th, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible] . . . anyway, Mr. Speaker, they sit there and they start to laugh. They start to laugh, Mr. Speaker, and that's a shame. Because what happens, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan won't forget that laughter. They won't forget the giggling that's going on here as they're squandering opportunities for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, as they're squandering opportunities.

And I sit here, and I sit here and I listen and . . . The former Finance minister is chirping from his chair, Mr. Speaker. When I sit here and I listen to some of the issues that they raise, Mr. Speaker, and I'm talking about the debt as well, the P3 model, all it's doing is punting debt down the road so our grandkids and our great-grandkids pay for that bill. The Minister of Finance, the former minister of Finance knows that. We know that. All they've done is they've punted that debt down the road so somebody else pays the bills. And, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly, that's exactly why we are arguing against the P3 model, Mr. Speaker. I can't understand why the Saskatchewan Party doesn't get it. I don't know why they don't get it, Mr. Speaker.

So here, here, Mr. Speaker, here we have, here we have as I've mentioned, as I mentioned, the first order of business, Mr. Speaker. They tout their free enterprise party. They want to have investment come to our province and, Mr. Speaker, they sign all these deals. Then they turn around, Mr. Speaker, and then they ship jobs out of Saskatchewan. They ship tons of jobs and tons of money out of Saskatchewan. Then they turn around, like I said, six months before the election. Six months before the election, they come along with a feeble attempt under Bill 188 to try and say, well let's try now to position local companies to benefit from procuring services for the provincial government. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's a day late and a dollar short.

Their vision has never been to protect the people of Saskatchewan's interest. The Saskatchewan Party's vision has never been to protect Saskatchewan people's interest. Their agenda has always been privatization, positioning large corporations to run our lives, Mr. Speaker, and the average citizen of Saskatchewan, they're paying the bill, Mr. Speaker. They're paying the bill. We're paying those bills through higher municipal taxes, through higher tuition costs, Mr. Speaker. We're paying that through higher taxes later on, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

All these costs, all these costs that we're incurring are compliments of the Saskatchewan Party government that had record revenue. And I hope . . . In the eight years that they've been in government, they squandered every opportunity, they blew every dollar that they could, Mr. Speaker, and they borrowed every cent they possibly can. To do what? To ship money beyond our borders, beyond our country, and that money spells opportunity for our kids and our grandkids. So the opportunity's shipped out and the debt stays on our grandkids.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's not why the people of Saskatchewan reached out to this particular government. And now they're quickly realizing that a mistake was made, a mistake was made. And, Mr. Speaker, come election, I think a lot of people are going to come back to the NDP in droves. They're going to send the Saskatchewan Party a message: how could you have record revenue, record revenue in eight years, record revenue, and you top it all off at the end of your eight years, you can't even provide a budget, Mr. Speaker? You won't provide a budget because you don't want to share with the people of Saskatchewan how badly you've managed our finances.

And I can tell the people of Saskatchewan, our objective within the NDP caucus is to become government. And we want to become government April 4th, Mr. Speaker. We're ready to go. We're ready to govern. And we're quite aggressive and we're quite anxious to get going, Mr. Speaker. And that's why, that's why, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party I believe are in for a rude awakening come April 4th because quite frankly the people of Saskatchewan are getting sick and tired of the same old, same old conservative strategy once again being exercised by the Saskatchewan Party government. And it's time to get rid of them, Mr. Speaker. It's time to make a change.

The people of Saskatchewan want that exciting change and the Saskatchewan New Democrats are positioned to protect the people of Saskatchewan in better ways as evidenced over our discussion in our time, a lot better ways than what the Saskatchewan Party has failed to do.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I encourage people to give us advice on Bill 188. Watch how they're doing their work. Be aggressive, and protect your business interest. And if you have any information that you want to share with us, we're more than welcome to take that information. We would want your advice on the bill and how we can strengthen it for days to come. And I would encourage you on one final comment. It should not wait, not hope the Saskatchewan Party can figure this out.

I would encourage the small-business communities, the large corporations, the medium-sized businesses, to continue doing what you're doing to build Saskatchewan because you're doing a great job. And do not go to the Saskatchewan Party for advice. You do what is necessary to build your future and thereby the future of our province.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 188.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 188, *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 183

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 183 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015*** 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 today to enter into the debate on Bill 183, an Act to amend the essential services . . . Actually it's got a very long title, Mr. Speaker, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Employment Act and The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2014*. But in short, Mr. Speaker, this particular bill before us is to clean up a Sask Party mistake and an incredibly expensive Sask Party mistake actually, one that has dragged on for eight years and could have been dealt with much more cost effectively and much fairer to the citizens of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Just to give you a little bit of a . . . And I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, we're here not because of the goodwill or benevolence of the government recognizing that they made a mistake. This is about the government being court ordered by the Supreme Court of Canada to fix a mistake that they made, that it could have saved us a lot of time and money.

But it's quite interesting, Mr. Speaker. The minister spoke at Saskatchewan Federation of Labour last week and it was almost as if it was his idea. And I've heard him use the language that he's been advised or suggested to by the Supreme Court. That's not exactly the language . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Guidance. Thank you. The minister has received guidance from the Supreme Court of Canada. Well that's not exactly what the minister has received. He has been court ordered to change their unconstitutional bill, Mr. Speaker. So again this isn't about the benevolence of the government realizing their mistake or recognizing that they made a mistake. This is a government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that plowed ahead back in 2007 when they first introduced Bill No. 5, the essential services legislation, and then kept plowing ahead at the cost of Saskatchewan taxpayers, Mr. Speaker.

So I just want to put on the record a little bit, some key points about this particular bill that is before us. So essential services, the difference between this bill and the bill that was introduced back in 2007, Mr. Speaker, is that essential services is no longer defined in the Act, so parties will be determining what is essential in their respective organizations. And it was interesting. When I first became an MLA back in 2009, I can remember some of the talk about in some workplaces in fact more people were deemed essential than were actually working on a daily basis. So in a workplace there were some people deemed essential and there would be more people working in a

strike, Mr. Deputy Speaker, than there would be on an average day. So that's an interesting thing. So key point on the Act that essential services is no longer defined in the Act and parties will be determining what is essential in their respective organizations.

The union will identify qualified members to fill any vacancies in the essential services work schedule. So during a strike those workers would perform only the duties deemed essential.

And if parties can't come to an agreement on what is essential, the question will go to an independent dispute resolution body called the essential services tribunal. The tribunal includes a neutral board member and one member from each side of the labour dispute. And the tribunal will have 60 days to hear arguments and 14 days to make a decision, which will come into effect after 48 hours.

And the final piece that I think is a key point is that if an essential services agreement interferes with work action, an application can be made to the tribunal to revisit the agreement under binding mediation/arbitration.

I just want to walk you through the timeline, what's brought us here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So historically speaking, we go back to December 20th, 2006. There were stalled contract talks and that resulted in hundreds of corrections workers and snowplow operators going on strike. It needs to be pointed out that those snowplow operators did in fact . . . The roads did get cleared. Actually I happened to work for the Department of Labour at the time, and I know people called from my unit were working in other places as well. I remember that strike quite well.

January 9th, 2007, our now Premier, then opposition leader, Brad Wall, publicly mulls . . . The premier publicly mulls essential services legislation. He was then, sorry, the opposition leader.

June 28th, 2007, the debate about essential services legislation was reignited as a full-scale strike by 2,700 health care workers loomed.

And then December 5th, 2007, the Premier, the new Premier, Premier Wall says government will introduce . . . Sorry. The Premier says the government will introduce essential services legislation to ensure certain services are still provided if public sector employees go on strike.

So this is a lengthy timeline. You'll have to forgive me here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We've been at this for eight years, eight years that have cost the Saskatchewan taxpayer a lot of money, money that could be spent in many other places had this government not been so stubborn and stuck in, I would argue, an ideological position.

December 19th, 2007, the government tabled Bill 5, the essential services legislation, along with Bill 6, an Act to amend the existing trade union Act. Business groups applauded the legislation, but the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour president, Larry Hubich, called it the worst legislation for workers in the country.

February 7, 2008, Mr. Hubich called on the government to

allow courts to look at the bills. In a remarkable piece of forecasting, our Justice minister says, "The courts may make . . ." who is now the Labour minister. He says, "The courts may make findings on our legislation at some point, but right now my department drafts the legislation." So that was incredibly prescient, but we could have taken care of this quite some time ago, Mr. Speaker.

July 29th, 2008, the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] launches a constitutional challenge of Bills 5 and 6, arguing they violate workers' rights to collective bargaining and organizing new unions.

February 6th, 2012, Queen's Bench Justice Dennis Ball rules Saskatchewan essential services legislation is unconstitutional, although he upholds *The Trade Union Act*, which was Bill 6.

March 5th, 2012, the provincial government announces it is appealing Justice Ball's ruling. The appeal began November 27th.

April 26th, 2013, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal Justice, J.A. Richards, upholds the Saskatchewan Party government's public services essential services Act.

October 17th, 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada says it will hear the SFL's appeal of Richards's court decision.

January 30th, 2015, Supreme Court of Canada strikes down the 2008 public services essential services Act in a five-to-two ruling. The court finds unionized Canadian workers have a constitutionally guaranteed right to strike.

September 9th, 2015, a consultation paper prepared by the government and SFL go to the public sector employers and unions with the hope comments can be turned into legislation.

And here we are. October 2015, government introduces essential services amendments.

Consultation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has not been this government's strong suit, particularly with this piece of legislation, and there's still some concern by stakeholders that starting consultations in September or the end of summer — I think it was late August, early September as noted in this timeline — and then introducing the bill in October, that's not exactly what you'd call fulsome consultation. But we could go back to the early days of the bill as well, and that was the big issue that many stakeholders had pointed out, that there was a complete lack of consultation.

In fact, in writing this bill, I'll just point to a Murray Mandryk column from the 19th of this month, Mr. Speaker, where he says:

. . . the subsequent Saskatchewan Party government's law — or at least, the regulations that dictate how the law would be applied — read like it was written by a bunch of angry, vengeful party workers. It allowed the employer to dictate how many people could be deemed essential (95 per cent in some units), what jobs were essential (music therapists) and even what individuals (George or Martha) were essential.

So it's interesting that lack of consultation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, always leads to lousy legislation. I would argue that lack of consultation with those who are impacted by the impending legislation and those who know something about that area will always lead to bad legislation with unintended consequences. But I think people knew very early on that there were some really bad consequences from this legislation.

And this is a key example of how . . . So I just want to put on the record a couple of quotes around . . . So although the SFL, in its comments about this bill, has talked about being hopeful about this bill, a few other labour unions have talked about the devil being in the details and how it will be implemented. They've expressed concerns; let's wait and see what this looks like. It definitely looks better than the original bill did, but they've expressed some concerns.

I know Barb Cape, the president of SEIU-West [Service Employees International Union-West], says, she says . . . Just one second:

"Though there appears to be some improvement, the devil is in the details," said Barbara Cape. "We had hoped for a most robust consultation process, however, the government did not begin to seek our input as a labour stakeholder until late August. SEIU-West members believe that taking the time to actually read the proposed legislation and consider its 'real world' implications is an important step in this process."

And that's from a news release on October 15, 2015 from SEIU-West. So there still is some concern about consultation around this. I think it's important to talk about the cost of the bill, which we don't know what this has cost us over the last eight years as taxpayers. I can tell you it's undoubtedly cost more than the 8 million that has been cut from surgeries in RQHR [Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region], which is causing surgeries to go up by 50 per cent just even in the last few months, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So thinking about the cost to fight this bill . . . Or the government took basically the people of Saskatchewan to the Supreme Court. We had to have a Queen's Bench hearing, a Court of Appeal, and then the Supreme Court. So the cost, first of all, of creating the bill in the first place, Bill 5, which wasn't a good bill and wasn't very successful, but you still need the civil servants to work on and implement. You need people to draft it, which would be lawyers for the province. And then you need civil servants to implement it, thinking how it will be implemented. That all takes staff time. The cost to get the bill drafted, I believe that they contracted out the drafting of the bill. Did they in fact seek outside counsel? I'm sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm not positive about that. The time spent on court costs, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so again three levels of court, Mr. Speaker. This cost Saskatchewan taxpayers a lot of money, money that could be spent elsewhere on many, many things, Mr. Speaker. This could be spent in many, many other ways, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

But this is a classic example of this government's stubbornness, its desire to plow ahead with its own agenda without two . . . I

think this displays very well two things: the Sask Party government's stubbornness and its desire to plow ahead, but also its unwillingness, also its unwillingness to admit that it has made a mistake, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I remember our Premier at one point talking about being a government that will admit its mistakes. Well again I have to emphasize this isn't a government changing a bill and admitting it made a mistake. This is court ordered. This isn't the benevolence of the Sask Party government. This was a court ordered change, Mr. Speaker.

I want to talk a little bit about this again. This is not a government who's willing to admit its mistakes. We can go back to the cut to the film tax credit, which has had a huge impact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the film industry here in Saskatchewan. We once had a robust, thriving film industry in this province and now we do not. We have many, many people who have had to leave this province because they couldn't earn a living in their chosen profession. We have students who go to the University of Regina and graduate from film school and have no hope of being able to pursue their profession here. We have people who worked in the film industry, film industry technicians, who stayed in Saskatchewan after the cut to the tax credit because they have roots here and they couldn't uproot their partners or their kids for those reasons, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So this government, instead of recognizing it had made a drastic mistake with cutting the film tax credit, much like the drastic mistake that they've made on this particular bill that we have before us, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I don't know why the former Finance minister is so agitated again. There has been an incredible amount of agitation these days coming from that . . .

An Hon. Member: — It's Monday.

Ms. Chartier: — It's Monday. My colleague from Rosemont has pointed out, it must be Monday. I don't know, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Anyway, the fact of the matter is this is a government, Mr. Speaker, who pushed people out of Saskatchewan, a government who bragged about attracting young people and in fact did the exact opposite. There are people who uprooted their lives and who still are trying to establish their careers in other provinces, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So this particular bill before us is exactly the example of this government unwilling to admit its mistakes, much like the film tax credit. This is again an example of this government's stubbornness.

We can look at this government's unwillingness to implement GSAs [gender and sexuality alliance], Mr. Deputy Speaker, despite hearing from or hearing about students who talk about the lack of ability to form GSAs in schools. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a government who is not willing to support students fully, to ensure that they are safe and secure and comfortable in being who they are in schools. Is this going to have to be something that goes through the court system too, Mr. Speaker? Who knows?

This is a government who . . . Again this is a fix of a piece of

legislation we've had. I've only been an MLA for six years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and there have been many pieces of legislation that the government has put forward hastily and then we've had before us again a short time later.

We can talk about the changes to the school year, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again, you should never make policy on the back of a napkin, and I think that this is what this government likes to do, whether it's essential services legislation, school year . . . They were going to change the school year and make sure that it starts after the Labour Day weekend, but they never looked at a calendar and they never thought about how many days school boards need to have in place. They never thought to talk about, talk to school boards about what parents wanted. In fact it's interesting that if you . . . having spoken to the school boards in Saskatoon, there's actually about a 50/50 split between starting before and after Labour Day and how that would mean for a week of holidays in February that people have become quite accustomed to versus two weeks at Christmas. So had this government, when it came to the school year, actually talked to school boards, they would have maybe taken a different approach.

Again this government's idea of creating policy on the back of a napkin, we can talk about MRIs [magnetic resonance imaging], the MRI bill before us? Clearly there is no evidence supporting the use of private MRIs in shortening wait-lists. The evidence across Canada actually shows quite the opposite for all kinds of reasons, all kinds of reasons.

An Hon. Member: — What's the relevance, Mr. Speaker?

Ms. Chartier: — The Health minister's wondering how this is relevant. It is very relevant. This is about governments who make policy on the back of a napkin, like their essential services legislation, like their MRI bill before us, like changing the school year, like not having any good, positive, or valid information in cutting the film tax credit, Mr. Speaker. So this is a government who has cost taxpayers a lot of money because they were stuck on an idea, and now that they've been ordered, now that they've been ordered to make changes, we have the bill before us again.

But ironically, again just sort of historically about this bill that's being amended, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in 2012, I believe it was 2012, we had the original iteration of the employment Act before us. Not essential services, that was 2007. But it was rolled into 2012 where this government took 12 pieces of legislation and smashed them into one, Mr. Speaker, put them all into one, with a summer of consultation.

I can tell you, when I worked for the Department of Labour, there was a national consultation going on on the federal labour code. That consultation was fulsome and included cross-Canada meetings. It included talking to all kinds of stakeholders. That was on one piece of . . . That was on . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . They're mocking my language, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is . . . Who the heck cares? Like they . . . it is the most ridiculous thing that they . . . Who cares, Mr. Deputy Speaker? They think that that is pretty funny over there. But 12 bills rolling . . . I don't know what language the very eloquent former Finance minister would use, but apparently he would not choose the same language I have, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So they took 12 bills, rolled them, rolled 12 bills together in one bill with very, very, very limited consultation. And again I point you to that consultation process that went on, in about 2006 I believe it started, on the federal Labour Code. That was a detailed, lengthy consultation process that ensured it wasn't just online, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It ensured that all kinds of stakeholders had an opportunity to participate.

So this is a government, this is a government who plows ahead with its own stubborn agenda, isn't willing . . . Contrary to what the Premier said in the past, it is not willing to admit its mistakes. It only changes things when it's pushed at the last minute.

I think the thing that makes me most angry about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the cost to Saskatchewan taxpayers. When we have budget decisions that . . . Governing is about priorities. This government chose to fight Saskatchewan working people rather than making wise amendments and changes early on, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That money that has been spent fighting this bill to the Supreme Court could be used in so many different ways. I think that that's one of the most galling things about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I know that my colleague . . . I'm just trying to think if there's anything else that's important to put on the record. I think that I have covered it and I know my colleague from Saskatoon Centre, when we move into committee down the road here, will have many questions and many thoughts on this. But I just want to again point out that this bill is an example of Sask Party stubbornness and its unwillingness to admit its mistakes, which I think is not acceptable in a government.

But with that, I would like to conclude my remarks. I move to adjourn debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 183, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 184

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 184** — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Motorcycles) Amendment Act, 2015* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to continue speaking about Bill No. 184, which can be cited as *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Motorcycles) Amendment Act, 2015*. And, Mr. Speaker, this bill relates to the changes that are being made by the government to our public insurance contract. And I remind everybody that in Saskatchewan our main motor vehicle insurance contract is in legislation which is open to

debate and discussion throughout the province.

And it's clear that the minister responsible for the legislation, who also is the one responsible for SGI, or Saskatchewan Government Insurance, has had much pressure placed on the corporation and on him and on the Premier as it relates to motorcycle insurance rates.

And so what we have here, according to the minister, is a proposal that provides for cheaper insurance for people who drive motorcycles. But this cheaper form of insurance which waters down the coverage is not recommended by the minister. It's not recommended by the members of the advisory committee because they're concerned that people will be travelling without sufficient insurance and if they're seriously injured in an accident while using a motorcycle. So it begs the question about why this kind of a proposal would be brought forward.

The practical issue relates to different insurance funds, if I can put it that way, different gathering of the insurance premiums, which are then used to pay for the damages that are suffered by a particular group of, in this case, motorcycle drivers or riders. And rather than keep a standard that is of, I think, one that the minister would recommend and the advisory committee would recommend, they have chosen to bring forward a proposal which allows for a lesser type of insurance for motorcycle riders for a cheaper fee.

And it raises quite a number of questions about whether other groups who think that their insurance fees are too high, that they will want some kind of a treatment like this. And I think that it ends up raising questions about the whole nature of the type of coverage that we have in Saskatchewan.

Now I spent quite a bit of time going through that last Wednesday, and so I don't think I'll go back there. But what I want to point out is that when ministers or the Premier, when cabinet brings forward legislation like this into the House which alters the traditional tried-and-true form of insurance, we all need to ask questions about why they're doing this. And it strikes me, in a pre-election period, that this may be much more a political bill than an actual practical bill related to providing insurance coverage for motorcycle riders. And I think that's a grave question to ask here in this place.

I know that I will have some questions or some of my colleagues will have some questions in committee around this, because we need to understand on the record why the government has made these choices. And if it's a purely political choice, then I think everybody needs to know that. And it could be another one of these types of legislation that will be challenged in the courts, and we want to have on the record the actual rationale of the government.

But, Mr. Speaker, I don't have a lot more to add about this bill so at this point I will move adjournment of debate. Thank you.

[15:45]

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 184. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 185

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 185 — *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act, 2015*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise this afternoon and speak on Bill No. 185, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act, 2015*. And it's an important one. I mean it's always interesting when you look at the guts of these bills that come forward and see what we have before us, particularly when it talks to privacy and necessary amendments. We have seen this government, a few years ago under a different minister, take back legislation. We had the super ID [identification], and it was found by the Privacy Commissioner to be over-encompassing and not needing that to be done.

And I think we should have some questions about this one in front of us because here we have a bill before us calling for facial recognition technology. It's interesting, the need for that. We're always interested in keeping up with technology; that's a good thing, and we need to do that. And there's several reasons for that: one, to be cost effective. We don't want to be using things that are out of date and you can't get parts for anymore. We all know that. That's important, and I think most Saskatchewan people can relate to that, you know? But you also need to make sure that there is a need for keeping up to date.

And I think this is very important, and so I'll quote the minister in his comments from October 20th, just a few short days ago, when he said, and I quote:

Mr. Speaker, the most significant amendment to this Act protects data gathered through facial recognition technology used with driver's licences in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is the only province not using this technology. Having it in place will bring our province in alignment with every other jurisdiction in Canada.

So it will be interesting. And when we get into committee, we don't hear much about this until it actually happens. What do they have in other provinces, and what's the protection from the government or others misusing this data? It's really, really important that we have that before us. For example, he talks about:

It will protect Saskatchewan residents from identity theft. It will prevent people from obtaining multiple . . . licences or IDs [identification]. It will also improve road safety by preventing suspended drivers from using a false identity to get a licence.

So he's providing three good reasons, and that's fair enough. And we're glad that he's done that, but we need to know the

depth of those reasons. For example, how many people out there, how big of a problem is it around obtaining multiple driver's licences or IDs? You know, I mean this is an issue sometimes young people have when they try to get false ID so they can get into bars or whatever, but we never saw that as a big challenge before. But it will be interesting to know from SGI how big of an issue that really is.

And so those three reasons, we need to drill down and we will ask the minister, for example, how big of a problem is it in Saskatchewan for identity theft? How big of a problem is it that we have here in Saskatchewan, people with multiple driver's licences or IDs? That will be interesting. And of course we want to make sure, you know, when people are suspended because of drunk driving or whatever, they should not have false ID. So is this the answer?

I want to, at this point, I'm going to tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to quote from the *Virginia Journal of Law and Technology*. Interestingly this was done in the spring of 2002. Now as you would remember, that was a pretty pivotal year. It was really pivotal. A lot of these articles would have been written in early 2001. And if we all remember, 9/11 was really the pivotal time. And so this, I think, people would find very interesting.

And I'm not saying one side or the other how I feel about this, but I think we need to think more about this. Because here we have . . . If SGI is a bit on mission creep in doing too much, where is the tipping point between what they need to know and what they want to know or people are urging them to know?

Now interestingly, if we think about that we see more and more the cameras giving out tickets, not the cops on the corner, cameras are becoming all over the place. We have them in the public places and we're just becoming used to it. We're being watched all the time. Well here's an interesting quote, and I think the government side would find this interesting. I'm quoting from this article:

In January 2001, roughly 100,000 ticket-holders who came to watch the Super Bowl in Tampa, Florida, were being watched themselves, not by people, but by cameras equipped with face recognition software. Unbeknownst to spectators, these cameras scanned each individual face in the stadium and a computer matched their profiles against a central database of known criminals. The Argus-eyed system identified nineteen individuals . . . [but] since they were petty ticket scalpers and pickpockets, the police did not bother to make any arrests.

Still, as you can imagine, 100,000 people who thought they were watching a football game were in fact being watched.

So how does this work for us here in Saskatchewan when we think, okay that's pretty cool; now we've got facial recognition on this, and for sure this is me. And the reasons the minister gave are good. But that means, all of a sudden, I've given a pretty big piece of my privacy to the state. And we have to have questions about that. How is that going to be protected?

Now interestingly, the Privacy Commissioner has given his stamp of approval to this legislation. And I think, after I've

given this speech, I'm going to phone him up and say, I'd like to see your notes, if you'd be kind enough to share them, about this. Because the research that they did about, is this appropriate, have they put parameters around this for SGI? Who do they share it with? Will it be shared with others? Will it be something that can be shared en masse to others? This is a real, this is something that is a bit of a Pandora's box, isn't it, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Because all of a sudden you have, you've got the cameras on the stoplights giving you tickets. Now you're going to be in a game where, someplace public where you think nobody's . . . You're just part of the group, but actually you're being searched as you sit there. Now this is really interesting.

And the other thing I just want to raise at the same point here that is a bit of a problem, is that we know in Saskatoon this is an issue that the police chief is wrestling with, it's the issue around carding. On one hand, we think this is a good thing because we want to make sure we're all safe in the communities, that's for sure. But again people have raised the issue that not only are they carding, but they're keeping that information and they're building profiles.

So I don't know if people realize how much of our privacy is being eroded. It's not like it was 50 years ago or 40 years ago, I mean let alone the computers who can do all this analysis and match you up. You have 100,000 faces and pick out 19 pickpockets. This is something that's quite, quite alarming. If we have to make sure we're doing the right thing and the necessary thing . . . Is this needed?

Is this something . . . Now I understand other provinces have done this, and it would be interesting to know, what are their parameters? Who are they sharing their information with? Can it be shared because . . . [inaudible] . . . I think this is important to know. Who will it be shared with?

So we have questions. We have questions. And I think that we just can't write a blank cheque to SGI and say, go for it. I mean, I don't know what the costs are. It will be interesting to know what the costs are in years that we're making some tough choices. Like today we heard about the cuts to the surgical times, you know. And what we heard there was in fact now we have the wait times going up, but we're going to probably spend a whack of money on this.

And I got to tell you, if it's anything like in Social Services where we have a Linkin system that was supposed to cost \$15 million, now we're up to \$50 million, I tell you, this government can't keep track of their . . . When they start to write blank cheques, they go a little crazy over there.

And the former Finance minister should know that. We've seen that with the Linkin system and Social Services. And I don't know how he can even begin to chirp from his chair as if he has any credibility to creating parameters around costs. If there's somebody who hasn't been able to control costs in spending, is that Finance minister for sure. Where has all the money gone? Everybody in this province asks that question. Where has all the money gone? Where has the money gone?

And here we have SGI here getting a blank cheque to bring in this technology, and the minister has no idea, has not told us any idea of how much this is going to cost. It's going to be

pretty cool because we're going to be up with everybody else. It's going to be pretty good . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You know, the Finance minister talks about me being a comedian, but I've got to tell you, he gives me lots of good lines, especially his last budget. That was a good joke, Mr. Speaker, I've got to tell you. I got to tell you, you know, if I'm a comedian, he's the best source for jokes.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I get off the line that I'm supposed to be talking about. And I know they're distracting me, so I want to get back to talking about Bill 185 . . . [inaudible]. You know, Mr. Speaker, this is what Ralph Waldo Emerson said. He said, "A man finds room in the few square inches of the face for the traits of all his ancestors; for the statement of all his history, and his wants."

So it's a pretty special thing when we start to talk about facial recognition, and this is a big issue. This is not . . . When the minister says this is a significant part of the legislation, you bet it is. And we have questions about the costs. Is it really worth it? He identifies three reasons, but really has it been that big of a problem? Maybe it has. Maybe it has, but after eight years now is the time to deal with those? So I hope SGI, when they come forward to defend this bill, brings information about exactly, exactly how many times that we've had multiple driver licences or IDs used in Saskatchewan. How big of a problem is it? How big of a problem is it in terms of identity theft?

We want to create parameters around it because there are issues out there people want. People want better health care in Saskatchewan. And we see promises being broken by this government and they won't own up to it. We've seen that in question period where the Premier, he prefers to give a history lesson, prefers . . . And we had even the Health minister going back to the 1990s today to find an excuse for his behaviour. That's unbelievable. We're talking about here and now and the challenges people are facing, the cost of living here in Saskatchewan. We have the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, while our rates are going up, are giving cheques of \$12 million — \$12 million — to a company that really we have big questions about. Why are they giving that kind of money away when our rates are going up in our homes in Saskatchewan?

So this is a government that can't seem to create parameters around their work. It expands and expands and expands. And let me get started on P3s, P3s. How you can believe that? How can you believe that? The cost of the P3s that we have here. How can you believe that government?

And then this government says when we talk about essential services that they can pay both sides of the bill, both sides of the bill, and it's going to cost less than a couple of hundred thousand. Eight years, eight long years of work on an ideological argument that we should never have had, and they're saying it's only a couple of hundred thousand at most.

How does this government have any credibility at all? I've got to tell you, people have a lot of questions about where the money went. And then we find out some of the things where they say they spent hardly anything. It sure looks like they're working off the side of the desk, Mr. Speaker. It sure does.

[16:00]

But I've got to tell you, this bill before us right now, we have a lot of questions about. I know there's another part that I want to talk about, and this is the question about . . . And the minister says, "Over 50 per cent of the vehicle owners make monthly . . ." Now he's talking about:

A further amendment proposes changes to the Act to allow for the impounded vehicle's licence plates to be cancelled. Over 50 per cent of the vehicle owners make monthly insurance payments. When the vehicle is impounded, SGI continues to take monthly . . . money from their bank accounts. Customers are unhappy with the process and the amendment seeks to improve that.

I find this odd. Isn't this the whole point of impounding cars, to create some unhappiness? Maybe I'm wrong but if your car is impounded, it's usually not for a good reason. You're not celebrating. You've done something wrong. So why all of a sudden is this government okay with cancelling the monthly payments? I would think you would want to continue the monthly payments. It would be a way to pay for the impoundment, wouldn't it? There are fees, I would assume, or someplace for the car or truck to be. There are costs to that. So who's going to pay for that? Is that the taxpayer who is going to pay for a car to be impounded? And the person's car who is impounded gets to have their monthly bill cut off. I find that passing strange.

And so we'll have questions about why all of a sudden this relationship with the person who has this vehicle . . . Now it might be the argument that somebody says, well I own the vehicle and it wasn't me that caused it to be impounded. Well if that was the case, you would think it would only take maybe a day or two to figure that out. You'd find out that your car wasn't at home or your truck wasn't back at the work site. And you'd find out really quick where the truck was and then you would have to pay that fee to get it out. But if somebody's let a vehicle in a place where you keep these vehicles, you would think somebody has to pay for the upkeep. So why not have . . . I mean, SGI has got to have some costs involved in this. I find this interesting.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm thinking that this bill has caused a lot of interest. And I think that this is going to be some interesting questions in committee, and I appreciate the time that I've had here to speak. I want to end in one other quote from this article. It's a very interesting article because it talks about mission creep and how we've gone overboard in technology. And I think we have to have some discussions about that. But he says, and this is a quote:

The serial number of a human specimen is the face, that accidental and unrepeatable combination of features. It reflects neither character nor soul, nor what we call the self. The face is only the serial number of a specimen.

I thought that was very interesting. Milan Kundera was the person saying that. And I think that we're into interesting times. And while this article, this journal was put together in 2002, just right around the time of 9/11 when we got into this in a big, big way. And so this is an interesting time for us.

So I know others want to speak on some of the bills today but I wanted, and I appreciated the opportunity to get up and speak, get my thoughts on the record on this bill. And I hope when SGI comes they have some answers because this may be one committee that I may attend and have some questions about privacy. It's a big issue for me as a human rights critic that I want to know what are the limits here. We see in Saskatchewan that we have to do a lot of work to protect our privacy and this is one area with SGI, I have a lot of questions.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move adjournment on Bill No. 185, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act, 2015*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 185. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 186

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 186 — *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it is indeed my honour to be able to rise in the House today to enter into the debate on this bill, Bill 186, *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015*.

This is a fairly lengthy bill with a number of changes, but I think if you drill down into it you will see very quickly that it is sort of three bills that are on a parallel track. Because what the minister is proposing in this particular amendment is to amend *The Cities Act* and *The Municipalities Act* and *The Northern Municipalities Act* to reflect some changes to conflict of interest guidelines and rules for municipal leaders, Mr. Speaker.

So really if you read the first section on *The Cities Act*, the changes are almost identical to *The Northern Municipalities Act* and *The Municipalities Act*. So, Mr. Speaker, don't take a lot of time reading the whole bill. And I know you're going to want to pore through it and ensure that you fully review all the implications, but really it's like three bills in one that follow a parallel track.

And having said that, I just wanted to reflect a little bit on the role of municipal councillors in the province of Saskatchewan and certainly across Canada and in other countries. And I think back to my father's involvement in municipal politics back in the day. Certainly served his time as a councillor. He served his time as the reeve. And I can remember the calls coming in and it was usually about the grader, and there was always a problem with the gravel on somebody's road or something that the grader had done or the grader broke down. But I remember as a teenager hearing my dad get these calls and having to deal with,

you know, why the school bus was late or why the washout in the one culvert north of, you know the . . . [inaudible] . . . farm wasn't working properly.

And so I think my point here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that being an RM [rural municipality] councillor is really a thankless job on many, many levels and I want to really applaud the work of all RM . . . well, urban and rural municipal councillors who take time out of their busy lives to commit to the larger cause which is the orderly governing of their communities, be it the rural municipality or certainly the small towns.

Again in my small town of Lafleche, the mayor's job was not an easy job. And I know my uncle was mayor for many, many years and it was one that he took seriously and really gave voluntarily of his time. I think the remuneration has never really kept up with the duties and the pain in the necks that a lot of councillors get by virtue of stepping up to the plate and engaging in this public responsibility. I know that it's a tough job and it's a call to duty that many rural and urban individuals take very seriously. Like we are going to meet I think this week with some of the city council folks, and it's always a pleasure and an honour to be able to talk with some of those folks and hear about the hard work that they're doing in their urban municipalities. And I think the same goes for the folks at SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and the work they do there.

Having said that, I think this bill is a response to a particular situation that kind of went sideways. A couple years ago the government saw fit to do an investigation, and we now have a report by Justice Barclay on some suggestions for improvements when ethical questions arise at the municipal level. If I understand correctly, what the minister is proposing is that this adoption of some more formal rules around a code of ethics and ethical conduct is basically taken from our current code of conduct as members of the Legislative Assembly.

And as you know, Mr. Speaker, every year we have to file our disclosure reports. That's a very important part of what we do as members of the Legislative Assembly. It's public information that people can access. Because I think open, transparent accounting for people's interests is an important part of who we are and in many cases what drives us to become involved politically. I think the same level of engagement happens at the rural municipal level and the urban municipal level as well.

So questions of people's motivations are always complicated. And I've just been watching a lawyer show on Netflix, so I'm always kind of now seeing the intrigue in all of this. But certainly people's motivations are strong, and what compels people to go forward is they want to see change. Now whether it's going to affect them materially or affect their personal financial situation materially, that's where things can sometimes get a little bit cloudy.

So I think it's very important that the report, Justice Barclay's report, be taken very seriously, and I think that this bill is addressing a lot of that. But certainly as we go through with the debate and have an opportunity to examine these changes very closely, we will be able to see whether or not it achieves the purposes that the minister has declared or intended here.

Basically the amendments are going to address the Barclay report's recommendations, but there's some other changes that the minister indicated as well. And I think, you know, these are changes that are intended to take that very seriously.

I know that, as Ag critic and dealing with some of the water issues that people are facing with, you know . . . Water levels are really, really high in Saskatchewan on many levels, and a lot of the concerns I get from individuals when there's illegal drainage happening is the ability of the rural municipality to address that effectively.

And I think you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, being a member of a rural community, is that often the water doesn't stop at the boundary of the RM. Water keeps moving. And so all of a sudden you've got two RMs that are in dispute about where all this water's coming from, and then you have certain individuals who have large land holdings who happen to be a councillor and their land may be benefitting from some of that drainage. So it becomes very delicate and very complicated, and certainly a lot of the people that I've been meeting with are very concerned about whether or not there's been advantages taken from having positions on municipal councils — very concerning.

And certainly I think given what we know about the spirit of volunteerism and the headaches that are involved with being a rural municipal councillor, there's a balance there. So I think, sadly, this was motivated by a situation where there was obviously a need for some boundaries and some lines to be drawn for a code of ethics. And you know, this is what's driving these changes. I don't think it even comes close to the integrity of, you know, 95 per cent of people who volunteer for these positions. And I say volunteer because any pay that does come out of them cannot possibly meet the amount of hours that these folks put in. So there may be some remuneration — I'm not sure — but again this is essentially a volunteer position, and people are doing that and running their businesses and taking care of their families all at the same time.

So I think it's a real balance. I think the government's attempting to find that balance in implementing what the justice said in terms of his report. And then they're adding a few other things, more government control of rural municipalities. And again I'm not sure how that will go over once, if and when the government has to actually use that hammer that they're creating. We'll certainly see in that event whether, you know, the individuals and the organizations that were consulted with, whether or not they'll appreciate it as much at the time if that hammer ever needs to be used. But I'll talk about that in a little bit.

The minister's indicated that there's three main purposes that he's trying to achieve with this bill. First of all is the implementation of the Barclay report, which I've referenced. Secondly it's the ability of this government to impose certain things on municipalities, if needed, especially to address areas of municipal conflict of interest. So there's more of a hammer, as I said, for the government to impose upon certain elected municipal officials, if necessary, or if in the view of the government it's necessary. And then finally — and I think the third part is probably the most important part of this — is an expansion of the mandate of the Provincial Ombudsman to be

able to investigate some of these concerns that are being, that I'm hearing about in my capacity as Agriculture critic. And I think that's a really important role for the Ombudsman to fill, and I think we will see a real uptake on this expansion.

So in terms of the report itself, first of all the first main change is requiring individual councillors to make a much broader declaration of their personal interests. And I think again I mentioned it's following what we need to do as members of this Assembly, where we have to disclose all of our interests financially and through businesses and through the community as well. So this is mirroring that. And council members will need to disclose this, and it will be available for individuals to review.

The second thing now is these disclosure statements are required to be filed. This is a mandatory filing and regular updating of the public disclosure statements. And as the Deputy Speaker knows, that's something we do every year with our Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and we are required to disclose and actually sit down and meet with him and go through that report. I don't think this is suggesting that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner is going to sit down with every rural municipal councillor. I'm pretty sure that's not what is happening. But there will be a requirement for a mandatory filing and update of these statements.

[16:15]

Thirdly, the big change based on the report is to require municipalities to adopt a code of ethics. So this is going to be required and they will need to do that. There is a model code that has been proposed, and if the municipality's comfortable with that, they will implement that. They may already have codes of ethics that will either be close enough that they fit or they'll have to start from scratch. What we find out is that this model code of ethics isn't available just yet, and once again we'll have to wait until the regulations are passed to see what it looks like, which is always kind of a waiting game when we see legislative amendments that require changes to regulations as well. So we'll watch for that and keep an eye out for that.

The second issue is what I talked about, is the hammer that this government is now going to make a little tougher, so things like transparency declaration, disclosure of interests, and further, that the minister's indicated they're going to strengthen and improve the authorities in the Acts related to inquiry, inspection, and disqualification. So one example that the minister gave was ensuring that the authority for the minister to suspend or limit the powers of a council member during the course of an inquiry until the results are known. So right now there's no way for the minister to ensure that someone who is in question has their power suspended, so that's going to make that a little broader authority for the government.

Another one is broadening the authority to remove council members from office. This is a very serious step. I think things would have to be really deteriorated before our government would step in and actually remove someone from office, but these changes provide this government with that authority or the ability to actually do that. And there's a couple of other changes in terms of the extent of the government's authority over these elected officials.

But I think I would like to spend just a little bit of time on the third and final area of the proposed amendments because I think this is indeed the most important section. And I certainly want our constituents . . . And I'm hoping that all MLAs will take steps to ensure that their constituents understand that there now is a position for the Provincial Ombudsman in relation to rural municipal affairs, in relation to municipal affairs but I think particularly at the rural level. Because we know that that level of government, if you're talking about the city of Saskatoon, that's a big administration. There's lots going on and certainly it's important to be able to go to the Ombudsman there. But in a smaller community where you're complaining about your neighbour or your brother-in-law or somebody's cousin, it's much more difficult I think to openly have an even discussion about the things that people are concerned about.

So I think having that third body . . . You don't have to go to your MLA anymore. You don't have to go to the media. But you can just go and talk to the Provincial Ombudsman and they will hear your complaint and make a decision in relation to that.

So the way it works right now with the expansion of the mandate of the Provincial Ombudsman, any member of the public or the minister could submit an issue or complaint to the Ombudsman regarding a municipality, including administrative or procedural matters and alleged conflicts of interest or code of ethics breaches.

So this is a really big step, Mr. Speaker, and I think one that will be welcomed and hopefully uptaken. Uptaken, I'm not sure if that's a word. But taken up is probably a better way to put it, on the uptake of this ability to go to this impartial third party where they're not involving their neighbours or close friends, and they're actually getting an impartial ruling on what's been going on that they are concerned about.

So I think this is a huge opportunity for some of the concerns I've been hearing when it comes to illegal drainage. A lot of farmers are worried that, you know, they go to their neighbour and their neighbour is on the RM council and they feel helpless. They feel that they don't have any venue to have their concerns taken seriously. If they go to the Watershed Authority usually there's a six-month delay before the staff can even get to the complaint, so time is passing very quickly and the tensions are elevating and escalating.

So I think, as the minister indicated, even the Provincial Ombudsman herself has said that this:

. . . is very much in keeping with the role of the Ombudsman. [And it's going to] . . . assure the people of Saskatchewan of a credible, independent, and impartial office that they can take their concerns to and know that their issues will be taken seriously.

This is from the minister's comments on October 21st. So I think that part of the bill is incredibly important and I think certainly will help the folks that are struggling, particularly with their own councils.

And I think, indeed I believe this will be more of a small town or rural municipal issue where the closeness of the community makes it really difficult to even allege these breaches, allege

that they've occurred. And then to do the investigation is a very personal and tough situation in a small community. I think the evidence we saw in the situation that led up to the Barclay report is a good example of how divisive that kind of discourse is and how divisive that kind of, you know . . . When people don't get along in a community it just, it really tears people apart. And the closer knit the community, the more devastating it is to the community when things go sideways when it comes to allegations of improper conduct and conflict of interest.

So you know, a lot of people are working really hard just to make a go of it, and if they see problems with their municipal council that they feel are affecting them, both personally but financially certainly, I think it's important for them to have an avenue where they can go.

I don't think today I'm going to go through each clause in detail. It's a very long bill and, as I said, the changes to *The Cities Act* are almost identical to the changes to the rural municipal Act, and it's also identical to *The Northern Municipalities Act*. I see some attempt in the bill to take the language to make it more understandable and, for example, pecuniary interest is now being described as financial interest. So that's an interesting amendment.

I think it's always helpful to ensure that bills are understandable by people when they're reading it. Often legislative language is very dense and thick language that is not always easy to sort of sort out. So I think those kinds of changes will be helpful. We understand that the minister has consulted with SARM and SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], and so those consultations are obviously very important to the implementation of these kinds of changes, to those bodies and to the members that they represent.

So again we'll take the time in the next little while to ensure that if there are concerns with the bill brought forward from the public or from those bodies, that we'll be able to reflect upon them and enter that on the record for the debate as well.

But I think, Mr. Speaker, at this point that would be the extent of my comments on this and I would like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 186, *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 186, *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 187

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 187** — *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act, 2015* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to stand in the House and debate this very important Bill No. 187, *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act*. And it's one that, you know, it's a bit of an interesting thing because when I was first elected in the fall of 2001, one of the first pieces of work we did in a committee, a special committee, was to take a review of *The Farm Land Security Act*. And I know there were a few members from the other side particularly who were on that committee and brought forward many ideas.

And it was an interesting time because, you know, the way that government was at that time, the NDP actually did not . . . couldn't have the controlling levers in that committee. And so we were left with a bill that many felt could have been stronger, and yet we did bring it forward and it did pass. But we were concerned about the consultations at the time because it moved very fast, because people were wanting to open up farm land in a way that many felt that we should have that conversation with people in Saskatchewan, and that that did not happen.

And I know the other side, well it's a different . . . You know, they remember it differently because they would like to. They often remember things differently. It's all about perspective, isn't it? And we were willing to have those consultations, but they felt that they would prefer to just resolve it in committee and that was . . . And then here we are. Here we are still dealing with it and dealing with some of the changes that were a little too rapid, a little too fast. But they did, and partial credit to them because in the sense of having an online system, they did get 3,200 people from Saskatchewan to say that they didn't want foreigners or pension plans to own farm land in Saskatchewan.

So that was a bit of a consultation. But that has been the trend of this government, to use those kind of online consultations, whether it's in labour, and we saw that with the employment Act of 2012 where, instead of meeting face to face with folks . . . They have a hard time meeting with people. They have a really difficult time meeting with people and hearing them face to face. In fact the only time that they do meet with people face to face is when the court orders them to meet with them face to face, as we see with the Minister of Labour where he was ordered by the Supreme Court to resolve the issue of essential services, and then he took that on. And sometimes he will position that as if that was some sort of guidance. But I don't know. When you call an order from the court, especially with the penalties that they received, it's a little more than just guidance. It's an order.

So these folks over here, they only consult when they're ordered to consult. And here we have a situation where they were backed into a corner. They were very much backed into a corner, and they had to do something. Even their own people, the supporters . . . And we know they have strength in rural Saskatchewan. Their people are very strong. But they were saying, what's happening to our communities? What's happening in the communities? There were some very large buyouts of farm land, and land was going into hands that nobody really knew who was really owning it and who really was the money.

And of course this is an interesting government because, as we're seeing with the P3s where they're insisting that it's all

local, but we know, we know these companies are French. And even the French companies have some questionable backgrounds because we know some of the questions that have been raised by human rights, human rights groups.

And I mean they're all looking forward to their French trip. Some are going this December, I understand. They've been invited by the Prime Minister to make sure that they go, on a topic that they really haven't wanted to talk about, climate change.

But getting back to this, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really critical that we take a good long hard look. And we are supportive to many of the amendments. We think this is the way to go. But we know that it is unfortunate that we've found ourselves here, and that maybe there was more that we could have done. We would have liked to have seen it done sooner. But here we have a question before us about a real commitment to community and that type of thing.

Because you know, the fact of the matter is . . . and it was interesting. I want to read this one quote from the minister. And I know he likes to get down home every once in a while, but he says, and I quote:

Today I am pleased to speak to the changes that will keep our farm land in the hands of our farmers and ranchers while still allowing for a continued economic growth. Exemptions will . . . to be granted for economic development initiatives. We welcome investment in our province, and our government will continue to ensure . . . [we have] a positive investment climate.

So that's all great, and I really appreciate the hats off and the shout out to the ranchers and the farmers, and that's really good because they're the people who are living in the communities. And if we can keep those communities stronger, that's the key.

But I remember in 2002 the argument was made and raised by the other side that, you know, many of our folks . . . it was that so much of the farm land had to be owned by Saskatchewan folks. And then we increased . . . And this is where the problem became, because we increased the amount that Canadians could own. And the fact of the matter was that the argument that was put forward by the other side was that many of our folks who grew up in Saskatchewan were now living in Calgary but couldn't buy their parent's farm. And that sounds reasonable. That's something we should try to accommodate. Or they'd moved to Ontario, and they can't buy their own home quarter anymore. They feel like that's important, and fair enough. So we had to take a look at that.

[16:30]

But that created issues around . . . So we're opening up to Canadians and Canadian companies. And then we created the situation where we could have shell companies, and then all of a sudden companies holding pensions, investment companies really saw an opportunity here in Saskatchewan. And I think it's a great opportunity actually when you see the price of farm land is not going down, won't go down. But the problem was that it becomes too expensive for the local folks who really want to start out and get a start in farming but the costs are just too high.

And that's a challenge. And that's a challenge that we have to recognize.

And that was the challenge that started *The Farm Land Security Act* some 40, 50 years ago, and it was the attempt to make sure that there was a way that we could help our farmers and our ranchers and our local people own land. Because you know, at the heart of it we know the strongest economic growth really comes from people who live there. They feel it. They live it. They know what's happening in their communities. And if it's not happening locally, it's pretty hard to get somebody to come in from some other place, from Calgary or Toronto, to make it happen. It's just too big.

And so what we have is we have to create this balance though, and this is the challenge. And this government and the laissez-faire approach to it will say, well farms will increase in the size that they will increase to, and that's just the way it goes. But it squeezes out smaller farms, and we wonder what's happened to our local communities.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a farming family. We've now had our family farm for probably, I would think it's going to be 110 years. And I know there's many families in this Chamber who's had their farm for over 100 years. My colleague is one, and I know there's folks on the other side. So we've seen the changes. We've seen the changes in the farms, and it is a shame. It is really a shame.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was fortunate this weekend to take a drive out to the Great Sand Hills. And you see the changes in the communities, the old communities. We were driving by one and we saw this farm that looked very, very efficient and it must have been one big operation. It must have been huge. And then down the road, there was one farm that looked like the end of the world. I tell you. We couldn't tell whether it was a small town or whether this was a place that they were moving old, wrecked granaries, you know. You would have those old granaries that were just the tiniest sheds, right? And that was big enough. But everybody was moving these sheds. I don't know what was happening in this community, but it was a real, real challenge.

And so to keep the communities alive and, you know . . . We were at an old schoolhouse and it was interesting to see and it brought back memories where you had kids, families, enough in the township that you could create a school. And what a time that must have been where the old one-room schoolhouses, grade 1 to 8, and many of them were operational for many decades. But again, they became a thing of the past. And again we see that as we see the schools and communities face harder and harder, tougher times — especially the small ones. Especially the very small ones. And so this is a challenge that we have in Saskatchewan.

And for many of us, and we know this on both sides of the House because we grew up in rural Saskatchewan, where the size of the farms have now grown. I think the average size of farms is about four sections, is it? Four sections. And that's, you know, unbelievable when you used to have somebody with a quarter section, and that was really, really almost what you needed. And now four sections. And that would be the small guy. That would be the small guy in the neighbourhood.

And of course all the issues that come along with the farms increasing in size, including the whole issue that we've been dealing a lot about with water and flooding and the whole change of use of GPS [global positioning system] on tractors where you have these huge fields. And you know, it was really neat when we were coming back and we came back through Lancer, up to the Lancer Ferry, and as you're coming north from Lancer before the river you see this . . . and I don't know who it was, but he must have been just a . . . The farmer, he or she or the family, must have had a lot of foresight because they used a lot of the windrows. I've never seen so many windrows in my life. It was really amazing as you were coming through some of the hills and you come into the flats and all these rows of caraganas. This farm must have really believed in it because I've never seen so many windrows in my life.

And now we would see that would be a problem, because what do you do with GPS and windrows? You can only go so far and then you've got to turn around. And so this was a real . . . It was really interesting to see as you see the changes in the way we do things now. And then the fact of the matter is, somebody would say, so I have to measure the economic benefit of that windrow and what's it contributing in terms of saving moisture content, that type of thing, wind erosion versus a tractor and the efficiency of going straight down that row and not having to veer off because of those caraganas.

So times do change and we have to change with it. And we see that we have this piece of legislation before us, and whether it's the best we could have, I know there has been a lot of pressure both in the media, in the communities, and we've been hearing it. And if we've been hearing it, Mr. Speaker, you can bet they've been hearing it. Or if they haven't been hearing it, they should have been hearing it. They must be hearing it in their communities about the foreign ownership and the way that it's been hidden so that you cannot find out where the money goes.

Now this is an interesting government because they kind of specialize in hiding where the money goes, especially these P3s. It's a whole level of specialization in terms of these umbrella organizations. So maybe it's new times that we live in, but this was happening particularly with land holdings. And so we know that there was a lot of concerns raised about foreign ownership and who was really behind it because, you know, the fact of the matter is, as I said earlier, we're not making more farm land, and it's a great investment.

The problem becomes then if somebody just becomes a holding company and holds it at that price. And it really squeezes out the local folks who really want to get a start in farming and who are really committed to the communities. I mean this is something that I know that . . . Well Saskatchewan, it's the heart of who we are and what we are, and so this is a bit of a challenge. So we are really glad that the government, when they saw that 3,200 people responded and the media pressure, and the minister acted quickly. And here we are at the end of this session, and it's time to do something. So we think this is appropriate.

And so we know that the amendments include the pension plans and the administrator of pension fund assets and trust are ineligible to buy farm land, and that it has defining having an interest in farm land to include any type of interest or benefit.

Capital appreciation is normally associated with ownership of the land. And the purchase of farm land requires financing to be through a financial institution registered to do business in Canada or a resident, and then of course the increased power to the Farm Land Security Board. And so this will be able to add and, it says, assist in the major way for those . . . so the researches and searches so we can find who was actually behind the money.

So we would like to see this process. We're seeing it moving in the right direction. We would have liked to have seen these changes addressed sooner. This is really important. And we know that there are many out there who've benefited, benefited in a major way from the loopholes. And it will be interesting to see what happens now when they are closed. And the unfortunate part though is who pays for these loopholes being opened for so long are the local farmers, the local ranchers.

You know, another interesting thing that . . . So I did talk a little bit about water and the impact of the nature of how water flows through our . . . over the land in Saskatchewan, how it's changed, how it can be changed, and how, you know, we have had the arguments that a lot of flooding has been caused by the redirection of the water.

But we've also had, and I remember from this in 2002, but we've really missed this discussion too, and this is a problem when we don't have the hearings or public meetings. You know, back then we had a lot of discussion about environmental protection of the land, and we had, you know, we had presentations from Ducks Unlimited, different groups to talk about what they saw were challenges in ownership of land. And so I'm not sure what the impact is on that. I would have questions about that because that was pretty important. They had some pretty important ideas. And I don't think that with the changes this government has brought forward in terms of the, you know, wildlife conservancy, that we can just forget about that. In fact, it will be interesting to know the impact of this in terms of Nature Canada, their role in Saskatchewan. What does this mean for them? I mean obviously they're a Canadian company so it should be relatively straightforward, we hope.

But I hope there aren't any unintended consequences that we're cutting out groups who might be helpful. I mean one for example, Ducks Unlimited, which really is an American group but has a Canadian farm group. But you know, this is an interesting one, and we've not had . . . You know, in terms of receptions and stuff, we haven't had an opportunity to meet with Ducks Unlimited like we used to. We used to have an MLA reception quite often with those folks, but that was always a challenge to find . . .

So where did the money come from then? Was it American money that was coming up, you know, and what would it mean for this kind of legislation?

And so I think there are lots of questions about this and what are the unintended consequences. And what have we learned about environment, especially the land-holding groups like Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy of Canada, in the last 10 to 15 years? I don't know. Some got off to a rocky start and were looked upon in a kind of a negative way, but I think we've learned a lot.

But of course times have changed, and it would have been interesting to hear from them on their thoughts. But this is the trouble. And I will always say that when we do consultation, we should do it in many forms. Online is fine and good. That's very helpful and it's a good start. But public consultations can be really informative to everyone because, you know, you get a lot of different people speaking about things that they want to share with the public as well, not just the ministry.

And unfortunately we see, as a direction of this government, that they just won't do public consultations unless they're . . . I mean they won't do them. They won't do them, period. I mean when the Minister of Labour did consultations, they were closed consultations and he was ordered to do them. They were not public consultations. And so we need to be clear about that.

So I do worry about it because we've just missed a lot of good insight in this. So here we are with this bill and I'm really hoping that we're not going to be back here in three or four years correcting yet another mistake because there was something that this government didn't hear about, you know.

I mean it's like the employment Act. And this is what I said in the employment Act in 2012: we will be back every year with an amendment, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* amendment Act. And I think we have been here almost every year, every year with . . . It's an annual thing. And every year the minister brings forward his new Saskatchewan employment Act. It's always something new and improved, fair enough, but we may have caught it in the first year if we had public consultations. Many of those things we would have caught in the first year if we had those proper consultations.

So here we have an Act that we probably will be back in four or five years and the government will do another online consultation and will fix the problems, fix . . . will tweak it, will tweak it. That's what they do, is they tweak it. And yet we don't really get to the heart of what we really need to do. And I think with this . . . You know, as we said, it's a good start. Too bad it's a late start. Farmers and ranchers are going to pay the price for this being so late because people, these big companies, already own the land and we know for sure, if there's one thing we know for sure, is they're not going to sell it for less. I don't think anybody will tell me they're going to sell farm land, any of these companies, for less. I'm pretty sure about that. Nobody wants to bet a dollar on that, I bet . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . There might be. I don't know about that. We're starting to go back . . . You know, we were talking history today about the '90s. Now we're going back to the '70s. We're going back to the '70s, the good old '70s and the land bank. That was a pretty good thing happening. That was . . .

[16:45]

But you know, I digress, Mr. Speaker. I digress. I was talking about Bill No. 187. That's what I was talking about, Mr. Speaker. I woke up the giant over there. I woke up the . . . There you go. But I know, Mr. Speaker, I know the passion of what those folks . . . [inaudible] . . . But you know one thing, I will say this. I will say this. It will be a long day before any of these companies that own their land will be selling it for less, unless of course their Minister of Finance, he would sell it for less. He would sell it for less. So I don't want to see him . . .

Well I do want to see him near some of those companies. That would be a good thing.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think what we need to do is . . . I know there will be many others who want to speak to this bill. Many others will want to speak to this bill. And it's even sounding like the government side wants to speak to this. They want to speak to this. They've got a few ideas they want to get on record. But that will be in committee. And maybe we'll have a pretty large committee meeting, and they've got to say something. But you know what they could also do, Mr. Speaker, is go online. They could go online. I urge the members over there to go online and give me some feedback.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, and I know that we've got a lot of work to do, but I've got to say, as I've said before, we're pleased to see this. Moving in this direction is the right direction. A little too late, but we've got to get on this. We know that the farmers and ranchers have paid a price. It's the price of land for too many has increased in value to a point where the small guy's not being able to get involved. And we need to see if that can happen.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move adjournment of Bill No. 187, *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act, 2015*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 187, the Saskatchewan farm security Act, 2015. 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 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:48.]

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