



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

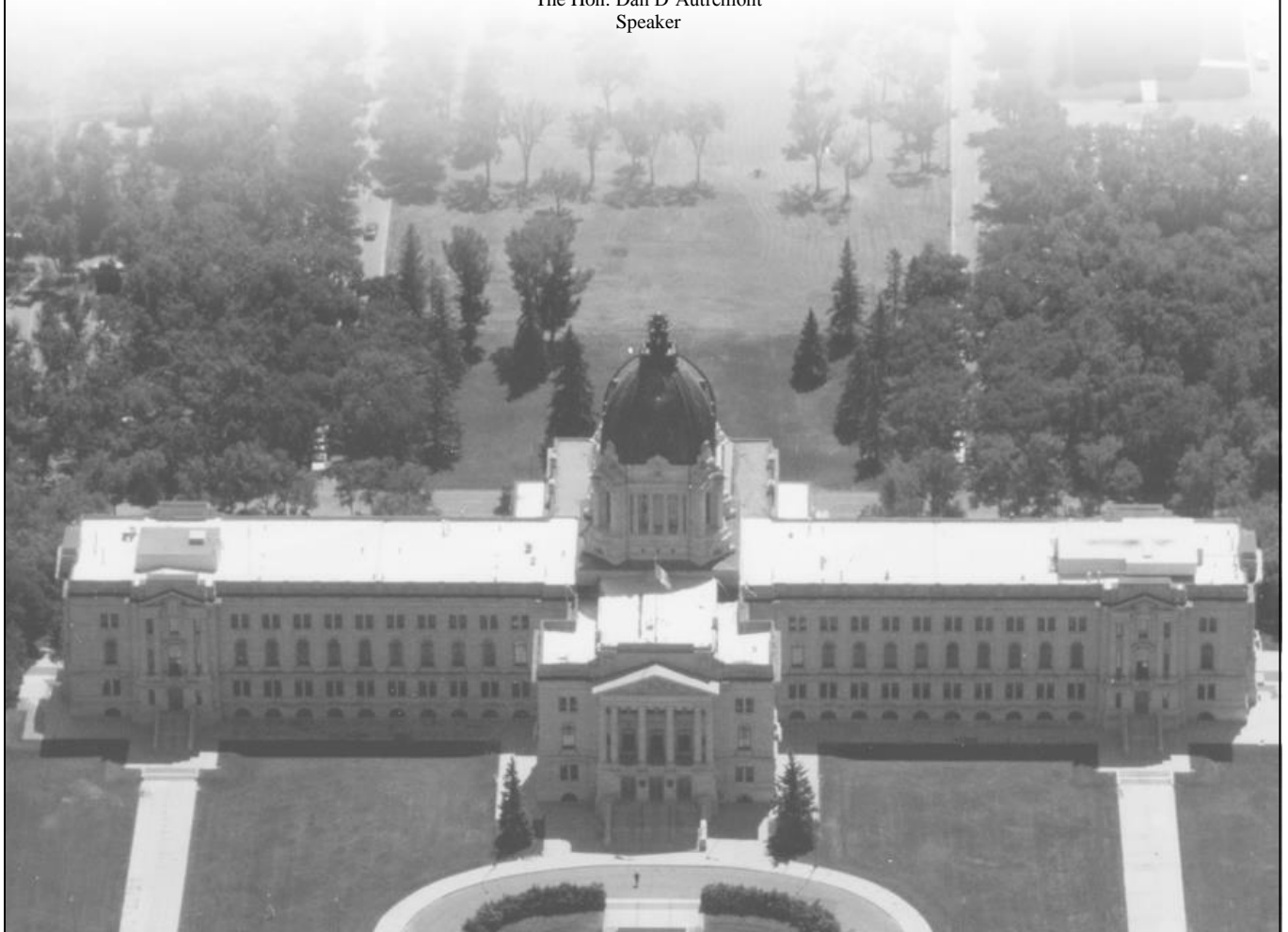
of the

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: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a great honour for me to introduce many, many special guests that have joined us in all three galleries here today. Mr. Speaker, there are roughly 182 guests that have joined us. We wanted to take a very solemn and special day to say thank you to all of those who were involved in fighting fires in Saskatchewan this past fire season. And so I have a long list of the groups that are actually represented here today, and I'd ask for the indulgence of members as we go through the list.

In no particular order, just the list of great organizations that helped respond: Muskoday First Nation; RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] "F" Division; the Canadian Red Cross; the Salvation Army; The Lighthouse Serving the Battlefords; Regina Food Bank; Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association; Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority; the Saskatchewan Roughriders; Sask Polytechnic; the Saskatchewan Science Centre; Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs; Prince Albert Mobile Crisis; the Prince Albert Grand Council; Battle River Treaty 6 Health Centre; Prince Albert National Park; Prince Albert Parkland Health Region; the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region; the Saskatoon Health Region; Keewatin Yatthé Health Region; Prairie North Regional Health Authority; Cameco; Meyers Norris Penny; the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies; Queen City Kinsmen Gymnastics Club; and the communities of Warman, Balgonie, Prince Albert, Carlyle, Naicam, Nipawin, Humboldt, Saskatoon, Pilot Butte, Carrot River, Aberdeen, Langham, Outlook, Wakaw, Redvers, North Battleford, Battleford, and the RMs [rural municipality] of Britannia and Wilton.

And also with us, Mr. Speaker, are public service professionals representing the ministries of Government Relations; Environment; Social Services; Highways; Health; Parks, Culture and Sport; Justice; SaskEnergy; SaskPower; SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance]; and SaskTel.

Mr. Speaker, what we saw in Saskatchewan this past summer was unlike anything we had ever seen before in terms of the scale of the fires that were in proximity to communities. And the evacuation that was required in addition to the suppression, in addition to all of the logistics work that went into the fire

fight, the evacuation itself that was involved was unprecedented. We've seen nothing like that in the province's history. I hope we'll never see anything like it again.

But, Mr. Speaker, what was greater than the scale and scope of these fires and the impact on these communities and on the whole province, what was greater than all of that was the response of these amazing women and men, all of these organizations — local leadership, First Nations chiefs, town mayors and councils, the public service, non-government agencies, the private sector, well you heard the list I read. This is an amazing list of organizations represented by amazing people who just stepped up, really didn't need to be asked.

The phone lines were busy with volunteers. I remember, Mr. Speaker, being involved in the morning ops [operations] call on a regular basis and just being amazed by the work of our public service, first of all, and also being amazed of reports of the response from everyday Saskatchewan citizens in the North, people wanting to help from the South.

The writer Henrik Ibsen wrote that "A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." Well we saw that this summer. Everyone did their part and more. Everyone contributed. Everyone took the helm. And, Mr. Speaker, though we were going through a terrible tragedy and some people had been out of their homes for a month, despite all of that, through all of that, it was a proud moment for everybody in this province because of you, because of our guests, because of their response to people when they needed their help the most.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a special event here today to say thank you. It really doesn't seem like enough, given the effort and the contribution, but we offer it freely and sincerely, both this recognition today in their Legislative Assembly, and an event a little bit later on this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a very, very grateful province. Thank you so much for proving again the motto of Saskatchewan, "from many peoples, strength," and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And if we ever needed a reminder about the fact that we live in a fantastic province filled with wonderful, kind, generous people, we have a reminder here clear as day, Mr. Speaker, in the many faces that we have filling the galleries here in the Assembly. We see people from all different walks of life, from all different regions of the province. We see fire chiefs, First Nations chiefs, leaderships of CBOs [community-based organization] and volunteer organizations. We see dedicated civil servants who have committed their lives to public service here in Saskatchewan. And on behalf of the official opposition, we too want to extend our deep gratitude and thanks for everything that you have done and that you did over the past months here in the province.

And I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure these individuals, these leaders of their organizations would also recognize that they are the one representative of a big network of people helping out. That was most certainly the reality, and we want to say a special thank you to each and every member

of your staff, of your volunteer groups, of your band members for going above the call of duty to help people here in Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend a special thank you to the representatives' families because we know during that period of time a lot of people missed a lot of time at home, missed meals together, missed sleeps in one's own bed, and put themselves in harm's way very often.

So Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, we thank all members for their representation here today and thank you for their service to Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you, 27 grade 4 students from MacNeill School here in Regina. Accompanying these students we have their teachers, Ms. Coffin and Ms. Johnson, and accompanying this wonderful group of very fine, intelligent, young students we have four chaperones. We have Leslie Kampe, Lynn Robertson, Mike Strykiwsky, and Peter Kampe. So thank you very much, and I'll have a chance to visit with you later on.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to join the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to welcome many of you here. But from northern Saskatchewan, the Cumberland constituency, there's a lot of people from my home community, as well as the North, that was impacted greatly.

And I just want to welcome the leadership and the community members that are here to your Legislative Assembly and to say thank you to the many volunteers and people that came forward to help. You have a community, and many people are truly grateful and appreciate all the effort and time you put in and, as volunteers, the great work you did. We thank you on behalf of the Cumberland constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to stand today to present a petition calling for greater support for GSAs [gender and sexuality alliance] in Saskatchewan schools. And we know that this province lags behind others in securing the rights of gender and sexually diverse students, and that this government is not doing enough to create safe spaces in our schools for sexually diverse students or students bullied because of their sexual identity or orientation, and that these students are four times more likely than their heterosexual peers to attempt suicide.

And we know that GSAs, or gender sexual alliances, play a pivotal role in providing inclusive, anti-oppressive learning environments and offer reprieve from bullying and assault. And, Mr. Speaker, we know this government must act so students have simple, easy-to-understand information about

GSAs. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan 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.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition are from Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and Spruce Home. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand today to present a petition as it relates to cellphone coverage in northern Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows:

To cause the provincial government to improve cell service coverage for northern communities like St. George's Hill, Dillon, Michel Village, Dore Lake, Michel Point, and Sled Lake to provide similar quality of cell coverage as the southern communities currently enjoy. This would provide support for our northern industries as well as mitigate safety concerns associated with living in the remote North.

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are from all throughout Saskatchewan, and this particular page are primarily from Dillon and St. George's Hill. And I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of better seniors' care. The petitioners point out that we continue to hear more and more stories about lack of staffing in long-term care, which has led to neglect because staff can't get around to residents to ensure that they have what they need. I would 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 seniors' care facilities; and providing more support to help seniors remain independent in their own homes for as long as they desire.

Mr. Speaker, this petition today is signed by citizens from Canora, Swift Current, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition by citizens concerned about the high cost of post-secondary education in the province of Saskatchewan. The petitioners point out, among other points, that the average Canadian student in 2014 graduated with debt of over \$27,000, not including credit card and other private debt. In the prayer that reads as follows:

The petitioners 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 fees.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by citizens from Regina and Moose Jaw. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Movember

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that Movember is upon us, moustaches will once again begin appearing to raise awareness of and funds to combat men's health issues.

During this month, moustaches that would make Tom Selleck envious will begin to appear across the globe and particularly on this side of the floor, undoubtedly sparking important discussions about men's health, all while moustache growers fundraise for the Movember Foundation.

Since 2003 this international charity has rallied millions of people behind the movement to improve men's health while raising \$677 million to fund programs and initiatives aiming to improve health issues facing men, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health issues, and physical inactivity.

Mr. Speaker, once again members of our caucus will be growing moustaches in an effort to help change the face of men's health. The Minister of Rural and Remote Health will be the other member besides myself of our moustache-growing team.

Mr. Speaker, too often men are reluctant to take prompt action on our health. With everyone's help, we have the power to change the face of men's health. And so I ask all members to join me in supporting this important fundraising movement and to encourage the men they know to take steps toward better health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

[13:45]

Appreciation for Support During Wildfire Season

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, when the fires started to ravage the North this summer, there were countless volunteers, agencies, and leaders who supported our impacted communities

in northern Saskatchewan, and they all deserve a thank you.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the true heroes of this crisis — our firefighters, both on the ground and in the air. These brave men and women put in long hours doing all they could to protect our communities, land, and animals.

To those of you who stayed behind to protect your homes and cabins, I salute you for your courage and determination, and your reluctance to not give up your fight to protect what is yours.

The outpouring of support from people across the country who came to help fight these fires was overwhelming, and we thank you all for your support. To the people that tirelessly supported our evacuees, we are grateful for your compassion and assistance during this time of need.

Now that the fire season has passed, I hope we can reflect on what happened and learn the important lessons on how we can better protect our northern homes for future generations. On behalf of the Cumberland constituency, I would like to say to everyone who helped with the fires, tiniki, thank you; merci cho.

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

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2015 wildfire season in northern Saskatchewan resulted in the largest emergency response and evacuation in our province's history. Our province came together in a time of crisis, and we are grateful — grateful there are no serious injuries or lives lost and minimal property damage throughout the North.

Mr. Speaker, there were so many who helped during this emergency. I would like to take the time to name these groups: the Canadian Red Cross; emergency management and fire safety; Social Services; our Canadian Armed Forces who, when called upon, were on the ground for training within 48 hours and were deployed to fight fires immediately after; First Nations and municipal leaders who worked tirelessly to protect their communities; firefighters from our wildfire management branch, who worked side by side with firefighters from more than 30 municipal and volunteer fire departments across our province; crews from SaskEnergy, SaskPower, SaskTel, who all worked to protect and repair infrastructure as quickly as possible; provincial park staff who stayed behind to ensure our parks and our campers were safe. And to the evacuees, thank you for your courage and for your patience.

Mr. Speaker, hundreds of people from Saskatchewan, from the province, and US [United States] played a key role in the operation during the wildfire. I ask all members to join me in thanking everyone involved for their efforts. Thank you.

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

Movember

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. November is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, but in recent years it's probably been better known as Movember, and I for one will be

participating in growing out a moustache to raise money and awareness for men's health issues.

This Movember Foundation was created in 2003 to help spread the Movember message, and since then more than \$677 million have been raised by the Mo brothers in every corner of the globe.

Over the last few years, Movember has expanded its focus to include mental health in addition to men's cancers, and it's an important step because far too many men don't reach out and get the help they need because of the stigma associated with mental illness. There's certainly more that we need to do to improve access and availability of services in all parts of the province, but we also need to make sure that the stigma associated with mental health, mental illness goes away and that men everywhere know that they can come forward and get the help they need.

I know, in this Chamber, Movember over the past few years has seen incredible support from all members for growing great moustaches or by generous support, and I am confident Movember 2015 will see some very impressive results. And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the beginning of Movember and in thanking all of those who are involved with organizing and promoting this very important event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Moose Jaw's Better Together Food Drive

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Halloween night, the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Moose Jaw North, myself, and our families participated in the annual Better Together food drive.

The Better Together Halloween food drive has been a staple event for the city of Moose Jaw and our district food bank for the last 10 years. Mr. Speaker, the success of this event over the last 10 years is absolutely astounding, as it provides the food bank with 50 per cent of their annual food needs each year. Not only does this food drive demonstrate the strength of community spirit in Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker; it also demonstrates a commitment to volunteerism. This year over 400 volunteers came out to support and participate in this one event.

In just five hours, the volunteers knocked on all of the doors in Moose Jaw, asking for non-perishable food items. I am proud to say that this year's food drive brought in over 45,000 pounds of food for the food bank. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the volunteers and organizers of the Better Together food drive for another successful event, and their commitment for helping the Moose Jaw & District Food Bank.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Corporation Furthers Opportunities in Northern Communities

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the great work being done by Cameco to support the people and communities of northern Saskatchewan. Nearly 50 per cent of the employees at Cameco's northern work sites are residents of the North, and more than 1,250 of these employees are Aboriginal.

In addition to the employment it provides, Cameco aims to develop further economic and social opportunities to support local communities. As part of these efforts, Cameco embarks on a northern tour each fall to celebrate the success of their northern business partners and to inform young people about, and encourage them to take advantage of, the educational and employment opportunities available.

Mr. Speaker, during this year's tour, as a way of giving back, Cameco donated a repurposed laptop and new printer to 10 of the smaller communities they visited. Members of Cameco's business technology services department were part of the northern tour to encourage students to consider taking advantage of opportunities for careers in the IT [information technology] field.

Cameco also brought one of Canada's most prominent young indigenous entrepreneurs, Kendall Netmaker, founder and CEO [chief executive officer] of Neechie Gear, to share his inspiring story with the communities the tour visited.

I ask all members to join me in thanking Cameco for their contributions to our economy and their dedication to making northern Saskatchewan a better place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce held their 32nd annual ABEX [Achievement in Business Excellence] Awards in Saskatoon, celebrating achievement in business excellence within Saskatchewan.

These prestigious awards invite leaders in Saskatchewan's business industry to come together and highlight Saskatchewan companies that have gone above and beyond. This year 89 nominations were submitted to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. These nominations represent businesses of all sizes from across our province.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to recognize that TA Foods Ltd., from my constituency in Yorkton, was nominated in three categories: exports, growth and expansion, and innovation.

Starting their business more than 30 years ago, Terry and Anne Popowich started out milling oats. Their business grew into Grain Millers Inc., one of the largest oat processors in North America. The Popowiches then transitioned out of that business to focus on flaxseed. By 2003 they had hired 100 employees

while establishing TA Foods. Since 2003 TA Foods has focused on providing healthy and functional foods to the marketplace. With an emphasis on flax, the company's mission is to gather the best of nature's flax harvest and help customers convert them into health-conscious foods and nutrition.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report that TA Foods won the ABEX Award in the category of growth and expansion. I invite all members to join me in recognizing all of the companies that were nominated at this year's ABEX Awards ceremony and congratulate Terry and Anne Popowich on their company's accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Carbon Capture and Storage Project

Mr. Broten: — Last week the Premier kept talking about an internal chart that shows the performance of the Boundary dam carbon capture plant, but the government refused to release it, claiming it's somehow sensitive information that can't be shared with the public.

Well we have that chart, and I think the real reason the Premier didn't want the chart to be shared with the public is that it contradicts so much of what he has been saying. The Premier said the \$1.5 billion carbon capture project was fully operational "when it opened," but the internal documents show the unit did not capture CO₂ for quite some time after the grand opening. So why did the Premier say that it was fully operational and working as designed when it opened up, when that wasn't even close to reality?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I've had discussions with the president of SaskPower in the last number of days, and prior to even the questions being raised, about this particular project, Mr. Speaker, about what operational means in the utility sector, Mr. Speaker. And I also think he shared this comment with members of the media and others, that from the draft board in terms of the plant's technology to the commissioning of the plant and turning on of the plant, SaskPower believed that wording was accurate — still believes that by the way — that it's operational and it's fully operational, and so the tweet went out.

Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of numbers tossed around last week, and I just want to be clear. Mr. Speaker, this particular technology, this amine technology, will capture 90 per cent of the CO₂ in terms of the exhaust that goes through it. Mr. Speaker, that's what this plant will hit. That is the target that this plant will hit. Through the last year, the first year of commissioning, it ran at about 89, sometimes 90 per cent of capacity, capturing about 80 per cent of the CO₂. Mr. Speaker, it's going to get to 90 per cent on a consistent basis.

We know that in the coming months the plant will be operational again, and we need it to be operational. If we're going to continue to have coal, cleaner coal, in the fleet, if

we're going to continue to have coal mining jobs in the province, if we're going to continue to have jobs at Boundary dam 3 and 4 and 5, we need to make sure that coal's viable going forward, to also to keep rates affordable for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

And so we're going to continue with this technology that's proven actually to work quite well in its first year. The plant will reopen again. It'll reactivate again here in the weeks ahead. And we will inform the opposition members and the public of the province in terms of progress as it gets to full capacity and full efficiency.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, every thinking person in the province knows exactly what the Premier has been intending to share with the public, Mr. Speaker, in terms of a story. But as we look at the internal documents, it's a story that's not backed up by the facts.

Last October the Premier said the carbon capture plant was fully operational. It's interesting to see how he is changing these definitions on the fly. And last week when the media asked him about that, he defended it, saying, "It was running at full capacity." Now the reporters asked him if that meant a day or what, and the Premier said, "For longer than that." But that contradicts SaskPower's own chart — own chart — which shows no carbon was captured until about three weeks after the grand opening.

So to the Premier: should we trust what he said or should we trust SaskPower's own internal chart? Which one?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we can trust the words of the CEO and the officials at SaskPower, which are consistent both with the tweet that the member referenced and the fact the plant was operational the day it opened. In terms of the terminology that utilities use, I've asked this question very directly, for obvious reasons. We need to be consistent. And I invite the member to do that. I invite the member to talk to Mr. Marsh and get this input from him.

Mr. Speaker, I would also say this: I'm glad this issue's being raised in the legislature today because there's a very important issue at play here. There's the long-term affordability and sustainability of electrical production in the province of Saskatchewan. Coal is part of that right now, but we know with federal government regulations in the coal industry, we'll either going to have to clean up coal or shut down coal.

Mr. Speaker, it's our view on this side of the House that this investment in this technology — which is capturing CO₂ today, 400 000 tonnes, and will be capturing the 90 per cent target in the months ahead — it's our view that this technology helps us maintain coal in the fleet, coal cleaner than natural gas by a multiple of four times. But it also gives Saskatchewan a chance to export technology because they're building more coal in China; they're building more coal plants in India, even in Japan, even in Germany. We have a chance to be a part of a solution bigger than cap and trade frankly, bigger than a carbon tax. Mr.

Speaker, it's an investment that's worthwhile.

And I guess I ask the member again: what is the position of the opposition? Are they in favour of coal continuing? Or like his counterpart, the Leader of the NDP [New Democratic Party] in Alberta, is it his position we should shut down coal in the province of Saskatchewan?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's not capturing one thing today of CO₂, Mr. Speaker, because it's been closed since September, Mr. Speaker. What we need is the Premier to stop evading the questions and start giving Saskatchewan people some information.

Mr. Speaker, we've heard the spin lines. We've heard the sales pitch time and time again, and that's the problem. The sales pitch isn't backed up by the facts, the internal facts of SaskPower, Mr. Speaker. The inconsistencies, the inconsistencies between what the Premier has been saying and what the internal documents say don't stop there.

[14:00]

Now the government put out a glowing press release last February saying that the project was "exceeding expectations." And the Premier defended that last week, Mr. Speaker, by saying the carbon capture plant was running optimally at the time of that news release. But yet again SaskPower's own chart contradicts the Premier. The chart shows the unit's operations weren't anything, Mr. Speaker, but optimal. They were anything but optimal.

So again to the Premier: what is the truth? Should we believe him or should we believe SaskPower's internal chart? Which one is right?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, what the member should believe, what the people of the province can believe is the fact that over the course of a year, the plant at times was running at about 89 per cent of capacity, 90 per cent of capacity, that it was capturing about 80 per cent of the CO₂ during those occasions. It was obviously shut down because it wasn't performing optimally and the engineers wanted to make sure that it was. This is normal for a commissioning project, especially on a major R & D [research and development], on a major technology project in the province of Saskatchewan. It was true, for example, with the synchrotron years ago, a very worthwhile science project that was implemented by the New Democrats opposite.

Mr. Speaker, here's the other truth of all of this, that this technology has captured 400 000 tonnes of CO₂. This technology is working. To the extent we want it yet? No, but it's working and it will meet the targets, Mr. Speaker.

So again I ask the hon. member opposite: what's the position of the NDP? This is the same questions that were asked last week. What's his answer to the question today which is, do the NDP support coal going forward or would they phase it out like the

NDP in the province of Alberta? Do they believe that it's true, that's it right that we either clean coal up or shut coal down? And if they believe that, what do they choose, Mr. Speaker?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, these are new questions, because what the government was saying last week on Thursday, Mr. Speaker, is contradicted by the internal documents from SaskPower, Mr. Speaker. We can have the policy discussion and we will. What we need now are the answers, Mr. Speaker, about why we're hearing two very different stories. We have the sales pitch from the Premier, Mr. Speaker. We have those lines, Mr. Speaker. But we have no explanation about why the story isn't backed up by the facts from SaskPower.

The news release that was sent out, Mr. Speaker, in early February, the celebratory news release on February 11th, we can look at that, Mr. Speaker. But SaskPower's own documents, their very own documents show the plant was off-line for the first part of February and then it was capturing about half, about half of total emissions. Mr. Speaker, that sure doesn't sound like it was exceeding expectations and it sure doesn't sound like it was running optimally like the Premier claimed.

So my question to the Premier: how on Earth can he justify saying it was exceeding expectations and running optimally when SaskPower's own chart shows that was not even close to reality?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well we welcome the fact that the Leader of the Opposition now says he's prepared to have a policy debate on this and hopefully a lot of other issues, because we certainly haven't had to date, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of what was being discussed about the facility at that point in time exceeding expectations, if you look at the parasitic load of the facility, Mr. Speaker, it was expected to be around 110 megawatts. It is exceeding that and is generating about 120 or 130 megawatts when it is up to speed and operational, Mr. Speaker. So it is exceeding the expectations in that area.

However, it is certainly not exceeding expectations in terms of the amount of CO₂ that's been captured. And, Mr. Speaker, as we have stated, that there has been details provided on a number of occasions around the amount of carbon that has been captured to date, Mr. Speaker. We will be providing even more updates. SaskPower will be going forward, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure that the people of Saskatchewan are fully aware of the amount of CO₂ that is being captured by the facility and the success of it so far.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the only accurate information it seems that they have provided is when they are caught, Mr. Speaker, in contradiction to what they've been saying with what the facts really are. That's where we're seeing the information coming out from that front bench and from the Premier.

The same February news release also said the project was on target to capture 1 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2015, on target to capture 1 million tonnes of CO₂ in the calendar year. That was the government's claim back in February and the Premier, the Premier was still defending that claim last week. He said the facility was performing optimally in February and capturing CO₂ at its design capacity. But that's not true either, Mr. Speaker. The only time, the only time the daily capture rate exceeded 70 per cent was in the first few days of January. After that, on days it was actually turned on, the maximum daily capture rate dropped to about 50 per cent and some days it was down around 40 per cent, Mr. Speaker — again, the facts from SaskPower.

Why would the Premier say that it was on target to capture 1 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2015 when the daily capture rates were either zero or between 40 per cent and 52 per cent?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Because that is the target rate, Mr. Speaker. We are hoping, and SaskPower officials are certainly of the opinion that it'll reach that target at some point, Mr. . . . future.

It didn't meet it in 2015. Clearly that's the case. It looks like there's going to be about 400 000 tonnes captured, Mr. Speaker, and sold to Cenovus, Mr. Speaker. That will result in revenue to SaskPower of about 5 to \$6 million, Mr. Speaker — very, very positive with respect to that, Mr. Speaker. We have said on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, that this plant isn't operating at the efficiency that we would like to see.

But I think a recent column on October 31st probably sums it up best: “. . . we need to remember that no technology is free of glitches and hiccups and that such problems are typical . . . [for such] large-scale technology commercialization projects.”

Mr. Speaker, I think that's a normal thing in terms of these types of projects when they're brought to commercialization; there's always some hiccups with respect . . . in initial stages of commissioning, Mr. Speaker. This plant is no different with respect to that. But we believe completely what the SaskPower team is telling us, that it will reach that at some point in the near future.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the answer from the minister is hilarious if it wasn't so sad. He said, Mr. Speaker, when questioned about how they could be on track to capture 1 million tonnes, he said, well that's the target, so you know, it's got to be right. Well that's the problem, Mr. Speaker. That's been their cheerleading on this throughout. It's not supported by the facts one little bit.

In order, Mr. Speaker, in order to capture 1 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2015, the plant would have to capture an average of 2740 tonnes every single day of the year. But internal documents show the project hadn't reached that capture rate even one day in 2015, not one day. So again, how can the Premier possibly say it was truthful for the government to claim that it was on track to capture 1 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2015?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the target for the project is 1 million tonnes. Unfortunately it didn't reach that target in 2015. That's correct. It reached 400 000 tonnes of capture of CO₂, Mr. Speaker, which is the equivalent of taking off the road of about 100,000 vehicles here in Saskatchewan. It's not great, but it's pretty good, Mr. Speaker. It is certainly on target to do that, Mr. Speaker. And I think that we need to keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, “. . . we need to keep in mind that the goal of developing clean coal technology is critical for the planet and not to be abandoned at the first bump in the road.”

Now I know that the member opposite would like to shut it down. He would like to shut it down and just stop the project, and the member from Nutana has said so much on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that's the right thing to do with respect to this, Mr. Speaker. I think the people of Saskatchewan need to know that the government is committed to cleaning up coal here in Saskatchewan rather than shutting it down as the NDP would suggest.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, they didn't say they hope to capture 1 million tonnes someday off in the distance after years of sputtering along the road. They said, Mr. Speaker, this government said recently they were on track to capture 1 million tonnes in 2015. The facts show, Mr. Speaker, that they are nowhere on track. The facts show, Mr. Speaker, that that statement is not accurate any way whatsoever.

The internal chart, Mr. Speaker, doesn't just contradict the Premier's claim about how things were going around the grand opening and his claims about how things were going last February. This chart also contradicts the government's rhetoric about things improving every week. The chart is clear. The peak capture rate was actually achieved in 2014 and the performance of the carbon capture plant throughout 2015 has been much worse than that.

My question to the Premier: will he at least acknowledge that fact or will he keep giving a story that doesn't match with SaskPower's own internal documents? Which is it?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions throughout the past year, SaskPower has put out information around the amount of CO₂ that's been captured. It's about 400 000. The target was 1 million tonnes, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately they've missed it by a fair measure to say the least. We have committed to, Mr. Speaker, SaskPower has committed to providing more updates with respect to the operations of the facility going forward.

And I think it's important that we take a look at what their plan is going forward, Mr. Speaker. This week they intend to start up the plant with completion going forward. In the next two weeks, they will conduct nameplate testing at full capacity. That means at full capacity for three days attempting to achieve 90 per cent capture at the full rate of capacity, the full nameplate rate of capacity which is 3240 tonnes per day, Mr. Speaker. After

nameplate testing, they will run the plant at about 2600 tonnes per day, which is kind of a normal thing, Mr. Speaker, both the ramp-up and also to reduce the amount of load so that they can do further testing.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know how we can believe these answers from the minister when very clearly, Mr. Speaker, this government said that they were on track to capture 1 million tonnes in 2015. The facts from SaskPower, Mr. Speaker, tell a very, very different story, Mr. Speaker. And they only are sharing information, Mr. Speaker, when they are caught, when they are caught telling information, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't match up with what SaskPower is saying.

Here's what the Premier said last week:

There's a chart through the whole year of it coming up to full capacity, 90 per cent capture. And then, at any sign of decline, SaskPower engineers shut it down to fix the problem.

So the Premier said it reached full capacity many times throughout the course of the year. But the truth is it did not get up to full capacity, not once. And the highest capture rate achieved was mid-November last year. This year, in 2015, the plant has struggled to capture more than 2000 tonnes per day. Most days this year it has fallen far short of that. The Premier says that he has seen this chart. So why do his statements not even come close to matching what the chart actually shows?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — What the chart actually shows is that there's been lots of problems with the facility and that the facility has captured 400 000 tonnes in 2015, Mr. Speaker. And that's been noted on a number of occasions by SaskPower officials. If you look at the list of it, it goes on, starting in January through February. In addition to that, in July there was an update with respect to it at that point in time, Mr. Speaker. There's been a number of updates. It's not operating at the optimal amount, clearly, and we have admitted that on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker.

But I think going forward we are optimistic, and I think SaskPower people are optimistic with respect to that. After the nameplate testing that they're going to be conducting here real soon, they'll ramp the plant down to about 2600 tonnes per day, or 80 per cent of the capacity, to fill commitments to the offtaker with respect to the project, Mr. Speaker.

And then every eight weeks going forward they'll have a short planned outage to clean the carbon capture equipment as necessary, and this time frame could extend between a week and two weeks in time, Mr. Speaker. And then in May of 2016, they will have a potential one-month planned outage, Mr. Speaker, to replace any kind of defective equipment that they determine, Mr. Speaker, and further conduct very intensive and extensive cleaning and necessary testing, Mr. Speaker. So I think, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, just last week, just last week the Premier said that the plant had been operating optimally, Mr. Speaker. Now we have the minister saying oh, there's major problems with what's going on. They can't get their story straight, Mr. Speaker, from one question period to the next, not to mention from question period out into the rotunda.

Mr. Speaker, what we need to start seeing is some transparency, some accuracy, Mr. Speaker, and some clarity for Saskatchewan people who are on the hook for a \$1.5 billion project and growing, and we don't even know, Mr. Speaker, when it might actually work.

You know, Mr. Speaker, earlier on when US Senator Lindsey Graham came for a visit in August, the Premier was boasting about the facility operating at full capacity. Do you know how much it was actually capturing at that time? It captured nothing for almost two weeks at the beginning of August despite actually being turned on for most of those days. It then captured between 1500 tonnes and 2100 tonnes per day, which is between 40 per cent and 58 per cent of total emissions. Mr. Speaker, that's nothing to boast about.

My question to the Premier: was the Premier upfront with Lindsey Graham about the problems with the project? What exactly did he tell the US senator?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, I think what we have been saying consistently, Mr. Speaker, is, is that there's been problems with the facility. It has been ramped up and it has been ramped down in terms of its production. We've seen production go at a rate that still isn't what we would like to see it, but we've seen it much lower than that on occasions, Mr. Speaker.

I don't think it does any good for the Leader of the Opposition to suggest to the engineers of SaskPower and other companies that are operating on this facility that they don't know what they're doing down there, Mr. Speaker. Because I think they clearly do know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker. They have developed a world-class project, Mr. Speaker. There's been groups, some 260 of them have had occasion to go down and take a look at the facility down at Boundary dam, Mr. Speaker. And they believe it is groundbreaking technology.

And I think they also believe something that is very, very important and that is to remember that "no technology is free of glitches and hiccups and that such problems are typical of large-scale . . . projects." That was something that was reported on October 31st in the *Leader-Post*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the shifting stories we've had from this minister is something else. And to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the issue is with the engineers is ridiculous because the issue is with this government, this Premier who

refuses to release the information, Mr. Speaker, that shows the true picture of the project, Mr. Speaker. That's where the problem lies.

The Premier said last week, in some months so much CO₂ is captured that Cenovus wouldn't actually take it all. But that doesn't make any sense because we know this government cut a cheque to Cenovus last year for not delivering enough CO₂. And they're planning to pay another massive penalty this year.

We also know the contract says Cenovus has to take, has to take what SaskPower captures or they pay us a penalty. So it's hard to believe, Mr. Speaker, it's hard to believe the Premier when he says the project captured more CO₂ in some months than Cenovus would take. But it's especially hard to believe that when you look at SaskPower's chart, because it's clear they've been struggling to capture above 2000 tonnes per day throughout 2015.

So a simple question, Mr. Speaker, for the Premier because the story is not adding up one bit, whether it comes from the Premier, whether it comes from the minister. Simple question: in which months was Cenovus unwilling to take all of the CO₂?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, within the contract there is a point in the contract where the company, Cenovus, along with SaskPower, set a nomination rate, which is the amount that they believe Cenovus will be able to use and that SaskPower will be able to supply them with, Mr. Speaker. That nomination rate has been adjusted downward at the request of Cenovus throughout the year, Mr. Speaker. We'll get the exact day that that happened. I'm not familiar with it. I don't have that information with me, Mr. Speaker, but we'll get the time frame for that discussion that happened, Mr. Speaker, when Cenovus asked for a lower amount than was originally requested.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's really quite incredible, quite incredible how one little chart can expose so many inconsistencies between what the Premier has been saying and what the reality is. In fact almost everything he has said about the project is contradicted by this one chart.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think the Premier can claim that he wasn't properly informed, that he never asked any questions, or never briefed. I guess it's possible, Mr. Speaker, but I don't think it's all that believable because he has been so heavily involved in this project. So perhaps he knew the truth but just didn't want the rest of us to know it. And if that is the case, Mr. Speaker, it is alarming because we ought to be able to trust what he says. So to the Premier: what is the truth? Why do his stories not match SaskPower's own chart?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, this project has been determined to go forward because of the fact that in Saskatchewan we have some 300 years supply of coal. So the choices for the Government of Saskatchewan were this: either we simply wind up the proposal, Mr. Speaker, we shut down

the coal facilities in Saskatchewan, or we work towards cleaning them up, Mr. Speaker. The project was started, Mr. Speaker. It's had various times when it's been operating fairly well, Mr. Speaker, and it's had lots of times when it didn't operate very well, Mr. Speaker. We have admitted that on a number of occasions. But what is known, Mr. Speaker, is that there were 400 000 tonnes that have been sequestered and captured so far by the facility, Mr. Speaker.

The project will make about 5 to \$6 million in 2015, Mr. Speaker. It allows the province of Saskatchewan to continue to operate and continue to generate electricity from that facility down at Boundary dam, Mr. Speaker. I think the choices before the people of Saskatchewan are very, very clear, that they believe that this technology can continue to operate and continue to prove that the technology is viable, or would they look at the NDP option which is to simply shut it down, throw all those people out of work, and . . .

The Speaker: — Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

MOTION UNDER RULE 61

Motion of Censure

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, to seek leave under rule 51(d) and rule 61 to move a motion of censure against Mr. Speaker for the unprecedented and unacceptable actions we saw last Thursday when Mr. Speaker failed to follow well-established parliamentary procedures as well as the rules of this Assembly by refusing to recognize the Leader of the Opposition, even though he was the only member seeking to enter the proceedings, and instead forcing the member for Saskatoon Centre to enter the debate against his will. If given leave, I am prepared to move a motion to that effect immediately.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to move a motion under rule 61. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave is not granted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

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 Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 183, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Employment Act and The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2014*. The short title is *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015*.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is about the legacy of the Premier. This is about the Premier and what he has left for Canada from his rule as the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan. And that's always an interesting topic to discuss because it's important for what kinds of things premiers and their governments provide for not just Saskatchewan, but for the whole country.

And, Mr. Speaker, I say that when all is said and done, the main legacy of this Premier will be this particular area of dealing with essential services and the fact that the Premier, with the assistance of his cabinet and the government, was able to trigger and have placed in our constitution an absolute protection of the right to strike. That was not something that was there before this particular legislation was put in place. And it's quite an interesting thing to think about, that a Premier who was not all that enamoured, not all that in favour of labour, came into government and ended up basically doing some things that didn't make sense, and ultimately after eight years we've sorted out what it is that didn't make sense.

And so what we know is that the election was held in Saskatchewan eight years ago this month and that during that election and just prior to that election, the Premier and a number of ministers said, we're not going to deal with essential services legislation. But the legislature was called into session in December, and on December 19th, 2007 the government tabled Bill 5, essential services legislation and Bill 6, an Act to amend the existing trade union Act.

There were some in the community that applauded this move. The Federation of Labour called it "the worst legislation for workers in the country." And, Mr. Speaker, as we know, we spent many hours in this Chamber and in committee rooms discussing those two pieces of legislation, and we had many questions about the legislation.

Now some of the labour representatives put together resources, hired lawyers, and ended up just going ahead with a challenge to the legislation. And it was interesting at that point that the Justice minister, who is now the Labour minister and the Education minister, said, "The courts may make findings on our legislation at some point, but right now my department drafts the legislation."

So what we had then was legislation that was being challenged on a whole number of levels, and it was very clearly being brought forward by a new, naive government, a new, naive Premier. But the end result after much litigation was that in February, February 6th, 2012 — that's just three years ago — Mr. Justice Dennis Ball of the Court of Queen's Bench of Saskatchewan ruled that this essential services legislation was unconstitutional, although he did uphold some of *The Trade Union Act's* amendments.

And so very quickly the government responded by saying,

we're going to appeal Mr. Justice Ball's ruling, and so the appeal begins in the fall of 2012. In April 26th of 2013, I guess Mr. Justice Richards at that time, of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, upheld the Saskatchewan Party's public service essential services Act, and then the matter was sent to the Supreme Court of Canada.

In October of 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada said that it would be willing to hear this case, which was the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour's appeal of the decision of Mr. Justice Richards of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. That matter then proceeded through those courts. And ultimately on January 30th of this year, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the 2008 public service essential services Act in a 5 to 2 ruling. But the most important part of that ruling for all of the people of Canada is that it basically said unionized Canadian workers have a constitutionally guaranteed right to strike.

This had never been in and part of our law in Canada directly. There were some clear indications from the constitutional drafting that would say this, but this was the first case that ended up confirming that there is a constitutionally guaranteed right to strike.

[14:30]

And so therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I see this legislation and what it has triggered and the community discussion that it has triggered as the legacy of our Premier. I know that quite a number of the other premiers across the country, when the challenge started in 2008, said, what are you doing? I mean, there was a concern on a whole number of levels that this is where it would end up. But sometimes you don't always think through all of the consequences. And so we need to thank our Premier for being the person who, through some very . . . maybe not such deft moves, but through some moves, ended up having the right to strike guaranteed in the constitution.

And the Supreme Court last year said that the government had a year to fix the problems that were there in the legislation, and practically, the government has gone ahead and dealt with a number of these issues. And that's the legislation that we're looking at right now. And so practically, there have been some discussions finally with the people who are most affected by this type of legislation, and there are quite a few ideas that have come forward into the legislation. And so these changes do make some recommendations that . . . and dealing with the fatal flaws, if I can put it that way, that were there in the original legislation.

And basically what, you know, the . . . Rather than having sort of absolute power in the employer to sort of define the whole process and then not have any method of appeal, what's happened is that there's going to be much more consultation all throughout the process. And that's normally how you deal with difficult issues. So this legislation I think could have been drafted years ago if that was the desire of the government or the willingness of the government to listen, but that did not happen.

Now when you look at some of the procedures that are here in the legislation, they do seem to capture that sense that it has to be both the workers and the employer who end up being part of the discussion about what services are essential.

Interestingly the process that's set out in this legislation is very similar if not exactly what happened before the government introduced legislation. In effect what this legislation, this 2015 Act, does is basically describe what would happen before, which was when there were labour disputes, where there was going to be a withdrawal of services, the union management and the employer's human resources people would sit down and figure out which kinds of jobs were necessary, you know, what locations needed to be covered, how many people would be there. And so there was a process already to do that.

And so what this legislation does I think is go back to what was there before and said, okay let's put in a process whereby we can do what we were doing before. Now the added part — and I think the learning probably from other jurisdictions and from other situations that have arisen in the last eight years — is that there are some, what would I say solutions when people get into an impasse. And those solutions in this legislation appear to be relatively reasonable.

It's a bit confusing when you actually look at the legislation. And I say this because over the years the Labour Relations Board has had a major role, obviously, in dealing with all kinds of issues where there are disputes between employers and employees.

But what this particular legislation says is, well we're not going to go to the Labour Relations Board if there's a problem here. We're going to go to something that we're going to create anew, which is called an independent dispute resolution tribunal. And basically there'll be a person appointed from the side of the employer and a person appointed from the side of the employees. And the person who's going to chair this group of two is either the chairperson of the Labour Relations Board or the vice-chairperson, although the legislation itself does allow the minister to appoint almost anybody to do that. But what you have then is that chairperson of the Labour Relations Board, not as chairperson of the Labour Relations Board but as the head of a dispute resolution tribunal, working and trying to resolve these issues.

I mean I think it can work, but there's some complications here that are probably going to need to be worked out over a number of years to get it sorted out. And it may take a couple of disputes that require the use of the whole procedure, but it does have a clear procedure. It does have a procedure that has some balance. And I think it's set up in a way that both the employer and the employees are satisfied or can be satisfied that it's going to be a fair process.

Now one issue that has arisen as we kind of look at this — and obviously we'll end up with more questions as we go through the committee hearings and as more people have a chance who are outside of the legislature, more people outside of the legislature have a chance to look at this — is that there are some other areas where maybe some further definition needs to take place.

One aspect of it is that there is no definition of essential services like there was in previous legislation, and this, you know, may . . . I mean I think the drafters and the minister's done that here because that often becomes such a contentious issue. But it also can create problems where things that maybe

wouldn't fit the ordinary . . . the definition to the public as being essential will be deemed to be essential in this legislation, will be used in those situations.

Now the legislation itself also goes to a couple of other issues that, you know, are being corrected in *The Employment Act*, and I think that's a reasonable thing to do. And so what we also have is a section that deals with workplace hazardous materials information system and making sure that the standards in Saskatchewan are basically the same as other parts across Canada. And this is something that costs some money both in training of people and as far as labelling of materials that are transported and handled throughout the province. But if it's done in conjunction with all of the other jurisdictions in Canada, it eliminates questions around having to relabel products.

I know that there's a lot of discussion in this same area with the United States. And so many of our products go back and forth over the Canada-US border that I think this particular change in the legislation will assist in dealing with those issues as well. So that part of the legislation appears to be an appropriate amendment that doesn't necessarily relate to the heart of the bill, but it's important to deal with this.

Now there's also some amendments around the issue of notice of impasse in bargaining a collective agreement. And clearly these ideas are coming forward from probably both labour and management because they've identified some problems where an impasse doesn't appear to . . . It won't end because there really aren't deadlines on some of the things that need to be done. And so I think that those changes that are being suggested by the minister seem to make sense as well.

And so basically we have legislation, as I've said before, which is the legacy legislation of the Premier that firmly planted the right to strike in our constitution.

And I would just say as a lawyer that we've spent a lot of money in the courts to deal with something that should have been dealt with in the legislature in 2008, and it wasn't. And I think that's a bit of a reminder to all of us that we are the trustees of the public's money. We are the ones that need to recognize that we should be doing things in a fair, balanced, and reasonable fashion. And unfortunately the way this original legislation was brought forward, it has cost many people in the community lots of dollars, and it's also cost the treasury a lot of money.

But, Mr. Speaker, those are my comments on this legislation. I know some of my colleagues have some comments, and so at this point I will move to adjourn debate.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Glad to join debate and take my place in this Assembly on Bill No. 184, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Motorcycles) Amendment Act, 2015*.

While only recently introduced into the Chamber, Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation builds on a fairly significant amount of public work that had been undertaken previously, in particular being informed by work conducted by the motorcycle review committee which released their report on findings January 2014.

But the legislation itself, Mr. Speaker, fairly straightforward, and in terms of providing a third choice for injury coverage for motorcycle owners in addition to the current choices of tort coverage or no-fault coverage; in terms of the possibility that that additional option reducing the package of no-fault benefits which will provide the same level of benefits as the tort product but with a limited ability to sue — referring here, Mr. Speaker, to the second reading speech of the minister introducing the legislation.

[14:45]

In terms of providing more choice, that would seem to be a good way to go. In terms of standing down from different notions that have been made public or mooted by the government previously, that provide a lot of cause for concern out in the community and certainly with those that enjoy riding a motorcycle, you know, in terms of where this particular piece of legislation has wound up in terms of the work of consultation that was done, again in terms of the committee of review that I had referenced, and again in terms of the better options being provided — up to and including the one option providing, again referencing the minister's second reading speech, 20 to 30 per cent of savings for most motorcycle owners — in terms of the work that this will do around again striking that balance between cost of coverage and adequacy of coverage and affordability for the individuals who ride motorcycles, there's a fair number of things being balanced off here, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess in that spirit we'll certainly have more questions for this particular piece of legislation at the committee stage of hearings. And in that regard, Mr. Speaker, I would conclude my remarks on Bill No. 184 and allow for . . . I guess we'll keep on going and wait for somebody on the opposite side to get there so we can move it to committee. I don't know if the member from Regina Dewdney wants to do that, or what's happening over there.

But carrying on with the bill, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the improved choice in coverage, we'll see how that goes. I guess, you know, another option would be always welcome. In terms of the individuals that did the work with the committee, again

we're hopeful that their good work is borne out in terms of . . .

And again just to reference some of the folks that were on that committee, Mr. Speaker, you'd had Rick Dobson, Saskatchewan PowerSport Dealers Association; Earl Driedger with Maximum Training; Don Fuller with Riders Against Government Exploitation or R.A.G.E., Mr. Speaker; Robb Hertzog, Prairie Harley-Davidson, again a fine Harley-Davidson shop, Mr. Speaker; Cody Jordison, motorcycle enthusiast; Klaus Littman, Saskatchewan Dual-Sport Club; Barry Muir, Saskatchewan Safety Council; Dr. Jag Rau, trauma doctor; and George Wright, insurance broker.

So we'd like to go on record thanking those individuals for the work that they had done to again take a closer look at what the government was offering around basic insurance for motorcycle riders, and making sure that affordability and good sense as related to public education, public insurance, public safety, was being well balanced off.

So I'd return to where I was earlier, Mr. Speaker, and I'm ready to conclude my remarks at this time. And if the government would like to move it on to committee, we'd be happy to take up further consideration of Bill No. 184 at that stage.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 184 . . . No. Question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister for SGI that Bill No. 184, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Motorcycles) Amendment Act, 2015* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that this bill be committed to the Committee of Crown and Central Agencies.

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

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 Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. Also great to join debate, to take my place in this Assembly and to offer up a few thoughts and observations on Bill 185, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act*.

Certainly in terms of the substance of the bill, Mr. Speaker, it'll be interesting to see a bit, get a bit more, I don't know, opinion or analysis in terms of how different of these measures are going to be enacted and proceed. But certainly the allowing for the use of facial recognition technology around use in Saskatchewan Government Insurance driver's licences, that is fairly interesting.

We note with interest that the Privacy Commissioner was consulted in the drafting of the legislation and has noted his agreement with how it was written. We'll be interested again to see how this meets muster in the broader community and how it has been brought forward in other jurisdictions.

In terms of drivers having 120 days to take an approved education course, up from the current 90, again there are a number of fairly straightforward, more of a housekeeping nature in terms of the amendments, that are being considered here. So we'll be interested to see again if that has a better impact, what the cost of it is, and on. But again it would seem to be fairly straightforward, Mr. Speaker, in terms of moving from that 90 days to 120 days.

In terms of drivers of impounded vehicles being able to cancel the plates and insurance on their vehicle while it's impounded, fair enough, Mr. Speaker. That would seem to make sense that you'd stop the meter running while an impounded vehicle is out of your hands and out of your use. It would seem to make good sense. We probably have some questions in the committee stage around what the different liability considerations are then, but probably ... At any rate we'll look forward to getting an answer on that question.

We're also interested to see that the list of Criminal Code sections pertaining to prostitution have been updated to reflect the changes brought in by the federal government in 2014. And we'll be watching with interest, Mr. Speaker, to see if that changes in the days, weeks, and months ahead in terms of where the federal government is going with that.

But again you've got to keep your legislation current and make it jive with the federal legislation. Fair enough. And if it goes, if it aids one john being taken off the streets, Mr. Speaker, or helps in the fight against prostitution, we'll be glad to see what impact that might have.

We've also seen that in the legislation it will be providing the power for requiring drivers of certain prescribed vehicles to wear helmets and eye protection. Again, Mr. Speaker, it would seem to be a fairly straightforward proposition.

But again, all of these things are undergirded by the fact that traffic safety is something we want to see enhanced, something that in a lot of different ways we've seen problems with in our province, Mr. Speaker, something that we've seen a committee of inquiry go out across the province to talk to citizens about how we can improve the situation.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, the stakes are very high. If it goes wrong on the road, then of course the penalty that people pay is sometimes with their lives and sometimes with grievous injury that changes you forever, Mr. Speaker. So anything that can improve the situation of traffic safety and public safety, and

again bouncing all these competing objectives but keeping that traffic safety foremost in mind, we're interested to see it come forward.

And at this stage, Mr. Speaker, I think we're ready for the closer examination and questioning that can be afforded at the committee stage. So with that, I would conclude my remarks on Bill No. 185, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act* and await the government doing their thing. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Crown Investments that Bill No. 185, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act, 2015* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill should be referred to the Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in briefly here today as it relates to Bill No. 186, *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015*. This bill relates directly to municipalities across Saskatchewan and municipal councils and to administrations.

I think, just at the onset, I'd like to say thanks and pay my respect to the municipal leaders across Saskatchewan who sign up, who step forward, who provide leadership, who make decisions in the best interests of their communities, and that's the vast, vast majority of municipal leaders across this province in our rural municipalities and in our urban municipalities, as well as extended through the dedicated administrators and staff of these municipalities.

That being said, there was a very serious conflict that was noted by government and the public and Justice Barclay some time ago. And I would like to thank as well Justice Barclay for his work in the Barclay report which, as I read and listen to the minister's comments, was a substantive piece of guiding the

steps and actions taken by government in this piece of legislation here today.

Certainly at first blush and based on the minister's comments, this piece of legislation seems to be one that will strengthen the accountability and ensure the integrity of municipalities across the province, recognizing, as I say again, that municipalities and municipal leaders provide exceptional leadership to their communities and to our province. Mr. Speaker, we're thankful for that.

That being said, it's important, Mr. Speaker, when you recognize serious matters — as was the case that was studied by Justice Barclay as it related to RM of Sherwood — it's a government's responsibility to improve legislation and frameworks to protect the public and municipalities for well into the future. And I believe that's the thrust of this legislation and certainly want to, as I say, thank Justice Barclay for his report and to recognize government's efforts in working with that report, and hopefully as well, as I believe has been indicated with municipalities across Saskatchewan, particularly through their representative organizations — SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and New North and the administrators' association — to make sure that what's brought forward is a constructive piece of legislation that will be able to be applied into practice and ensure the kind of accountability, transparency, and integrity to governance across this province.

Certainly this provides some structure around how municipalities will deal with conflict of interest, clearer direction on that front, and that's definitely important. It will also provide and ensure a standard of disclosure around conflict of interest that will certainly be some new aspects or strengthening some of what's there for municipal leaders across the province.

The measures that have been brought forward at this point in time seem to be reasonable and important to, as I say, ensure accountability for Saskatchewan people, but also to ensure that they are able to ensure the integrity of our municipalities and to also make sure that they're practical in usage by municipal governments across Saskatchewan. So that's important.

[15:00]

Certainly we'll follow up in committee and get a full understanding of all aspects, but the second thrust within this bill, I believe, is giving some greater authorities and responsibilities to government itself proper, through cabinet and a minister to be able to follow up on concerns, to address situations as they may arise as it relates to a municipal government.

And certainly this is an area where we'll want to learn a little bit more about how this will be practically applied. We'll want to make sure we understand the consequences of it, the intentions, and making sure as well that all the unintended consequences have been assessed and analyzed both by government, but by stakeholders proper and certainly municipalities as well.

Another important measure of this legislation expands the scope

and mandate of the Provincial Auditor to pertain directly to municipalities, Mr. Speaker. And I think this is an important measure. The role of independent officers are essentially important to good governance, essentially important to engender and build public trust, and to ensure accountability to the public at large.

We as a province are certainly strengthened by the leadership and efforts of the Provincial Ombudsman and the other independent officers of this Assembly, like that of the Provincial Auditor. This is something that is critically important to the people of the province, looking at the role of independent officers to the public, critically important to ensuring good governance, important to the democratic processes.

And, I believe, the extension of the mandate of the Ombudsman to municipalities, you know, likely makes a lot of sense to provide that same sort of outlet to the public at large. And I understand the mandate would be broadened in the sense — just as it is right now with the Ombudsman as it relates to provincial programs, or just as it is with the auditor as it relates to provincial entities — that it would be extended in the sense that even if there were a member of the public that had a concern or had an allegation or had information, that that would be a direct avenue, an independent avenue for that member of the public to go forward and to have trust that the independent officer would have the ability and the resources and the authority to follow up in due course.

So I think that's a very important mechanism to the public at large to ensure accountability and transparency. Certainly we recognize the value of the independent officers as it relates to the provincial government and to the people of Saskatchewan. And when we look specifically at municipalities, certainly that's an important piece.

Certainly you know, as it currently stands, as I say, municipalities provide exceptional leadership and service to the people of this province. Municipal leaders, the vast, vast, vast majority step forward to lead within their community because they truly believe in making a difference. They believe in the role of public service. They believe in leaving their communities as a better place than when they entered into office. And certainly we see that sort of passion, that sort of commitment, and that service demonstrated time and time again in communities — rural and urban, small and large — all across this province, Mr. Speaker.

But it's certainly important to ensure that we have robust accountability around all of our organizations, certainly public organizations. As it relates to the provincial government, that's critically important, and as it relates to municipalities, this seems to be a substantive improvement.

We're going to spend time in committee with government and that minister to get a greater sense of all aspects of this piece of legislation. We will certainly be consulting with stakeholders and invite those that have been engaged on this file to connect directly with us as well. If there's any concerns related to this piece of legislation, particularly how it can be as effective as possible or if it can be strengthened, certainly we as the opposition will be working to ensure that legislation that is advanced is as strong and effective of a legislation as possible,

and we'll be looking for opportunities to improve it if need be.

At this point in time, you know, I don't have further comments within this debate here, but I certainly do want to thank Justice Barclay for his efforts. I want to thank the municipal leaders in rural Saskatchewan and urban Saskatchewan and communities large and small who have contributed to building this piece of legislation, those in the Far North as well and those directly related to roles of administration within municipalities across our province, I want to thank all of those individuals.

And you know, certainly we look forward to gaining a stronger understanding and greater clarity on some aspects of this bill as we go through the committee process and, in the end, doing what we need to do for the people of Saskatchewan: building a piece of legislation that works, that's effective, that's applicable, and building one that's robust and will ensure integrity and best practice in accountability and transparency at all levels of government well into the future.

So at this point in time, I'll conclude my remarks and look forward to some time in committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 186, *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this bill be referred to the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 187, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act*. The official title for the legislation is *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act, 2015*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation is a little longer than I expected, given the kinds of changes that were made. But

when I look at the actual legislation, I see that there are quite a number of small changes that are made to update the legislation to the current standard as it relates to neutral language and some of the descriptions of the courts and also of some of the farm lending institutions. So we have quite a number of clauses that basically update various parts of the legislation.

But I think we all understand that this particular legislation continues the long, interesting debate in Saskatchewan about who can own land in our province, and it's a long and interesting debate that encompasses many pieces of legislation besides this particular legislation. But I think it's important to understand a bit about that in the context of what we're dealing with right here.

What we know is that the first farm security legislation was introduced in the '70s and it's often . . . I mean it seems like not that long ago but it was awhile ago and the concern then related to land out by Kindersley where there were some Europeans were interested in buying some fairly large chunks of farm land. And also land I think up in near Hudson Bay and in that area, where there were once again people from outside of the country who were interested in buying some fairly large pieces of land for hunting purposes and other purposes like that. And so legislation was introduced at that time.

But to really put this idea of who can own land in Saskatchewan into context, you really have to go back to the original settlement of the land and the whole *Dominion Lands Act*, all of the legislation around homesteads and proving up your homestead and having the right to get another quarter close by or adjacent to your homestead. And what happened was in the boom times of the teens and '20s, but especially the '20s, a lot of farmers were able to borrow money against their land. And that was a good idea in those times. But things changed in the '30s, and all of a sudden land was being owned by mortgage companies and banks, primarily from Ontario and Quebec. And so there were a number of pieces of protective legislation around the ownership of land that arose in that context, including things like the homestead Act and other pieces of legislation that protected people's homes.

And so when the government now enters again into a discussion about the ownership of land, it does raise the questions that arose in quite a number of decades in the 19th and 20th century, and now the 21st century, about who can own land in Saskatchewan. And so the key part of this legislation is that they've effectively affirmed what was done just over 10, 11 years ago around, under the constitution, the fact that any Canadian can own land in Saskatchewan.

Prior to that, it was hard for people who lived outside of the province, who weren't resident in the province, to own land. But now we have rules around Canadian ownership of land. But then it gets at this question of who is or what is an entity that's Canadian owned. And so in this legislation they've added a definition of a Canadian-owned entity. And the definition, and I'll quote it, is:

a corporation or any other entity in which all the shares or interests are legally and beneficially owned, and all the memberships are held, by resident persons or other Canadian-owned entities.

So that's one way you can meet that term. And the second was, "any other corporation or entity or class of corporations or entities prescribed in the regulations." And so, Mr. Speaker, we've got this whole idea of a Canadian-owned entity and in its attempt then to get at a particular issue.

I think it's also wise to remind ourselves here that it was pension plans and basically financial entities that were owned by pension plans that triggered this discussion. But now let's talk about the term "entity." Entity is described in the legislation and it's defined as follows: an entity includes (a) a partnership. So in other words, unincorporated partnership, people working together.

A syndicate is the second version. A joint venture, a co-operative, an association, a pension plan, a trust, or any other body that is prescribed in the legislation. And so it goes on then to try to provide restrictions around who can own land in Saskatchewan.

And it's not a simple task to do this. And I know the lawyers in Justice who have been working on this file will be basing what they're doing on various decisions of the Farm Land Security Board over the years, but also on concerns and ideas and court cases where some of these things have come up.

And so ultimately it appears that the goal of the minister, and we saw it from the responses of people who were surveyed, is to place a restriction on some of these different types of organizations so that they can't own Saskatchewan land. And to do that, there are a whole number of clauses in here that go back and around, and ultimately they have that super hammer of, well whatever cabinet defines. And we see that in a couple of places where the entity includes in (viii) "any other body that is prescribed in the regulations."

[15:15]

Now that may be the best way to do this because as we all know, in the whole world of finance, it's the imaginative financiers who figure out the next way of raising capital and investing that capital that are often the ones that can get involved in some pretty interesting things. I know that there's a lot of the issues around the major financial crisis in the United States in 2008 involved instruments, financial instruments, and investments that weren't fully understood by all of the regulators, or the conditions set up in those regulations around the particular financial instruments weren't strong enough to cover that.

And so what this legislation does I think is try to capture all of the different types of instruments and financial ideas and make sure that they end up having . . . the government has the power to say no, that particular way of putting money together cannot be used in Saskatchewan to purchase farm land.

Now all of this is dangerous. I mean I think I can use that word dangerous because it does relate to interfering in the market for the purchase of farm land. I think, though, we all accept restrictions in certain ways because of the concern for farm land in Saskatchewan.

I think it is appropriate to understand how important farm land

has become as an investment worldwide. And we know, for example, that in the Middle East — Saudi Arabia, some of the emirates — that they've given up on any idea of trying to irrigate the desert to grow crops. They've gone to Ukraine, Kazakhstan, other places like that, and purchased land to grow food and effectively transfer water from those areas down to the Middle East. We also know that there's interest from China in buying farm land around the world and that it also relates to the whole issue of food security.

And so this legislation in a way is attempting to deal with some of those major economic issues in the production of food right around the world, and so we may end up getting some challenges. It's not affected, I don't think, in any of the trade agreements that we've been involved with in the last few years, but the issues involved here do relate to some of the control of production.

Now this discussion, this plan is I think an important one. There are questions that I think we all have around how this is going to be done. We want it to be done in a way that doesn't hurt our farmers but we also want to have it done in a way that allows for the next generation of Saskatchewan farmers to have access to the land so that they can be successful, productive farmers in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this type of legislation is often legislation that maybe we should have a longer period of time to reflect upon and which would have been the normal process if this was a normal legislative year. It's not that and so we will have to just take the opportunities that we'll have in our committees to ask questions about that and understand what is here. I also suspect that there will be amendments in the next session or the session after that as we come to understand the effect of the actual rules that are here.

One thing I do like is some strengthening of the agency that has been reviewing this and also a strengthening of the penalties. And it's an area where it's of quite a lot of interest. I know traditionally this legislation has been in the purview of the Minister of Justice and is brought forward as Justice legislation. This has been brought forward from Agriculture. I'm not sure that affects anything, but it does affect the perception of how it's being handled. And so I think we also need to understand why Agriculture is bringing this forward and not the Ministry of Justice.

But, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further comments now, but I know some of my colleagues will want to speak to it some more. So at this point I will move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

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.

Bill No. 188

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 188** — *The Best*

Value in Procurement Act, 2015 be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 188, *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015*. Looking over I guess a little bit of understanding from procurement policies and giving opportunities to I guess government Crown agencies, different organizations had the opportunities in time to tender stuff and try to get the best value for taxpayers' dollars. I understand that government, the Crowns try to do that.

But having said that, there has been some concerns that have been I guess . . . that we have seen from the government and the way it's dealing with procurement. And I'm going to go over some of those because I think it's important to talk about some of the families that have been impacted by this government's, you know, choice to outsource jobs and outsource services to not only out of the ministry, some of the facilities that we have within the ministries to do their own whether it's maintenance — and there's a lot of them — whether it's the maintenance, cooking.

I guess I think about the laundry one in Prince Albert. I feel for the families. I think there's about 80 of them, families that, you know, were impacted by the government, you know, in P.A. [Prince Albert], in the area, and other communities that did laundry service, provided that service for years. It was a government laundry service. And we did that for our hospitals, and I think they did a great job at that.

When I think about what's happened now to those families, they've had . . . I think there was a, like a, kind of . . . It was a sad day for many of the families in Prince Albert. But I remember they had kind of a barbecue or a community . . . thanking those workers, you know, for the work they did and the good, hard work they've done for Saskatchewan people to make sure we had clean linens for that.

But you know what was interesting to see is comments from the leadership, comments from those unions and stuff. They know exactly what this government's done. And you know, it's fine we're going to introduce legislation that says procurement is very important. For some of them it's so late. And it's unfortunate this government's bringing in now when families have been impacted, and I mean that. Those jobs in Prince Albert, they were good-paying jobs that provided, you know, for the families. When you think about the health services that they had because of their job they got . . . And to the economy of Prince Albert, those dollars were earned there. They stayed in Prince Albert to help the economy. And you know, when you think about Prince Albert, I think it's been clear. They're trying to do all they can to make sure their economy is going, people have an opportunity at their job.

So when I see government making a decision to phase out opportunities for families and to impact so many families in P.A. [Prince Albert], I think come April 4th — and I think the leadership over there has made it very clear — come April 4th, send a message to the government. And the leadership is even saying that. That's amazing that the leadership would be saying to the communities and people in Prince Albert, if you really want to get the government, send the message April 4th, 2016.

That's interesting. You know, that, to me, is saying, if you're not going to hear us as MLAs or government or ministers when we're having issues, we'll send you a message too, that we're not going to listen when you're canvassing and talking.

So when I think about that I think P.A. MLAs are going to have a little struggle winning over those families that have been so impacted and touched. It's there. And now you look at corrections, there's many . . . And they're corrections that provided the meals . . . [inaudible] . . . correction facilities now? Government's decided to outsource that as well. And it's not just . . . It's out of province. When you look at it, really you wonder like what the . . . whose idea and what a plan.

You know, and they could say, well we're going to save some dollars. These are the government that have had, for eight years, record revenue. Year after year, this government has had record revenue. So to all of a sudden come to those families that are being touched and impacted to say to them oh, now we're going to come up with legislation that, you know, best value for procurement. A little, little late for some of those families, for quite a few people impacted by this government's deciding to get rid of it.

And it doesn't just go there. And you know, I want to go over some of it. I talked about the laundry services but also the Regina bypass. We look at that and, you know, you talk about the concerns that my colleagues have raised and I think the public. And you have even individuals out there or a group, organization. I don't know what they're called, but they're raising their concerns and I think even went as far as ads or information that they're sharing.

So when I see individuals coming out, and groups, and saying, enough's enough, and this is the wrong way of the government, and the government's not listening. The government's not listening. The government . . . They can heckle all they want over there. They've got a lot of time. You're going to have an opportunity. You'll get your evaluation come April 4th. April 4th, you will get your evaluation. So they can heckle all they want.

And I think that is a time for the people. The report card's not looking too good, really. But having said that, it's going to be interesting to see, Mr. Speaker. It's going to be interesting to see what people have to say about the government and introducing this. And you know, we're going to have to lots of things.

We talk about the food services, and I talked a little bit about that. We talked about the school services and supports, food services for the corrections. And now that's going to . . . It's outsourced to a company. So what are those individuals going to do for work? They had good-paying jobs. They had health benefits that provided for their family, pensions. Now that's interesting. You know, it's interesting.

Now let's go a little further. And you know, I'm really thinking about this. I had a number of people, a number of people come forward when it comes to hunting and fishing. And they said to me, I don't know how many people have said to me, whose bright idea was this to do this? And they're frustrated and they're mad.

It's not only . . . Yes, like it's just bizarre. People are saying it's bizarre as people raise this concern. When you want a licence to go fishing, well you have to go online. And many people don't have access to online; they don't. They don't. And maybe you have to have a credit card. You have to have all these things to, you know, and . . . But even to have a government who outsources the way out of the province is enough. It doesn't even make sense, Mr. Speaker. But the government's put on their blinders and they're going ahead. At all costs, they're going to do what they're going to do. So that's just another area that we look at.

Now we look at P3s [public-private partnership], you know, the P3s, and we look at . . . And I talked a little bit about P3s, a little bit. You know, when you look about that, when you look at that, Mr. Speaker, P3s, and you look at the maintenance, the bypass, you look at the maintenance, a 30-year contract to a company from out of the province, out of Canada. It doesn't even make sense.

We don't have enough people here in our province with that, you know? Is this what the government's idea is? We don't have the companies? Are you not putting credit into the companies that are here? And we have private. We have the ministries. But they're not doing what they need to do. I think they provide good service. What they need is the government to make sure they're supporting our industry in many different areas. But we see this government clearly doesn't have . . . It's put on the blinders and they're going ahead with it at all costs. It doesn't matter, Mr. Speaker. They're going to go ahead and they're going to outsource. They're going to privatize. They're going to do what they're going to.

[15:30]

And it's not even to the point of . . . If you would at least leave it in the province, but they can't even do that. Everything seems to be out of province. They like that for some reason. I don't know how you're putting . . . Yes, the list goes on, and I mean my colleagues have been talking about this, you know, and we've raised this.

But a little late for government to come forward and say . . . You know, a little late. Well you know what? Now we're talking about, we'll talk about outsourcing the maintenance. North Battleford hospital will be as well, another one, another project we've heard about that they're going to outsource the maintenance of that. They don't even do it in-house. They don't do it in-house, and then do you know you go back and . . . The member from P.A., speaking now and want to heckle? You know . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, yes, that's right. Now in this House you speak when you could have been speaking around your caucus table. You should have been doing something for P.A. people then. Not now, it's a little late, little late over there. But April 4th they'll send the message to that member.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, again many Saskatchewan families want to have an opportunity to a quality of life. They want a good-paying job. They want services that governments provide, and the government could provide these things. They could find industry in our province to do that. But instead, what do they do? They are outsourcing. Time and time again we see

this government . . . And you know you think about the record, and I've had people tell me, you guys keep saying record revenue year after year. This government had such opportunity if they really wanted to do what's right for the people of this province.

And those members can heckle all they want. The reality is you're not doing . . . And you know you're not focused on what matters to Saskatchewan families and people. And that's what they need to do, Mr. Speaker, focus more on what matters to families, matter on to Saskatchewan people.

But unfortunately, they're going to spin what they want. We see time and time again what this government is focused on. They're focused on their agenda, their blinders, and whatever they want to do, they do. I don't know who gave them the idea to outsource the things that they're on. And I've listed a number of different things, Mr. Speaker, a number of different areas. Now they want to come out with a procurement policy. Wow, now — a little late for so many Saskatchewan families, so many people that were working providing for their families. No, no more. You don't see it, and they don't get it. You know they want to heckle. But again at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day Saskatchewan people will speak. Saskatchewan people will speak, and this government . . . And I talked about that.

I think, you know, even to set up a phone for a person in the corrections, if you wanted to set up a phone so they can phone out, you have to, I believe, phone out of country. It's not even in the province. It's not even in Canada. You have to phone to set up a phone line and give your credit card information to . . . So outsourcing again. Like why would you outsource something like that where you could just take care of it from within in-house or have a service provided within our province? We can't find that. We can't find a way to do it so that it stays within our province. We have to go out of country.

But again it just goes to show you, it goes to show you, time and time again outsourcing. And then this government's saying, oh we support industry; we support business. Yes, that's fine. In some areas you're doing that, and that's good. And that's what the people want and you should be doing. But time and time again the people and opposition are showing where government is turning away, turning their back on the working men and women of this province and the voters. And I remind them of that.

There's going to be an opportunity. You'll get your evaluation. Keep doing what you're doing. Keep doing what you're doing. Keep doing what you're doing. Just keep, just keep doing what you're doing. That's all right. The Saskatchewan people will decide. And every member on that side of the House will get an evaluation too, just like on this side, and we'll see what happens. The people will decide. We know that. We know that. The good people of this province . . . So you take them for granted, that's fine. You can take them for granted.

Getting back to this bill, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important. Those members like to hear this stuff according to what they're saying, and we'll share a little more with them. Why would you outsource, you know, the different services that I have talked about, resources that you have in province, that

you would outsource? And I say because there used to be good paying jobs. Well I don't know exactly what. We maybe ask them some questions about that, get some information, if you could ever get the information, maybe a written question.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, this is a little late for many families, for companies that thought they could have an opportunity. And I know that there's a lot of businesses up north who want an opportunity to bid on work. They want to make sure that they get a part of it, whether it's fuel, all kinds of different areas whether, you know, services that government ministries use, they want an opportunity. And should they have a, I guess some will say an advantage, there should be a procurement policy that gives, yes, best value but also making sure that we support our own industry at home as much as you can to support them. You want to support them. Do all you can as a government when you have the money that they've been spending year after year, that they have spent when we've had record . . . saving nothing.

But having said that, that's another issue, and I don't want to get away. But, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, it's clear that this legislation that they're introducing now is a little late for many. I've said that, but I think it's important to say that for those families that are losing their jobs because of this government's idea of going one way. Now they want to make it sound . . . We're close to an election. Now they want to sound like they care about the people. A little late. You'll get your evaluation. You'll see at the end. I've said that. We all will.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will have much to say and there'll be a lot of opportunity in committee when this does go there. Because I know a few of my colleagues have a few more things they want to talk about this bill so I, at this point, would like to adjourn debate, and we'll wait to see what questions we have later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. I recognize the Minister for Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move that this bill be sent to the Economy Committee . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No? Mr. Speaker, I move this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The Minister for Social Services 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 15:38.]

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