



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

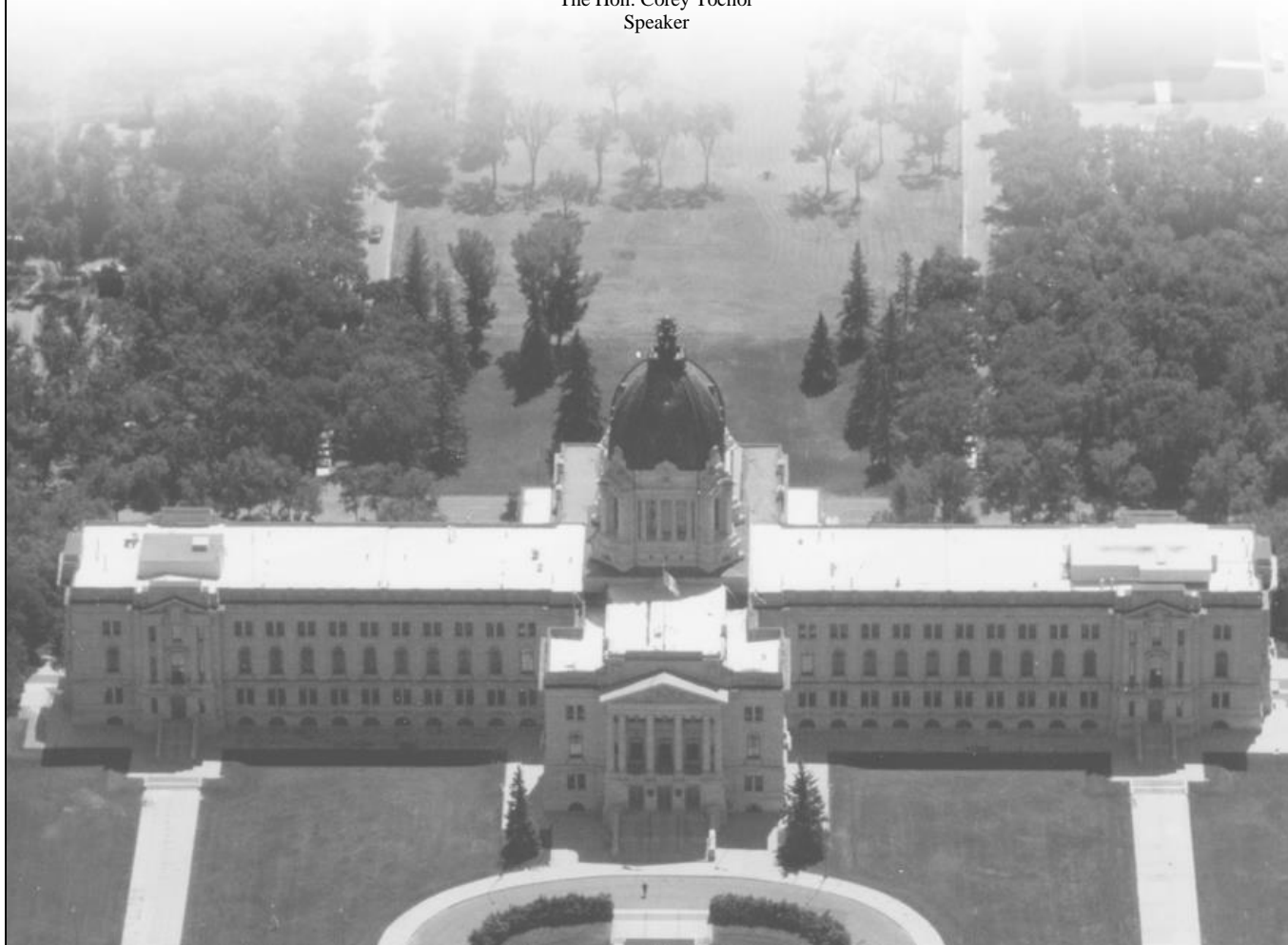
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
1st Session — 28th Legislature

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor

Premier — Hon. Brad Wall

Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

Beaudry-Mellor, Tina — Regina University (SP)

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)

Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

Boyd, Hon. Bill — Kindersley (SP)

Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

Brkich, Greg — Arm River (SP)

Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

Campeau, Hon. Jennifer — Saskatoon Fairview (SP)

Carr, Lori — Estevan (SP)

Chartier, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)

Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

Cox, Hon. Herb — The Battlefords (SP)

D'Autremont, Dan — Cannington (SP)

Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

Docherty, Hon. Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)

Doherty, Hon. Kevin — Regina Northeast (SP)

Doke, Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)

Eyre, Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)

Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

Forbes, David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)

Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hart, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

Heppner, Hon. Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)

Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Makowsky, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

Marit, David — Wood River (SP)

McCall, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)

Merriman, Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)

Michelson, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)

Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

Olauson, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)

Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)

Parent, Roger — Saskatoon Meewasin (SP)

Phillips, Kevin — Melfort (SP)

Rancourt, Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)

Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)

Ross, Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

Sproule, Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

Steinley, Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)

Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)

Tochor, Hon. Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)

Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

Wall, Hon. Brad — Swift Current (SP)

Weekes, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 51; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 10

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyak

Sergeant-at-Arms — Maurice Riou

Hansard on the Internet

Hansard and other documents of the
Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.

<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/legislative-business/legislative-calendar>

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina University.

Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the member from Regina University.

Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions to make while I'm on my feet. To you and through you and to all members of the House, I would like to introduce you to my Saskatchewan legislative program intern, Ms. Marie Digney. Can you just maybe give a wave, Marie? As part of her internship, Ms. Digney has already had the opportunity to work with the opposition member from Saskatoon Nutana and now will spend the next six weeks working with me. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with her.

Ms. Digney is a very accomplished young lady. She graduated at the top of her class from Luther High School in the IB [international baccalaureate] program. She has also received not one but two degrees from the U of R [University of Regina], a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Arts with distinction, Mr. Speaker. She is fluently bilingual, a vocalist and musician, and a former officer with visitor services here at the Legislative Assembly, so she can help me not get lost. I am very proud and privileged to work with such a promising young woman. I ask all members to join me in welcoming Ms. Digney to her Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to introduce all members to grade 8 students from the Regina Christian School, and their teacher, Mrs. Jane Robertson, who are visiting us today from my constituency and are seated in the west gallery. Good, they've got the wave down. I would also like to introduce Tysen Cross and his educational assistant, Wade Robertson, who are seated here on the floor of the Chamber. I'm looking forward to spending time with them after question period today. Please join me in welcoming the students and their teachers from Regina Christian School to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I too would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Marie Digney who was my intern before the House was sitting. And we had a short time together before the election. That kind of

got in the way of our normal length of time that we work with the interns. But in that short period of time I found her to be very resourceful, very intelligent, very hard working, and very responsive to all the research requests that I had. So again on behalf of the official opposition, I would like to welcome Marie to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Buckingham: — Mr. Speaker, can I ask for leave for an extended introduction?

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Westview.

Mr. Buckingham: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I would like to introduce the Legislative Assembly to a few people. Karen Buckingham, my wife of 32 years, is in the gallery. Karen is here to hear the budget to be delivered tomorrow. Please help me welcome Karen.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to introduce my intern, Maeve McLean. Maeve is a part of the SLIP [Saskatchewan Legislative Intern Program] program and will be working with the Saskatoon Westview constituency office for the next six weeks. She's a fourth-year student at the University of Saskatchewan. Please help me welcome Maeve to her Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to welcome Cameron Scott. Cam works for Corrections Canada and was my e-day [election day] Chair on April 4th. Please help me welcome Cam to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise in my place to welcome, in your gallery, Jeff Hryhoriw of Cameco Corporation.

Just to point out that Cameco Corporation is a great company doing wonderful things in the North, and Jeff's part of the staff that complements the many efforts that many northerners appreciate. So once again, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I want to welcome Jeff Hryhoriw of Cameco to the Legislative Building today. Welcome, Jeff.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Biggar-Sask Valley.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's a pleasure to welcome three guests in the west gallery, Kandis and Jamie Brandrick. Jamie was the candidate for us in Saskatoon Nutana, so welcome.

And with them, I'd like to introduce their friend, Gurpartap Kals. He is a gentleman who was born in India. He has a

passion for politics, and I understand he helped Jamie quite a bit and he's going to soon become a Canadian citizen. So please join me in welcoming them to the legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Carlton.

Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce Conrad Burns, sitting in your gallery. He's a constituent from Prince Albert.

Conrad is walking across Canada to raise awareness about domestic violence and abuse. On Friday, Conrad completed the Saskatchewan leg of his journey when he arrived here at the legislature. Mr. Speaker, I'll have more to say about Conrad and his Rise Up Walk to End Violence during members' statements in just a few minutes. I ask all members to join me in welcoming Conrad to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I am very pleased to welcome 16 grade 7 and 8 students from Gladmar Regional School in Gladmar, in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, they are accompanied by chaperones Ron Hoffart and Laura Hoimyr and, Mr. Speaker, as well their teacher, Chris Abtosway.

Mr. Speaker, they've been spending the day here in Regina, toured the legislature earlier this morning, and I had an opportunity to meet with them. Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon I think they're going to be going to the Science Centre and the IMAX. In fact I think they invited me to go with them, and depending on how question period goes, I might be joining them on the tour.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to mention their teacher though, Chris. Mr. Speaker, Chris certainly has a heart for young people in our province. He began his educational career I believe in northern Saskatchewan teaching at La Ronge and other communities, Mr. Speaker. And I first got to know him in residence at Luther College when we were both in the University of Regina, and maybe that's as far as we'll go with that, Mr. Speaker. And so I would ask all members to help me welcome these students from Gladmar Regional School.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, and to all the members of the Legislative Assembly, I'd also like to welcome Conrad Burns to this Legislative Assembly. Conrad is a Northcote constituent but also he is a big social advocate in the city of Prince Albert. So I've worked with Conrad for a lot of different organizations and such, and right now he is bringing awareness to domestic violence which we all know is a big issue in Saskatchewan. I really appreciate all the hard work that he's doing to bring awareness, not only in our province of Saskatchewan but in the country of Canada. And like the minister across said, he just finished his leg in

Saskatchewan and he's working on walking across Canada. And again I truly appreciate all the work he's doing to address domestic violence. So I'd like other members to also join with me to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place to present a petition as it refers to protecting the wetlands:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan to: increase funding to do the proper inventory work, putting Saskatchewan in a better position to manage the resource instead of the piecemeal approach that has been going on for the last couple of decades; speed up the evaluation of high-risk watersheds where there's significant damage annually from flooding, and also to alleviate some of the issues downstream with respect to nutrient loading; and third [Mr. Speaker], to create a sound and transparent mitigation process that focuses on avoiding the harm, then minimizing the harm before compensating for the harm.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is a very important issue for the people of Saskatchewan. And the people that have signed this petition and many other pages are primarily from Saskatoon. And I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly presented on the topic of the community pasture program and native grasslands. The concerns are about the transfer of the community pasture program under the *Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act* in the 1930s to restore marginal lands subject to erosion and manage them for livestock grazing. This land is being transferred to the Saskatchewan government which has offered some of these pastures for sale. So the prayer reads as follows:

They respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan to halt the sale of public land with ecological value including Crown lands that, until removed by recent order in council, had been protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*; conduct a complete inventory of our remaining native grasslands; create legislation that recognizes the value of our remaining native grassland; protect native prairie, including monitoring and enforcing conservation easements preventing the breaking of these lands.

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens of Saskatoon. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina University.

**University of Regina Professors
Recognized for Excellence**

Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise in the House today to congratulate five professors and former colleagues from the University of Regina. All five are known for their scholarly innovation and dedication to their field of study and teaching excellence. That is why Dr. Gordon Asmundson, Dr. Raymond Blake, Dr. Alec Couros, Dr. Gerhard, and Ms. Kelsey have been honoured with Excellence Awards from the University of Regina Alumni Association.

There is no need to look elsewhere for examples of high-quality and innovative educators, Mr. Speaker. They are right here in Saskatchewan.

I have personally benefited from the pioneering work of Dr. Couros on integrating technology and technological applications, and have often watched his Twitter chats with educators who follow and engage with him from all over the world. And I cannot stress enough how important Ms. Kelsey's work on the Man Up Against Violence campaign is. Though I do not have any personal experiences with the work of Dr. Asmundson, Dr. Blake, and Dr. Gerhard, I can say their reputations precede them and they are loved by many, many of the students at the U of R, both past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the five exceptional educators and thanking them for their commitment, not only to their students but to the entire province of Saskatchewan which we mutually all serve. Very well deserved.

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

**Prince Albert Educator Receives
Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal**

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to recognize Jeannette Eddolls of Prince Albert. Jeannette was one of the recipients of this year's Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal at the ceremony held at Government House on April 26.

Jeanette is a retired teacher, principal, and administrator in the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division. She teaches reading to adult learners, is a council member of St. Michael Church parish, and volunteers with the food bank and the women's shelter. She is the Saskatchewan regional manager for Global Partners, working with Japanese students. She teaches part time at SUNTEP [Saskatchewan urban native teacher education program] and at First Nations University.

Jeanette created and administers the Operation Christmas store at St. Michael Community School. This is a store consisting of donated items from which children, many of them from low-income families, can purchase Christmas presents for a very low price. She is the board Chair and very active board member of Catholic Family Services.

[13:45]

Mr. Speaker, Jeannette received the 2014 Prince Albert Citizen of the Year Award. As well she was named Woman of Distinction by the Prince Albert YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] in 2005 and was named administrator of the year by the Saskatchewan Council for Exceptional Children.

Mr. Speaker, Jeannette Eddolls has contributed so much to the community of Prince Albert and is most deserving of this recognition. I ask that all members join with me in recognizing Jeannette Eddolls's contributions and extending congratulations on being the recipient of the Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Carlton.

Rise Up National Walk to End Violence

Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday Conrad Burns arrived here at the Legislative Building after walking across Saskatchewan for the past two weeks. Conrad, who's from Prince Albert and has joined us in the gallery today, is walking across Canada to raise awareness about domestic violence and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, this cross-Canada trek, named Rise Up National Walk to End Violence, began on April 1st in St. John's, Newfoundland. Over the past two months, Conrad has walked over 2700 kilometres from St. John's to Ottawa and from La Ronge to Regina. He averages about 50 kilometres per day, and he tells me he's gone through five pairs of shoes so far.

On Wednesday Conrad will visit Parliament Hill in Ottawa before resuming his westward walk. He plans to finish in Victoria, BC [British Columbia] sometime in mid-August.

Mr. Speaker, Conrad notes that one in four women and one in six men in Canada have suffered from some form of abuse. He himself was once stuck in an abusive relationship. Conrad says that for a time he didn't even realize that the relationship was abusive because the abuse was emotional, which can be harder to recognize than physical abuse. These are some of the reasons why he wants to bring more awareness to the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Conrad on completing the first 2700 kilometres of his journey and wishing him the best during the remainder of his walk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an important awards dinner I attended on Thursday, May 26th. The YWCA in Saskatoon held its 35th annual Women of Distinction Awards Dinner honouring the contributions and accomplishments of 55 amazing and inspiring nominees.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce the winners: Jeanette Lynes in the category of arts, culture and heritage; Muriel Giemi in the athletics category; Maria Jane Linklater for community

building; Daphne Taras in the education category; Chantal Hounjet for entrepreneurship; Leah Ferguson for health and wellness; Peta Bonham-Smith for leadership and professions; Lalita Bharadwaj in the category of research and technology. Devon Fiddler won the under 29 category, and Maureen Reed of the University of Saskatchewan's School of Environment and Sustainability was honoured with the YWCA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Women of Distinction Awards is a celebration of women making a big impact in our community as well as an important fundraiser for the YWCA's essential community programs helping thousands of people thrive. All of the nominees' and recipients' contributions and accomplishments are very inspiring as they set high standards and provide leadership for us all. We all benefit from their hard work, expertise, and passion for what they do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the award winners, the Saskatoon YWCA board, and organizing committee on their 35th annual Women of Distinction Dinner and also in thanking them for all of their contributions to our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

Davidson Residents Travel to Costa Rica With Operation Christmas Child

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you. I want to take the time today to speak about the generosity of two Davidson residents, Dave and Colleen Spelliscy, people I'm privileged to represent.

In early May of this year, the Spelliscys, along with others, travelled to Costa Rica to give shoeboxes filled with toys, games, and other gifts to underprivileged children. This project is headed by Samaritan's Purse. Donors from Canada and other countries fill these shoeboxes with various gifts which are given to the children by volunteers that travel to Costa Rica.

Dave and Colleen have been filling these shoeboxes themselves for the past few years and decided that this year they were going to travel with the Samaritan's Purse to give the boxes to the children in person.

They were part of a team of volunteers that visited several churches and schools, giving about 400 shoeboxes during their time in Costa Rica. In addition to the shoeboxes filled with gifts, they also handed out 100 pairs of shoes to the children.

As well, Colleen brought with them knitted dolls which were handmade by the volunteers in Davidson and Elbow. These hand-knitted dolls were given to the children under two years of age.

Although this is the first time the Spelliscys have travelled to deliver the shoeboxes in person, they indicated that it definitely would not be their last. They were able to see first-hand the excitement and joy these children had in opening their shoeboxes and discovering the surprises inside.

I'm proud to represent the Spelliscys and would like all members to join me in thanking Dave and Colleen for their

efforts to help the children of Costa Rica. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

Breakfast Café in Preeceville Wins Bursary

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few short years ago in Preeceville, a school breakfast program aptly named Breakfast Café started with a few boxes of cereal and toast for a couple of students, and is now serving a wholesome breakfast for about 40 students.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great community program, but today I wanted to specifically congratulate them on being the recipient of a \$10,000 bursary from Mosaic Extreme Makeover Challenge.

Mosaic, in partnership with the Breakfast for Learning and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, have been helping to provide breakfast for the school students in Saskatchewan for the past 10 years. We started as a small effort by a few parents and some staff from the Preeceville School . . . has grown. They have added a dishwasher, a fridge, and trolleys to the home economics lab where hot and cold breakfasts are served each day. Mr. Speaker, the community is totally behind this program with service clubs, parent volunteers, staff volunteers willing to pitch in. This hard work ensures that all students have nourishment that they need to get through the day, starting at breakfast.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the members to join me in congratulating the Breakfast Café on receiving the Mosaic award, as well as thanking the sponsors and volunteers and the staff of the school for helping provide nutritious breakfasts for students. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Yorkton Film Festival Golden Sheaf Awards

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday I joined the Lieutenant Governor; the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport; the member from Melville-Saltcoats at the 69th annual Yorkton Film Festival Golden Sheaf Awards.

This is the longest running film festival in North America and is an event the Yorkton community looks forward to each and every year. The evening was hosted by my former schoolmate Alvin Law, now an internationally recognized author and inspirational speaker. Alvin has also done some acting and was featured on an episode of *The X-Files* years back. I should mention, Mr. Speaker, that Alvin has been able to achieve all this even though he was born with no arms.

The event continues to attract local, provincial, and national filmmakers, industry members, enthusiasts, each and every year. The festival features more than 100 nominations in 23 categories, highlights how popular this event is for the industry. The Golden Sheaf Award has become a symbol of excellence in Canadian short film and is a coveted award for many Canadian filmmakers.

The Government of Saskatchewan supports the festival in

several ways, through Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskTel, funding from artsVest Saskatchewan, and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport. Our government supports the film and television industry through Creative Saskatchewan and, since its inception, Creative Saskatchewan has invested more than \$6 million into the industry.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I thank all the businesses and private sponsors as well as the city of Yorkton for the support of this great event. I also congratulate winners and nominees and wish continued success to volunteers and organizers in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Government's Fiscal Management

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday when asked about why he was scrapping an affordable, effective, and important education program, the minister said that it was because of a surprise \$1 billion shortfall caused by falling commodity prices — a surprise, Mr. Speaker. Now I don't know, maybe the minister only gets his news from the Sask Party leaflets or TV ads or the Premier himself, but in a news flash, commodity prices have been down for a long period of time. It's obvious that the budget was going to be much worse than that Premier has been pretending. That's why he shamefully hid it from Saskatchewan people during the last election.

Let's remember, this is the government that came into office and picked up a massive surplus, a rainy day fund nearly \$2 billion, but they blew through it during the best of times when oil prices were high on their mismanaged projects. Piled on debt, in fact \$5 billion of debt in the last term alone, and now the cupboards are bare.

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier tell us why he refused to tell the true state of the economy, the budget, and his mismanagement to the people of Saskatchewan and obviously also his cabinet? Why did he hide the truth?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I completely reject the premise of the hon. member's question. The member will know that just prior to the election campaign, the full third quarter report of the Government of Saskatchewan's finances was released. Mr. Speaker, it not just provided for an updated status of the province's finances but also a forecast as to the next period of time in terms of what the forecasters were saying with respect to our budget, the revenue, and expenditures.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would also share with this, these facts with the hon. member. He references the historical facts of what was in place when we were first elected in 2007, and then answers as his predecessor did. The previous leader of the opposition would always ask this question, and did during the campaign. But he's no longer here, Mr. Speaker, because here's, in part at least I think, because here's the answer: \$2.7 billion in operating debt paid off by this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Double . . . We took that debt inherited from the previous government, paid off \$2.7 billion off of that big orange credit card that was inherited, Mr. Speaker.

We've doubled the infrastructure investments in eight years. One point two billion in health, that's were the money went. One billion dollars to finally repair roads. And the member for Athabasca, who's yelling from his seat, was the Highways minister. He was good at talking about highways, but never fixed any. Since we were in government, \$1 billion to fix those highways, and more to come tomorrow in the budget. And I look forward to the next question from the hon. member.

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

Funding for Education Infrastructure

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, every Saskatchewan person knows that that Premier hid the budget from Saskatchewan people. They also know where the money went — obscene waste on project after project after project that that Premier mismanaged. And you know, that sort of mismanagement has real consequences for Saskatchewan people.

In fact the Minister of Education was asked yesterday about a facility failure drill to help students, teachers, and staff escape their school if it falls apart. Mr. Speaker, a school boards report shows that 75 per cent of school roofs could fail in the next five years. The minister brushed that off. He said schools should contact the ministry or use their PMR [preventative maintenance and renewal] funding. And of course, Mr. Speaker, they've thought of that, but the PMR funding is only \$31.6 million, and our schools need \$1.5 billion in needed infrastructure funding.

Mr. Speaker, again their math just doesn't add up. Would the minister consider sitting in a math class or two? And frankly the Minister of Finance and Premier should join him as well; I think there they'll find that their math is less stable than the schools that they're neglecting.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that the Leader of the Opposition has referenced questions raised by his Education critic yesterday in this House, in terms of the drill that was occurring in Saskatoon's schools.

Here are the facts, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is that Saskatoon Public held an emergency drill to teach students how to respond in the event of a boiler explosion. As a former trustee and the critic that asked the question is a former trustee, now the member for Regina Lakeview, she should know that this drill happens on a routine and regular basis. Her former school division, her former school division, the Regina Public School Division, has a policy for such a drill entitled *Administrative Procedure 170*, Mr. Speaker.

Now would be a good time for the Leader of the Opposition in his next question to explain why his Education critic, who was also a trustee on the school division, is trying to hype a routine drill as some sort, of some sort of problem with respect to

government capital. Because here is the truth, Mr. Speaker. Where did the money go over the last eight years? Well I can inform members of the House that, in addition to the list that I've just read, this side of the House has built 40 brand new replacement schools in the province of Saskatchewan, 25 major school renovations, Mr. Speaker, finally money for PMR.

When we were first elected in '08, there was nothing left by members opposite for basic maintenance of schools. That has also changed. It is a far cry from the days when members opposite closed 176 schools in this province. This issue was featured in the general election decided on the 4th of April. And I'd say based on the seats in this House, people have made their choice, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the Premier for his recognition, and certainly as a former trustee, I do recognize and understand the consequences of chronic underfunding in education in this province. And the minister continues to brush off these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday he was quoted as saying that this is a sign of the times. We now have drills for terrorist attacks. Mr. Speaker, the only terror here is the risk of roofs collapsing, walls falling over, and pipes bursting. I need to add to it, Mr. Speaker, 499 schools are on the provincial asbestos registry. Undisturbed, Mr. Speaker, that's less of a concern, but take the Rosthern Elementary School for example. It has a sinking structural pad that according to one report is "causing large gaps in the walls and concerns of plumbing line failure." The same documents note that the Rosthern High School is "leaking, rotting, and in danger of collapse."

Pretty clear, Mr. Speaker. We all know that asbestos is only harmful if it is disturbed, but what does the minister think is happening with these gaping walls and collapsing roofs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that this issue came up again. I'd like to give the member opposite the ability to withdraw the nature of the question that she asked yesterday. What she did yesterday, by having posed that question, was put a fear factor in students that was unnecessary and improper, and something that a member who was a former member of the Regina Public School Board should not have asked. It is a question that she should apologize for. The preamble to that question clearly was done with the intent of putting a fear and an unnecessary fear in students and in parents in our province, and I'd like to give her the opportunity to withdraw that.

Mr. Speaker, she also raised the issue . . . And I heard the Leader of the Opposition talking about how much money we put into preventative maintenance and repair, and he talked about \$25 million in preventative maintenance and repair. Mr. Speaker, under the NDP [New Democratic Party] for preventative maintenance and repair — zero. Zero each and every year — zero, zero, zero.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that we talk about fear because there is fear in the education sector right now. After being forced to wait and stress for months, tomorrow school boards will finally find out what the Sask Party's transformational change will mean for our kids. Mr. Speaker, just two months ago the Minister of Education said that he wouldn't cut school divisions. Now he's suddenly calling for transformational change and questioning the number of school divisions and saying, "We're not taking anything off the table." Mr. Speaker, how did the minister flip his position so quickly? If his excuse is the drop in commodity prices, can he explain how he didn't see this coming two months ago when it had already happened?

Mr. Speaker, in a news release yesterday the Saskatchewan School Boards Association called for the government to engage and collaborate with locally elected school boards about their plans. Why has the government refused to communicate and work with these people running our schools about their plans for so-called transformational change in education?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we're talking about transformational change because we want to make sure that we have the most effective use for our tax dollars. We've made a major investment in our schools in this province.

Mr. Speaker, in the last year that the NDP were in office, the last year, their total investment in capital — their total investment including new capital, preventing maintenance, everything else — was under \$3 million. Under \$3 million, Mr. Speaker.

Under this government, since '07-08 we have spent on capital \$966 million; 40 new schools, including the nine joint-use schools; 25 major renovations and additions. The budget year allocation last year was the highest in history, some \$248.5 million. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite want to talk about new schools. I've got a long list.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Support for Education in Northern Communities

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There's still no clear answer on what transformational change is going to mean for teachers and students in Saskatchewan. The minister won't rule out forced amalgamation of school divisions and you won't rule out government appointments of school board trustees.

Well, Mr. Speaker, northerners have fought tooth and nail for decades to ensure northern and Aboriginal input and control over northern education. The Ile-a-la-Crosse School Board, Creighton, and Northern Lights School Division are working hard to help First Nations and Métis to ensure that classrooms include our culture, our language, and our heritage. This government has not been able to enhance Aboriginal participation in schools, and the last thing our teachers and our

students need is the Sask Party telling them how to run and do their jobs from a distance.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, this is very important. Will the government commit to allowing the people of the North to keep control in the hands of northerners and maintain the independence of our northern schools?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I want to advise the public — and I met with members of the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] earlier today — collaboration and consultation is something that's absolutely critical to us. We have every intention of going through a thorough, detailed consultative process. We look to them as education partners, and we want to make sure that we do adequately consult and we hear from them. We need their input.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is from the North. I appreciate and respect where he comes from, but I want to reassure him that northern education is something that's absolutely important to us. We have made significant investments in our budget for First Nations and Métis initiatives, and I want to just list a few of them, Mr. Speaker: \$6 million for recommendations of the joint task force; \$3.8 million for First Nations- and Métis-specific initiatives in school divisions; \$600,000 for summer literacy camps targeted primarily at remote northern communities; \$500,000 for a community literacy fund which goes to organizations such as North Central Family Centre. Mr. Speaker, I have more if the member has more questions.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party is failing Aboriginal people at many steps: off-reserve First Nations, Métis people living in Saskatchewan have the lowest literacy and numeracy rates in the country. Only about 60 per cent of First Nations and 26 per cent of Métis people living in Saskatchewan have sufficient numeracy skills. Does the minister think this situation is acceptable? Northern communities need more support and input to educate our youth, not less. Why has the Sask Party government not made this more of a priority?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with the member opposite that our current outcomes for First Nations graduates are not what it should be. Since we have formed government, Mr. Speaker, the First Nations graduate in our province has gone from a little over 30 per cent to just over 40 per cent — a step in the right direction, but a long ways from where it should be.

Mr. Speaker, we're working with our First Nations partners. For the first time in the history of our province, we have an invitational shared-service initiative to provide on-reserve schools with the same supports to students and teachers that are available at all provincial schools. We've set targets, significant targets, to increase the outcomes for First Nations and Métis students. We've created Following Their Voices, a

made-in-Saskatchewan initiative designed to improve First Nations and Métis student outcomes by engaging and supporting students through changes in student-teacher relationships and interactions. Mr. Speaker, we have more things. If the member has more questions, I'd be pleased to provide more information.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Provincial Funding for First Nations and Métis Education

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, the government's trying to defend their record on this, but these low literacy and numeracy rates translate into less access for the job market, and that hurts everyone in Saskatchewan. Refusing to properly fund education has resulted in the Sask Party's abysmal record when it comes to First Nations and Métis graduate rates. Last year just 40 per cent of First Nations and Métis students got to celebrate graduating from high school, Mr. Speaker.

For all the rhetoric and the talk of their 2020 goals in the growth plan, this Sask Party government hasn't done very much. Graduation rates have only increased by an anemic 1 per cent a year. The government's own goal of 85 per cent by 2020 would be laughable if the reality wasn't so tragic and damaging to our economy and our society.

Ministry officials call this a grave concern. Will the minister acknowledge that they're failing the students miserably? Will he admit that they have done little, and without a significant change, they will fail to reach their 2020 goals?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you one thing that we won't be doing and that's taking lessons from the members opposite. The members opposite were in government for 16 years. During that time, they never set a target. They never made a commitment; they never met a commitment. They never made any progress in this area whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, we are bold enough to set a target. If we're not meeting that target, we will make changes and, Mr. Speaker, it is our goal to meet that target. We are on track to meet that target. And, Mr. Speaker, when that one's met, we're going to set another one that is higher. And we're going to continue until the First Nations and Métis people in our province are able to share fully in the wealth, prosperity, and growth of our province.

These are people that we owe a debt of gratitude for letting them share our province with them, and we want to make sure that we do everything we can to make sure that they are well educated and fully able to participate in the growth of our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Federal Funding for First Nations Education

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the condescending and arrogant approach of ministers opposite and government

opposite is absolutely a disgrace, Mr. Speaker. Serious question after serious question about tragic circumstances, and we hear brushing off and dismissal of these very serious concerns, a government unwilling to act and address what are very tragic disparities in this province.

So let me try another item that doesn't cost the province a dime. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has promised to close the disgraceful funding gap for students in First Nations schools. They may follow through on their own, but they haven't yet. If the Premier puts forward the necessary funding, I will join him in bringing the bill to Ottawa and ensuring that they pay. This is a historic injustice that must be fixed.

So my question's to the Premier, pretty simple: will he stand up for Saskatchewan people? Will he work with us to hold the government accountable to their promise and to their treaty and constitutional responsibilities or will he refuse to act and give these kids more cheap rhetoric?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I just want to make sure I have this right. I think it's the counsel of my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, that we would move to fill the gap that does exist in terms of on-reserve First Nations education and what we provide for students in the province of Saskatchewan, that we would do so unilaterally and hope that the federal government would then pay the province back. I think that's what the hon. member is suggesting.

Mr. Speaker, I would just caution him, and all of us I guess, to think very carefully about this. We now have a new federal government that in their campaign platform and in their campaign commitments indicated that they will close the gap, that they will provide the funding. So, Mr. Speaker, this is why when I met with the Prime Minister, I guess a few weeks before this session began, I raised this issue. I congratulated them for campaigning on it, encouraged them to keep the commitment. I have every expectation they will do just that.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think the first step is that we should join together and work together — and I welcome his offer — to make sure they keep that commitment because we know this: as the provinces have moved into federal jurisdiction in terms of on-reserve funding, the federal governments of all different stripes have been happy to walk away from that obligation to the point where it might become unsustainable. And I don't think that's what any of us would want.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's work together to make sure this federal government in the near term keeps its promise to eliminate that gap that they say exists before we would move forward with some sort of a unilateral measure, Mr. Speaker.

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

Reaction to SaskPower Rate Increases

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday when asked about the consequences of the Sask Party's job-killing carbon capture tax, the Premier put rhetoric over facts. The facts are the Sask Party

dumped one and a half billion dollars into their carbon capture fiasco and burned tens of millions with the smart meter debacle.

So now cash-strapped and deep in debt, SaskPower is being asked to hike up rates again by 5 per cent in a month, and then again 5 per cent six months later. Now we've heard from farmers and business owners that these two hikes will hurt them and they may have to cut jobs, but the Premier was dismissive. Now I have the letter he was referring to and it clearly says that they are "very concerned." So will the minister admit that the Premier should not have dismissed those concerns, and that that letter is no retraction at all?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, we would never be dismissive of business owners or farmers in this province when it comes to rates for SaskPower, or anything else for that matter. They are the very people who elected us in this legislature, and we take their views very, very seriously.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, the facts of the matter are that since 2007 when we formed government, there are 60,000 new customers here in the province of Saskatchewan, and it is projected over the next number of years that there will be 82,000 more customers for SaskPower. We will need about 2000 megawatts of power in the future of this province, Mr. Speaker.

When this government took over office, we were about \$1 billion alone in SaskPower lacking in terms of infrastructure as a result of the actions of the NDP, Mr. Speaker. And as a result of that, and the investment that SaskPower has made — \$1 billion year after year after year without stripping dividends to the extent that the NDP did — we now, Mr. Speaker, find ourselves in a position where we are looking at increasing power rates to meet that demand going forward.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the dismissiveness of this minister over the concerns that are being raised about these incessant rate hikes is alarming actually. Maybe the minister didn't actually read that letter. The company says that they are so very concerned about the increases that they've actually been discussing them with SaskPower and the government. So what is the nature of those conversations, Mr. Speaker? Is it, as has been reported, that they are trying to get an exemption from those increases?

So, Mr. Speaker, what about the people of Saskatchewan and the families? The Sask Party failures have pushed SaskPower into so much trouble that they need these increases. So if Paper Excellence wants . . . gets to avoid the rate hikes, and the Premier wants to keep trying to pick winners and losers, who's going to have to pick up the slack? Is it Saskatchewan businesses? School boards? Hospitals? Farmers? Mr. Speaker, is it Saskatchewan families that will once again pay the price?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp was so concerned about the way this story was printed in the P.A. [Prince Albert] times herald that they put out a release with respect to it. And as a result of that, they said that the media took out of context their comments. Paper Excellence does not have any plans for layoffs, Mr. Speaker. So for the member to fearmonger and suggest to the people of Saskatchewan that Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp is looking at layoffs, this simply isn't the truth at all, Mr. Speaker. And I think the member opposite knows that, Mr. Speaker.

It reminds me back a number of years ago in Saskatchewan. The NDP, when they were in charge of SaskPower, they had a program, Mr. Speaker, where they went around the province of Saskatchewan. They contracted with a company out of Alberta, I believe it was. They went around and they had an instrument where they tested poles. They tested the soundness of the power poles here in Saskatchewan. Then they put a great big red X on a power pole if it wasn't sound any longer, Mr. Speaker, and they also checked the headframe of those power poles, Mr. Speaker. And unfortunately what's happened since then, it was so long ago that the paint has weathered off to the point where we can't even tell any longer. And now the people in our area of the province call them NDP poles — hollow in the middle and not a darned thing in their head.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, it's very rich listening to this scandal-plagued minister go on and on and when he's not dealing with the questions that are being tabled here today.

Here's the letter from Simon Imray to the employees from Meadow Lake. It's been tabled by the Premier, and here's what it says: "Paper Excellence is very concerned about the increase to the power price and has been discussing this with SaskPower and the provincial government."

The question is, what exactly are they discussing? Are we again talking about winners and losers here? Who's going to pay for this and what's in discussion with Paper Excellence?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — The opposition critic and the Leader of the Opposition said that there would be significant layoffs, but the people from Mechanical Pulp say that is not the case, Mr. Speaker. The member knows it very, very well.

The media took out of context her comments. The media . . . Paper Excellence does not have any plans for layoff here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And the fact of the matter is, is they don't have plans for layoffs, Mr. Speaker.

Clearly they understand the challenges that SaskPower has in this province. That's why they've invested hundreds of millions of dollars in this province. That's why businesses are expanding here in Saskatchewan. That's why we have some 82,000 clients coming up that want to deal with SaskPower in the future and not have anything to do with the NDP.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, in accordance with subsection 7(6) of *The Election Act, 1996*, I hereby table a report from the Chief Electoral Officer regarding actions taken during Saskatchewan's 28th general election.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I caution the members . . . I caution the Leader of the Opposition.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 9 through 24.

The Speaker: — The Whip has tabled the questions from 9 to 24.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 15 — *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016*. As you know, Mr. Speaker, *The Provincial Court Act, 1998* establishes the powers, duties, procedures for the operation of the Provincial Court here in Saskatchewan.

Part 5 of that Act sets out the process for the review of provincial court judges who are the subject of a complaint as to their conduct by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council is comprised of representatives from all levels of the judiciary in Saskatchewan, as well as members of the bar and government appointees under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of the province.

This bill will amend the Act to provide the Judicial Council with greater flexibility in the conduct of their reviews of the allegations of judicial misconduct and for the remedies that may be imposed.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will authorize the Minister of Justice to directly establish the list of temporary judges, including those from other jurisdictions, as recommended by the chief judge of the Provincial Court. That list would be published in the *Gazette*. Currently this process requires an order in council.

This bill will also create a notice requirement specifically for the appointment of court-appointed legal counsel. Amendments to this Act, *The Queen's Bench Act, 1998*, and *The Constitutional Questions Act, 2012* are being proposed to

improve consistency in the application of the rules for the appointment of court-appointed lawyers.

Finally, broader authority is set out to establish fees through the regulations in order to allow for the introduction of further cost recovery.

Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan is most often the first point of contact for members of the public with our independent judicial system. I'm proud of and constantly impressed with this hard work and the professional court, and I think these changes will further facilitate their very, very good work, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016* be read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased once again to stand in my place to give the initial comments about Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, it's certainly a learning experience sitting here as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] with no legal background to certainly hear and try and understand the terminology attached and associated with our justice system here in Saskatchewan. I certainly want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that for the average citizen like myself, it certainly is a learning experience to understand how the provincial court system works and how certain Acts are intertwined and certainly how the justice system is administered in the province of Saskatchewan.

So that's why it's really important that we tell people that may be listening that it is crucial that we do our very best, especially a guy like me with limited intelligence and certainly the inability to understand the justice system to the extent that I should, that it's important to pay as much attention as we can to what is being proposed and what is being changed within our justice system.

And we made comments here yesterday about the importance of having a couple of things occur within the justice system just from the layperson's perspective. And one is that to try, as I mentioned, to try and understand what the changes are about but most certainly to try and invite people out there in Saskatchewanland that may want to add some information and share some of their concerns as it relates to every piece of legislative information or updates or changes that might be proposed by the Minister of Justice. And while a layperson like myself and many others that might be watching this have a limited background in law and certainly have a difficult time in understanding all the terminology, we know others that can help us interpret those definitions and certainly make us much more aware of what the intended changes are and the consequences of those changes.

And of course the second, more important item is to make sure that our justice system operates as effectively, as efficiently,

and certainly as neutral as we can, but as we all know that justice can be improved on an absolute day-by-day basis. And anything to improve the system to ensure that we are able to deal with the individuals that break the law and those that are harmed by those individuals, I believe that it is important that, as legislators, that we continue to support that effort to streamline and make our justice system more effective, more responsive, and of course more independent as time goes on.

Now, Mr. Speaker, on this particular bill, Bill No. 15, there is a number of changes being proposed, and I want to be able to explain to people what those changes are from the layperson's perspective. And the first part of the bill itself, it actually takes the power to create a list of temporary judges from the cabinet, who have that authority, and actually transfers or gives it to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, to a large extent this is probably something that we need to pay a bit of attention to, but at the first look at this you would assume that there would be more autonomy given to the Minister of Justice and less control of the cabinet as to who's appointed, you know, to be a judge. That in itself may have some merit, but we need to examine how the process worked before and what were the challenges attached to that process, but more so, Mr. Speaker, how this change may improve our justice system and what particular challenges are attached to that process.

So this is what I mean by ensuring that we pay attention to these particular bills by saying, what was the system before and what's the system now, and what are the changes, what are the dynamics, like all the different particular aspects of what is being proposed. We need to examine those and examine them as thoroughly as we can.

And this is where it's important to say, those that have good knowledge, a critical knowledge of law — but in this particular case, how the Provincial Court works — that if they have advice for the opposition, or for the government, you know, for that sake, that they are able to participate by simply calling us or emailing some of their concerns, or giving us their opinion and their input on what the proposed changes are.

So again, Mr. Speaker, it's really important to look at what the process is going to change and what are the dangers attached to each of the proposed changes, and what are the opportunities. There may be some particular perspective we're not aware of as a result of the changes, where you take the power to create a list of temporary judges from the cabinet and gives it to the minister himself.

The second part of the bill, Mr. Speaker, talks about the judicial council in which the bill allows this judicial council . . . If somebody has a particular concern that relates to a judge of sort, then they go to this council, Mr. Speaker. And this judicial council, made up of judges, they are there to ascertain if there was certain activity by any particular judge, whether there is cause to be concerned or cause to be a major problem for the justice system overall.

And that certainly is a good stopgap measure, Mr. Speaker, in the sense of making sure that judges, who are all very professional and have years of experience — they're very careful in this regard — that if there is a mistake, if there is a slip-up, or if there is, heaven forbid, but a malicious act on the

part of a judge, that there is the avenue of a peer of his or her council to be able to look at the situation and provide discipline or certainly provide the appropriate measures to ensure that if there was no particular case against a particular judge, that they're also found to be not guilty or certainly not guilty of some of the activities that they're being charged or being accused of. And what this does, Mr. Speaker, the second part of the bill, it says, allow the Judicial Council to dismiss frivolous or vexatious complaints against judges.

[14:30]

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's important to know that, again as I mentioned earlier, that the language that is used in many of our legal systems is certainly a complex language, Mr. Speaker. And I always make the connection to the average citizen out there. It's very difficult to understand when lawyers use their particular language, which is a very gifted language, but it's much similar to the doctors' language, Mr. Speaker, where you can't understand half the words and the terminology that they use. And certainly, it really confuses a lot of . . . the average person out there.

But the perspective of the second part of the bill, where it says that the Judicial Council has a right to dismiss frivolous or vexatious complaints against judges . . . And the word frivolous, Mr. Speaker, for the record, under Merriam-Webster dictionary, it has two particular meanings. Frivolous is "of little weight or importance" as one interpretation of the word. And the second interpretation, Mr. Speaker, is "having no sound basis as in fact or law." So there's two components of the understanding of what the word frivolous is.

So one word, to really put this into the context, it allows this Judicial Council to dismiss claims against any judge that has little weight or importance, and of having no sound basis. And that's the definition of frivolous.

Now the vexation interpretation, Mr. Speaker, there's two particular parts of the dictionary that explains what vexatious actually means. The first one is "causing vexation, distressing." And the second one is "intended to harass." And when you intend to harass anyone or distress anyone, Mr. Speaker, that's generally the interpretation of vexatious.

So you look at some of the important parts of the bill. When the minister gets up and points out that this council has the ability to dismiss frivolous or no sound basis or vexatious complaints which is meant to harass the judges, then they have the ability to not hear those cases and simply rule them out of order.

And, Mr. Speaker, the other part of the bill certainly talks about the Judicial Council having one member respond to a complaint rather than the whole council.

So I think those changes itself, Mr. Speaker, begs to ask the question: will this help make our justice system more streamlined? Will this help make our justice system more effective? Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not certain if it does because one judge deciding another judge's fate in the case that there is some merit or some complaint against him or her, is that better than having four or five of their peers that they'd have to appeal to or appear in front of?

This is the part that's really important, Mr. Speaker. This is why these changes within our system have got to be understood by as many people as possible. And I don't know the consequences of having one judge on this judicial panel versus four or five. Which is the better system? Is one better for the streamlining purpose, or is four or five better to ensure that there's independence of our judicial system here in Saskatchewan? Well I don't have that information, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the ability to analyze this, and this is why we reach out to people out there that may have that information or may have that skill set or may have that experience as a lawyer that's able to give us some of the advice that really gives us a good perspective that we're able to share with the public through this legislative process and make sure that our justice system certainly is the best it could be.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's also a couple of minor changes. The one that's important right now I want to point out is the change in the rules for court-appointed lawyers by introducing new restrictions. Now, Mr. Speaker, we don't know what those restrictions are. We need to find exactly what the minister is trying to do with that particular part of this bill. So there's four components that we really need to pay attention to. And, Mr. Speaker, it is going to be a significant effort by a lot of us to try and make sure we follow the changes being proposed in a number of Acts — not just this particular Act, but a number of Acts and how it impacts the laws of Saskatchewan overall.

So Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker, it really has on the face value not a lot of dangerous concerns that we can see that jumps out at us. And, mind you, again we say so because we are not familiar with the entire application of law and the terminology of law and how the justice system works, and that's why it's important that we point out that at face value there may not be many concerns. But we don't know that for certain, and that's the reason why we ask people to participate in this process by giving us advice, by giving us information. They could email us. They could phone us and they could even text us, Mr. Speaker.

These are some of the things that we would encourage people in the province of Saskatchewan and associations that might have some input or advice for us on this particular bill, and this is an important effort that we as MLAs try to undertake, to connect with people and to network with people. And that certainly gives us a better ability to serve the people of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, again in summarizing Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*, there are three or four things that the minister wishes to do, and of course I'll just quickly summarize them. It takes the power to create a list of temporary judges from the cabinet and gives it to the Minister of Justice; allows the judicial council to dismiss frivolous or vexatious complaints against the judges; allows the judicial council to have one member respond to a complaint rather than the whole council; and finally, Mr. Speaker, changes the rules for court-appointed lawyers by introducing new restrictions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really important that we ask the public out there that if you have any concerns on this bill, we will certainly appreciate and value your input and that we obviously as an opposition are going to take time to read through the bill, look at what is being proposed. And I can

assure the people of Saskatchewan we do have two lawyers on our team as opposition MLAs, and they certainly have the ability to understand the legal interpretations a heck of a lot better than I do, Mr. Speaker. But they will certainly have their take on it, and they have a network of people that they can also connect with to ensure that this system that's being proposed by the minister is not going to be a hindrance or is going to limit the power of the court system or justice system to do its job effectively and without bias.

So on that point, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot more comments we will have on this particular bill, and I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 15.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has adjourned debate on Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 16 — *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016*
*Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'adoption***

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 12, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time.

Mr. Speaker, section 7(2) of *The Adoption Act, 1998* will be amended to increase the adoption revocation period for independent adoptions and voluntary committals from 14 days to 21 days to provide birth parents with additional time to consider the impacts of such a life-changing decision.

In 1988-89, Saskatchewan reduced its revocation period from 30 days to 14 days. The rationale for this reduction was that a longer period of time would possibly unnecessarily put a child's future in doubt. The focus has since shifted to the needs of the child to remain connected to its birth family and for birth parents to have sufficient time to consider this very important decision.

At present, only Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island have a 14-day revocation period. Alberta allows for revocation up to 10 days after signing, and Nova Scotia does not permit revocation unless the court rules it is in the best interests of the child. In British Columbia, revocation must occur within 30 days of the child's birth. New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories and Nunavut provide birth parents with 30 days after signing to revoke their decision. Manitoba, Ontario, Newfoundland, and the Yukon provide 21 days. Moving to a 21-day revocation period will better align Saskatchewan with revocation timelines in other provinces and territories.

Secondly, *The Adoption Act, 1998* gives the judge the discretion to order that a child of any age be interviewed before the court to hear their understanding and wishes regarding their adoption. The judge may also appoint a third party to interview the child and report their findings to the court. These provisions do not have any regard for the child's age, nor do they identify what

information should be obtained from the child or who should be able to file a report with the court. The proposed legislative amendments define the age parameters for a child and enable the establishment in regulations of guidelines for completion of the interview with the child.

The amendments are neither intended to change the practice nor to require the completion of a third party report in every adoption case. The court currently requests a report only in exceptional circumstances, for instance if a birth family member objects to the placement and the judge requires a child's point of view to be provided by an impartial report. The proposed changes are not expected to increase the number of reports required.

The court will no longer be able to interview or order a report being completed for a child under the age of seven. However, current development theory supports the concept that a child under the age of seven does not fully understand abstract concepts or the long-term effects of their decisions. Caseworkers preparing children for adoption do talk to them about their thoughts on adoption and the family with whom they are to be placed. This information is documented and submitted when an application is made to the court for adoption, and the judge would base his decision to grant an order of adoption in part on this information. It is felt by stakeholders providing feedback on the legislative proposals that the age of seven would be an appropriate one for optional reports to be ordered by the court. An average of 35 children age seven and older are adopted each year.

Mr. Speaker, new section 27.1 will ensure requirements will now be the same for children being adopted by Saskatchewan residents no matter if the child's country of origin is a signatory of the Hague Convention or not. The Hague Convention on prevention of children and co-operation in respect of intercountry adoption, known as the convention, safeguards the rights of children and birth parents, and is intended to reduce incidents of child trafficking or unlawful financial gain. It also protects adoptive parents from unknowingly becoming involved in illegal practices for which they may become liable.

Countries that are not signatories to the convention are not bound by specific agreements regarding international adoption. This can lead to unregulated practice, and no legal entity ensuring the rights of the children, birth parents, and the adoptive parents are being protected.

Canada is a signatory to the convention. In Saskatchewan we take our convention obligations very seriously. To this end, we propose to strengthen provisions pertaining to intercountry adoptions.

New section 27.1 would require the prospective adoptive parents of a child from a non-convention country to provide evidence to assure the minister that the child was adopted according to the laws of the child's country of origin or the country where the adoption occurred.

The assurances include evidence of the termination of parental rights and that the consent to the termination of parental rights was freely given, that consent was not withdrawn, and the decision was not made for financial gain. Evidence of the facts

relating to the child's birth, circumstances, and reasons for adoption, along with the certified copy of the adoption order granted in the child's country of origin, will also be required.

Manitoba and British Columbia include some provisions regarding adoption cases associated with non-convention countries. The Hague's *Guide to Good Practice* recommends that convention countries consider adding such safeguards to their adoption legislation. By providing a legislative framework for non-convention cases of intercountry adoptions, Saskatchewan will minimize potential risks for children and their prospective adoptive parents.

Along with these three major changes to *The Adoption Act, 1998*, we are proposing several administrative amendments. Section 9 is being amended to allow the minister, subject to the regulations, to continue assisted adoption benefit payments to subsequent legal guardians if a child's adoptive parents both die. Such financial supports will follow the adoptee. Should the adoptee be 18 to 21 years of age on the death of their adoptive parents, the amendment will permit agreement-making directly with the adoptee to continue to support a transition plan.

The amendment also allows the minister to, subject to regulations, enter into payment agreements with youth aged 18 to 21 years directly in support of the youth's educational and vocational plans.

[14:45]

Current regulations allow assisted adoption payments for youth aged 18 to 21, but payments can only be made to the adoptive parents through their agreement with the minister. We will repeal the provision and associated references related to the simple adoption orders, section 28.

The provisions for simple adoptions granted outside of Canada was introduced in the 1990s prior to the implementation of the convention. The requirements for simple adoptions are not compatible with the requirements for intercountry adoptions and adoptions in general, because they do not require the severing of parental ties, and because birth parents who commit to a simple adoption arrangement may revoke their consent. This creates a risk in an intercountry adoption due to a lack of clarity regarding which entity has authority over the affairs of the child, and it is not known what would occur if birth parents requested the return of their child.

There is little to no documented history of simple adoption in Saskatchewan. Cases of this kind can be dealt with under the proposed new section 27.1. References in the Act to the family services boards, example section 41, are being repealed. Family services boards were introduced in *The Child and Family Services Act* in the 1990s. The boards were never operationalized, had no impact on adoption legislation, and similar references in *The Child and Family Services Act* will be repealed in the future.

A provision will be added to *The Adoption Act, 1998* to allow the minister to apply for an order against any person who does not comply with any provision of the Act, the regulations, or a decision or order issued pursuant to the Act or the regulations. This provision is most directly related to *The Adoption Act*, to

the adoption, birth registration amendment regulations, 2016 which will come into effect in January 2017. It will allow the minister to apply for an order against any person not complying with the Act or regulations or a decision or order issued pursuant to the Act or regulations. If a birth parent, for example, stipulated in their contact preference that they wanted no contact from the adult adoptee, but the adoptee tracked down their information and contacted the birth parent, the birth parent and the minister must have some method by which to enforce compliance. Should the noncompliant individual continue to contravene contact preferences following a reminder of their agreement, the minister, through the child and family programs division, would engage civil law to make application to the court for a compliance order.

No jurisdiction using contact preferences reports a high rate of contravention, and it is anticipated most contraventions would be effectively dealt with by just a reminder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Social Services that Bill No. 15, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016* be read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I paid special interest to this particular bill. I think it's really, really important that we take, again, take the time to understand what the bill is intended to do, Mr. Speaker.

The adoption process in Saskatchewan is really a process that one has to pay very, very close attention to, Mr. Speaker. We have certainly in all of our lives, whether you're from Yorkton, whether you're from Buffalo Narrows, or whether you're from Prince Albert, adoption processes and frameworks are really important to many, many families all throughout Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to some of the comments made by the minister. And I can tell you that it's important to note that one of the things that is primary to many people in the province of Saskatchewan is the phrase that's often used in the Assembly, and something that I think many agencies use as well, and many people like the child advocate and many other organizations like that when they talk about the best interests of the child.

That phrase itself really gives us . . . spurs a lot of thought in a lot of people's minds as to what is the best interest of a child. When they're facing certain traumas and when they're facing certain challenges, Mr. Speaker, we need to find out what is meant by that phrase. And there's so many different connotations attached to that phrase and so many different interpretations attached to the whole process, the best interest of the child.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what's really important is that the bill itself, we want to make sure that we have the mechanics right in a sense of making sure that our adoption laws, our adoption Acts, and certainly the people that we're intending to support and help — and those of course are the children — that the process is as refined as possible, and that it's also really important to note that it's also funded accordingly, Mr. Speaker. You and I

probably in our lifetime have bumped into a number of people that adopted children, whether it's from their own family or whether it's from out of country or whether it's from different families. There's so many foster parents out there as well.

And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you from experience that many families do their own . . . help when certain circumstances affect their particular family, and it's something that's really beautiful to see, Mr. Speaker. We have tons of stories in the Aboriginal community of how aunts and uncles and grandparents and older nephews and nieces have taken children from certain families that were affected adversely by either a death or a separation or some other family challenges, Mr. Speaker. I think it's really important to know that many family members will step up to the plate and raise these children as their own, Mr. Speaker.

And it's really a beautiful system of how we are able to support our own and how people are really caring for one another and particularly their family members. And in many instances, it's not their family as well. We have stories of tremendous value, Mr. Speaker, of how people have risen to the occasion and done their part to help adopt the children or simply taking children under their wing.

So these are some of the people that we're dealing with and certainly some of the issues that we're faced with as an MLA. And I can tell you that if any changes to the Act would really make the system much more compassionate, make the system much more effective by ensuring that we have proper processes for all jurisdictions, I think it's really important that we do what we can to move that system along.

So some of the aspects of the bill are it places the simple adoption category within a framework for adoption from countries that haven't signed on to international conventions that regulate adoptions between countries. Now obviously, Mr. Speaker, as the adoption process becomes more complex, you'll see that there are many families that want to adopt children from other countries and countries a long distance from Saskatchewan.

So it's important for us to know that if there are ways that we could certainly coordinate our adoption policy with that of countries that are following the proper process, that protect the interests of children, and that are certainly also rigid in the sense of making sure that there's things such as child trafficking not occurring within their boundaries or within their country, to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that that activity is not happening. And as we have more and more countries elevate themselves to the status of being a caring, compassionate country in the sense of trying to have the adoption process streamlined, rigid in the sense of protecting the interests of that child, and certainly visionary in terms of providing the support that many of our children need.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a couple of other changes which I think are also important to note, that the changes to *The Adoption Amendment Act* includes increasing the amount of time birth parents can revoke their consent to adoption from 14 days to 30 days. Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm assuming, never having gone through that process myself, I'm assuming that in the situation of adoption the process is much longer than 30 days,

but they can arbitrarily make the decision that they don't want to give up their child, and they simply want the child back.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many adoptive parents really go through a lot of processes to actually have their child under their name and certainly under their care. And it's not just the 30-day time frame, Mr. Speaker; it probably takes 30 months, you know, at a minimum to go through the proper process, and I'm just speculating here on the time frame. But I know a lot of adoptive parents struggle with the length in time and the cost it takes to really adopt a child and put them under their care, Mr. Speaker. And what the bill talks a bit about is the fact that birth parents can actually now change their mind and not just a 14-day time frame — that it's actually extended to 30 days.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it also talks about allowing support payments that continue after the death of the adoptive parents and go directly to the child when they are the ages of between 18 and 21 and in need of additional supports. Now, Mr. Speaker, I really think that this is something that's important to note. I think the greatest challenge . . . We all know how difficult it is to adopt a child. But the ones, the people, the families that go above and beyond, when it's just a beautiful thing to see, Mr. Speaker, when some of these families adopt a child with special needs. That's an incredible show of compassion; it's an incredible show of humanity overall, Mr. Speaker.

And these are the people that used to inspire me when I served as the minister for a short time. When you saw that the children that they were caring for and the children that they love and the children that they want to adopt, they had special needs and tremendously challenging special needs and yet the love was there for the child. And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that particular feeling of confidence in the human race so to speak, Mr. Speaker, I still feel that powerful feeling to this day because of those parents that done so much for our children and especially those with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, part of the bill too I believe talks about the requirement for a child to be able to speak in court. Obviously the provision now is seven years of age or older. How they're able to arrive at that particular age, I'm not certain of the background and the reason for that, and that's why it's important to go through these bills to see exactly what is happening.

And the final thing that I can just quickly pick up, Mr. Speaker, it also allows the government to apply for a court order when an adopted person or a birth parent fails to follow the rules laid out in the Act or the regulations. Now I'm assuming, Mr. Speaker, that we don't see a lot of that, that there is a system in place that with the ICFS [Indian Child and Family Services] agreements and with their own staff, that there is a rigorous process in place. And while it's so sad, Mr. Speaker, when the system does fail a particular child or some children that it really does have a dramatic and negative effect on many of the players or the people that are involved with this process, and they're always trying to find ways in which they could fix the system better.

So as I look at some of the issues around the bill itself, Mr. Speaker, it really talks about basic language changes as well. It changes Crown ward to permanent ward, and what does that

mean in the scheme of things? Is it part of the countries worldwide that signed on to this convention? It talks about valuing the children by having mutual processes to adopt children between a large number of countries. These are some of the questions that we need to ask, Mr. Speaker.

And all the while, the underlying theme and the underlying thought that what is in the best interests of the child, that is the key thing that drives the agenda for it from our perspective, and I'm sure from any government perspective as well. Because that's what we're in the business of doing in the event that we do want to help people with adoption, is to make sure that the rules and roles and regulations are protective of the child. Yet also at the same time, you've got to be receptive of the parents that want to do this, and it's always a difficult task to do both, Mr. Speaker.

But the system itself is always constantly undergoing improvements. And while it's sad to say that there are occasions where there has been some incidences where children do suffer some of the consequences of the adoption process, Mr. Speaker, our job is to minimize that as best we can and to totally eliminate that and that's the number one objective overall. So I think, Mr. Speaker, after looking at the bill, there are so many twists and turns to how this could help the process along.

As we embark on a worldwide effort, we have to learn so much from our mistakes and build a good system here at home so we are able to showcase that through our international discussions and in our meetings. And, Mr. Speaker, it's important to also recognize that grandparents throughout our province and especially in my particular culture and in my community, grandparents play a pivotal role in helping look after grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. And there's so many examples out there, Mr. Speaker, they're too numerous to mention as to the people that do this kind of work. But I would point out extra work . . . I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that again in our community, the best interests of the child, there's three or four things that we look at, and we need to get more and more focused on this particular issue.

[15:00]

As I mentioned in the past, there are some people raised in a generation where families would assume the children in the case of a tragic event or a family breakdown. And I say this from experience, Mr. Speaker. When I was five years old, there was eight of us in our family and we lost our mother. Our mother perished in a plane accident and at five years of age we basically had our father who was the pilot at the time, and he was laid up in the hospital. And I can tell you that our aunts stepped up to the plate. And even though, as young children, we don't know what's going on a lot of times, Mr. Speaker, we knew that we had a lot of love and support from our father, of course, but more so from the aunts. And it almost seemed, Mr. Speaker, that it was . . . Again as I mentioned in the past, a lot of families are assuming the role of parenting in a sense if there is some tragic loss of life, in my instance, or there's some extenuating circumstances where families start breaking apart.

And nowadays, Mr. Speaker, we have many more younger families and people, you know, have been parents at a younger age more so than ever, and we see a lot of distress a lot of times

in the community and amongst families, Mr. Speaker. We've got to get a good system in place that continues to protect that child the same. Although the event that we went through as a family was very tragic, we felt the support, we felt the love, and we felt the humanity from our own family. And they done their very best to help my father raise all the small ones.

And, Mr. Speaker, out of all the children in the house, I was one that was most best behaved, Mr. Speaker. So I want to put that on record. And there was not a lot of the aunts that wanted my older brother or younger brother because they're kind of trouble. I was the most behaved one.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, I think in that instance it's really, really important that we recognize the value of families simply having their children assumed by an aunt or by an uncle or even by grandparents. This practice has been happening in our communities for years. It happens in the non-Aboriginal communities as well. It's a beautiful thing to see, and that's why it's important to recognize and incorporate that.

Because in my instance, at the time it was not designed by any particular government. But the best interest of that child at the time in 1965 was that the aunts would care for the children while the dad healed. And of course we eventually recovered from that tragic event and all eight of us have done well. We've lost a couple, Mr. Speaker, but by and large the family survived that and we done well. And again it's a nice thing to see, and we see it happening all throughout Saskatchewan.

So in closing, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we pay very close attention to *The Adoption Amendment Act* because it does have a most valuable opportunity presented to adoptive parents and that we must do everything we can to strengthen those parents and support those parents because often as things go along, they have much more challenges that they have to overcome.

And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that some of the experience that I've had with families is that once you transfer from being a foster parent, then after a number of years you grow attached to these children and then you want to become the actual parent of those child, and you go through the legal process. So you go from a foster parent to a full parent like with the full responsibilities and care of that particular child. And what happens, Mr. Speaker, a lot of time the supports are cut at that point, and the logic behind the system is that if you wish to adopt this child then you must assume the responsibilities of that child as a parent. So no longer are they wards of the state or no longer are they custody of the state, that they're now your children so you look after them. So all supports are now cut.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the parents still go through that. They understand it's going to cost them a lot of money, but the love that they have for these children dictates the fact that they don't want any more financial support from the government. Once they adopt them, they assume the full custody of that child, and with the full custody, I mean, the ability to raise, to protect, to love, to nurture, to discipline in the most appropriate way, Mr. Speaker. These are some of the things I think that, you know, another inspirational part of the adoption process.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think there's so many moving parts to how

we want to do the adoption better. I think at face value some of the adjustments here will certainly . . . and especially around the category of working in the framework agreement with other countries. These are some of the things that we look as being positive. But nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, we need to take the time to understand the bill better, and we certainly need to talk to a network of people that help with this process, the adoption process, and we'll certainly undertake that as the official opposition.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I've made my comments on what I think is important around this particular bill, and my other colleagues will have an opportunity to add their perspective as well. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 16, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved adjournment on debate number . . . Bill 15, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 3

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 3** — *The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding Bill 3, *The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2016*, we've been in communication with both the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] and the SSBA on this matter. And in addition I received a briefing yesterday from the ministry staff, and I thank both those staff members and the minister for that briefing.

Through those discussions we understand that the amendments contained in this bill were agreed to by both parties as part of the collective bargaining process, so respecting that process and the wishes of both parties, we are prepared to see this bill move forward without delay. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 3, the teachers . . . [inaudible] . . . and disabilities benefits amendment Act, 2016 now be read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 3, *The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2016* be committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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

Bill No. 2

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 2** — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Crown Corporations' Fiscal Year End Standardization) Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join debate today on Bill No. 2, *An Act to amend certain Statutes to Standardize Provisions respecting the Fiscal Year End of certain Crown Corporations*.

This is sort of a . . . it's part of a trend on the part of members opposite to, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the way that they've approached the Crown sector in this province. And it's again, on its face it's, you know, seemingly a fair enough piece of standardization and would appear to be innocuous enough.

But you know, I'm always sort of of the belief that there are few, if any, coincidences in public life, Mr. Speaker. And when it comes to Bill No. 2 and the way that the timing of this particular piece of legislation and the fiscal situation of this particular government, when you add those two things together, Mr. Speaker, it makes a lot of sense that for this particular year, the government of the day would want three more months of income on the books when it comes to managing the looks of the books. And putting forward a case again that wasn't audited by the Provincial Auditor was, you know, signed off on by the . . . I'm not sure if the Ministry of Finance is writing these things anymore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or if they're running everything out of the Premier's office when it comes to the statements on the financial health — or lack thereof — of the province of Saskatchewan.

But when it comes to this particular piece of legislation, you have to ask two questions. Why now? And what on earth could the possible motives for it be? And in terms of the summary financials, and again the minister who moved it, who's also part of a little star chamber group over there with the . . . You know, they used to have treasury board, Mr. Speaker, where they'd go through the books and they'd present in the cabinet and then, you know, you'd go on from there. But yesterday we find out that the Deputy Premier is part of a little star chamber group with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice where they're going through everything again.

So I don't know if it's a program review that they're going through, Mr. Speaker, or if it's, you know, a super treasury board, or how it fits into the org chart over there, but obviously

it's pretty high powered, pretty powerful. And we'll be seeing more of their handiwork tomorrow, I'm sure. And in terms of the people that are promoting, you know, transformational change, which of course was the battle cry on every Sask Party partisan I ran into . . . It was on all their lips in the campaign, Mr. Speaker. Of course I'm being ironic. I'm joking. Because transformational change in the way that these members approach the finances in the campaign, it was very much a matter of, there's nothing to see here; keep it moving.

Now if this was a business transaction, Mr. Speaker, and the bill of goods came due tomorrow and the people that had bought the bill of goods, say in this case the people of Saskatchewan, if they came back and said, you know, the way that you were selling it in the campaign is something very different from this budget that you're presenting us, I guess the members opposite would come back and say, well, you know, buyer beware, or caveat emptor or whatever.

But it wouldn't be a straightforward proposition on the part of members opposite in terms of what they campaigned on and what we'll see tomorrow in terms of the handiwork of treasury board on an ongoing basis, in terms of the work of this little star chamber committee that's been set up adjacent to the Premier, in terms of the way that financial statements that are rightly the property of the Ministry of Finance seem to be having a lot more to do with lining up with talking points coming out of the Premier's office than they do with any sort of direct relationship to providing proper accounting to the people of Saskatchewan as it regards their finances.

And so that is the context in which we see this particular piece of legislation coming forward, Mr. Speaker. It's no coincidence that the timing leaves them with three extra months of revenue. It's no coincidence that, you know, having successfully promoted the magic act last year, that \$700 million of borrowing was somehow separate and apart from the deficit that's, you know, north of \$1 billion, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the deficit that they had in last year's budget. In terms of the way they got born again when it came to the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, because . . . and we heard it again here today where the Premier was referencing debt that was being paid off and debt being paid off has been replaced, you know, two and three times on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, in terms of borrowing on the Crown side of the equation.

So the Premier can talk about credit cards and various things like that, but it's a bit more like, you know, Three Card Monte or shuffling the cards so that you're able to put your best case forward. It's like problem solving through redefinition. You know, you add three more months of revenue into the equation, and guess what? Things look better by, you know, more than \$100 million.

So in terms of, you know, this particular piece of legislation, standardizing the year-ends for the Crowns in terms of the fiscal year-end for the executive government, fair enough. But why now? And what on earth could the motivations possibly be?

And I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that this has everything to do with managing the look of the books. It has everything to do with the way that this is a government that, you know, can't get enough of dipping into the Crowns, can't

get enough of taking dividends when they said they would not, can't get enough of racking up the credit card of the people of Saskatchewan on the utility rate hike side of the equation, and then sit there with a straight face and say, oh no, we're not raising taxes but, you know, go on and pay the shot through your utility bills.

We saw that last Friday, Mr. Speaker, and again Bruce Johnstone had a fine column in the *Leader-Post* in terms of the kind of spin doctor overtime that was going on presenting SaskEnergy and SaskPower, their respective, you know, requests of the rate review panel and cabinet, and the fact that of course SaskPower is going to have to pay the shot for the mismanagement that this government has been up to, when it comes to various of the projects of that government, to the tune of hundreds and millions of dollars . . . hundreds of millions of dollars.

[15:15]

So again, Mr. Speaker, as regards to this particular piece of legislation, you know, standardizing year-ends, what . . . Why now? Why would they be coming forward with it now? Well it's because the finances of the province under the management of these people . . . And we'll see, you know, I'm sure some of that tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. But as ever, a lot of these things await the finer scrutiny of the Provincial Auditor when it comes to the way that even on a budget day this government will present something that has more to do with spin than it does with being the most open and accountable government in the history of the province, which is something that they talked about striving for in 2007, Mr. Speaker.

And we've seen what a long ways they've come from there. So they're going to keep shuffling the cards as fast as they can. They're going to keep, you know, racking up the Crown debt and trying with a straight face to say that this isn't somehow what they're going to be passing on to the next generation and the generation after that as again, Mr. Speaker, we've seen governments of that ilk over there do to this province in past. We're seeing this go ahead again, and we're going to get a better picture of that tomorrow.

And in terms of this particular piece of legislation, it makes all kinds of sense that it's Bill No. 2 as regards to the way that this government has approached the Crowns. Again, Mr. Speaker, there's apparently, you know, few things they like more than racking up Crown debt and then transferring that into the revenues, or transferring that to underwrite the different debacles that they've engaged in such as the smart meters or the way that the facts were blatantly misrepresented when it came to carbon capture, Mr. Speaker. And you can go on.

Anyway, I know that there's nothing the members opposite like more than the opinion of themselves in terms of just, you know, they feel they can do no wrong. And someday, Mr. Speaker, that time is going to come where they're going to . . . where the bill is going to come due and they can't just pass it on to the people of Saskatchewan. But they're going to pay, come the opinion of the people of this province. And I think we're going to see a step forward in that regard tomorrow when they finally come forward with a budget, they finally bear some kind of accountability for what this government's been up to.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd to conclude my remarks on Bill No. 2, *An Act to amend certain Statutes to Standardize Provisions respecting the Fiscal Year End of certain Crown Corporations*.

The Speaker: — The member from Elphinstone-Centre has moved adjournment on debate on Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Crown Corporations' Fiscal Year End Standardization) Amendment Act, 2016*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 4

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 4 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016*. To just give it a little bit of a . . . I know at the end of the day we've got these amendments that are coming forward, and the process is here to have a discussion about changes or amendments that come into legislation, and sometimes we wonder why. There might be different reasons why they're being brought in.

But we've always said this, and I've always been one to say, I'm not sure if the minister has had an opportunity to consult with individuals. I know on our side it gives us an opportunity to take the legislation and actually have the critics and individuals have discussions with those that would be impacted by amendments, changes to legislation in the House, whether it's citizens, whether it's a business, corporations, individuals, some of the agencies that represent us, Health. There's many different reasons why we want to have the debate, and it's good. If there's a good debate, it needs to go on, and the discussion.

And some of these bills, sometimes they're very simple. Sometimes there's quite a bit to them. I guess it's the way they give certain powers to the minister and some powers, you know . . . Rarely have I seen where it takes away powers. It's more where it gives powers to ministers, individual ministers, to make decisions from the way the process used to be.

But in this Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016*, when you look at this, it's making it easier to enforce. And I guess when you have dispute resolution panels, when we talk about free trade, there is a process that they go through, and I don't know if it's individuals, if it's big corporations, if it's in province, out of province. Those are the things a person needs to find out and of course take the time to go through and find out who will be impacted by this. Will it be, you know, the business people? Will it be those that are going out, and we talk about out of Canada? Is it within the provinces, within Canada?

So there'll be a lot of questions that we'll have, and we can work through that. And I know as a critic, you know, we'll ask that. And the minister may, you know, be able to provide that

when this goes through the process it goes to. But having said that, that process needs to happen here first before it goes to a committee. It gives us a chance to just talk about it. And part of this change that I said, making it easier for that panel to enforce their decision once they've made a decision, and it may not be something that I guess certain individuals like, dislike. It may not work, but it gives them the power to enforce it.

But it goes a little further than that with the minister, and I had said the minister giving certain powers. And this, you know, second part of this bill does give provisions to the minister to have a list of lawyers that the ministry could appoint or the courts could appoint, should that be required.

But it also lays out I guess the cost, how much they can bill or charge for the service that they would provide should the court decide or should someone, you know, want to or the minister appoint somebody to say yes, this person needs legal counsel.

So it kind of gives that, but I mean I know at the end of the day we'll work through that. And the critic, my colleagues, we'll talk about that. And we'll be able to go through in detail in committee, but this just gives us an opportunity to start the process, to debate it, and give a little bit of I guess our opening comments to this process. But I know my colleagues will have more.

The other thing it talks about, the updates to the process for people applying to get a court-appointed lawyer. There are some changes there as well. So this also gives the minister some provisions when it goes to court, but also those individuals that would be applying for a court-appointed lawyer or legal counsel to represent them.

Maybe they're in a dispute for whatever reason — I don't know if it would be individual; it feels like when they're coming to trade, it impacts them — or if it would be a corporation, might be a small corporation. I don't know from the details in the bill.

And I know my colleagues . . . And we'll get an opportunity to work through that process and get that information, but also to ask some of those individuals out there that might be impacted by this to find out how they'll be impacted.

So this gives us some opportunity to ask some questions, to go back and do a little bit of research, but also get the clarification that's needed so that that process we talk about in this House goes through before it goes to a committee or, you know, it actually gets Royal Assent. And before it's the law of the land, you would have that.

So at this point, you know, I just have some opening comments about this bill. I have an opportunity. I have no further discussions for myself. I know my colleagues will have more and we'll get more of a chance to debate the bill and ask them tough questions, and get clarification on some of those that I talked about.

So at this point I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench*

Amendment Act, 2016. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 5

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 5 — *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As ever, thanks to the good folks at Hansard and those that make this building go around.

Good to join debate on Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016*. This of course moves to amend the Act which was first brought forward in the year 2000 and is of course an effort to modernize and keep in touch with the times, Mr. Speaker, and the greater preponderance of electronic instruments being used in different transactions throughout the public sphere and private spheres, Mr. Speaker.

In referring to the minister's second reading speech where he states:

... provides for the legal recognition of documents in electronic form where legislation asks for documents to be provided in writing. The Act has facilitated the legal translation of paper to electronic documents in the private and public sectors without requiring each individual Act or regulation to be amended to allow for electronic documents. Mr. Speaker, this Act does however exempt certain documents, such as wills and health care directives, so that paper-only requirements are not overridden by the Act.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it's a pretty straightforward proposition that this bill comes forward with and that is to allow for the usage of electronic format. It's not much more complicated than that, Mr. Speaker. We'll of course be looking to see how this does indeed, whether it does or not follow upon requests from the real estate and the credit union communities which the minister references in his remarks in terms of them being the folks that are requesting this. We'll be interested to see how this interfaces with the work that's done through, for example, the land titles registry.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, we've got a number of things we'd like to consult on. But as having participated in a number of these debates, there are matters that come forward as kind of housekeeping legislation, Mr. Speaker, legislation that is about keeping up with the times, and this would certainly fall into that category, Mr. Speaker.

That is not to say however that there isn't due diligence that need be done that ... We'll take the minister's indication that it is supported by different folks out there as again referenced here by the credit union sector and folks in the real estate industry.

But we'll certainly undertake our own consultation in that regard, and I'm sure will be all the better for it when it comes back to deal with this piece of legislation at a later date. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to move adjournment of debate on Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone has moved adjournment on debate no. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 6

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 6 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 5, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016*. A note I guess we go back to, and in my opening comments on some of the other bills that we talked about, the process about debating this, in this bill here, an amendment that's been requested, they're clearing up some grammar. There's some spelling they're changing. So what this bill will do is it changes some of the I guess those that a provincial judge but also Queen court judge as well, some of the wording and stuff so that it I think works together. From what I can get when you refer to the grammar and everything is to I guess align with the Queen court bench court as well some of the rulings and the language. I think this just does some clarifying. There are some areas where they're making some changes and amendments to wording and grammar, as I said. So there's not a lot in here that's actually ...

And I don't know. Again I go back to there must be a reason why, and hopefully it's been consulted and we'll have a chance to have more of a debate if there is going to be any impact that will impact anybody out there, hopefully through that process as we debate with the screening and those that, you know, as we consult and we talk to individuals. They may be simple changes that are just housecleaning and that's fine if that's so needed.

So really at this point, I don't have a lot to talk about it. My colleagues may have, but other critics may have, and we may get clarification on that. So at this point I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 6.

[15:30]

The Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved adjournment on Bill No. 6, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 7

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 7 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2)*/Loi n° 2 de 2016 modifiant le droit législatif** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 7, *The Statute Law Amendment Act*. And I guess this is, again this is a bilingual Act that goes from English and French. Again, it's just the previous bill I talked about. We have bilingual Acts, and this one will just be in compliance with what we are proposing to amend as the legislation will go through that process.

So Bill No. 7 makes those changes to the bilingual Act, Bill No. 7. So at this point, again I don't have a lot of discussion about that bill, so I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill No. 7, at this point to adjourn.

The Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has adjourned debate on No. 7, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2)*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 8

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 8 — *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker, and of course with thanks to the Deputy Premier for the assist in this regard. His help's always, you know, much appreciated, Mr. Speaker.

But to Bill No. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016*, again issuing forth from the Ministry of Justice. You know, sometimes I look at the legislative agenda, Mr. Speaker, and I think to myself it's almost like they've got an entire legislative drafting division over there in Justice or something, for all the different bills that are issuing forth from that entity. And certainly they've played a pretty vital role in the assembling of this lineup, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the bills my colleague was just referring to, the one that I'd had an earlier opportunity to reference, and of course this one, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016*.

And again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of, you know, fair enough, you want to keep the administrative process, when it comes to the function of justice and criminal justice, you want to keep that up to the times. But interestingly enough, where we had electronic documents being referenced in Bill No. 5, this one carves out a special place for issuing certain documents by means of telecommunication, i.e. the fax machine, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So this one may have suffered from too long on the

vine, and maybe we'll be seeing something coming forward as regards to something that actually updates it to the 21st century as opposed to the 20th century. But we'll be looking with great interest, Mr. Speaker, as regards those things that would be communicated by fax, as anticipated in this piece of legislation, versus those things that could be communicated by electronic means, purely and simply, Mr. Speaker.

But again turning to the minister's second reading speech, and certainly it's available on the May 30th, 2016 edition of *Hansard*, page 198, where the minister states:

This Act deals with the procedures for charging people with provincial offences and offences against municipal bylaws. The Act also prescribes the court's power and duties respecting provincial offences, which generally follow the summary conviction provisions of the Criminal Code and the enforcement of fines resulting from those convictions.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we'll be interested to see how the legislation works its way through the whole division between powers that cabinet takes up for itself by way of regulation, what will be left to order-in-council, and how that will all proceed. Certainly there are a number of prerogatives that are secured for the cabinet as regards in being able to move through the means of regulation with this particular piece of legislation.

But you know, we'll look on with great interest to see whether or not this does in fact result in "... the amendments that I'm proposing are aimed at reducing court volumes and improving court efficiency." We'll be very interested to see how that plays out, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be interested to see if that is the case because certainly there are a number of bottlenecks that exist in the justice system as we see it do its work throughout the province and making sure that your courts are providing justice in a timely manner. There's an old saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that justice delayed is justice denied, and certainly if this can do a better job of taking on the bottlenecks that are there in the system in terms of providing better administrative process, we'll be interested to see how that goes.

But I guess, Mr. Speaker, we will be looking to consult more broadly on this piece of legislation with practitioners. And certainly I look forward to some more in-depth thoughts from my colleague from Douglas Park, the opposition critic for Justice, herself a lawyer and someone very familiar and fluent in these issues. And you know, though how she had topped the minister's second reading speech on this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's going to be a challenge because it was certainly a bit of a barnburner.

Anyway with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debates on Bill No. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 9

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 9 — *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join on Bill 9, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act, 2016*.

Just to give some opening comments, I mean, I realize we'll get into some of the discussions, and I think this warrants a further discussion because we're not sure exactly . . . clarification will have to go on this.

You have, I guess, federal court. You have provincial courts, territorial courts that hear certain cases. And in this case I think it's more referring to the amendment to making this tax judgment, that it's on an individual, and maybe it is and we'll get into it. And it might be a corporation, it might be a business, maybe somebody operated a business, small business or whatever. What we'll have to get through and to clarify exactly what changes and what will be impacted and who will be impacted by this amendment that they're proposing right now to change the legislation.

And when you look at the process, and I guess we can go through that, whether it be Saskatchewan, I guess other provinces, whether if I said it's a federal court, whether it's a provincial court, whether it be Revenue Canada. And I assume — and that's why I'm wondering, it's referring to tax, so judgments — so I'm assuming if you've been taken to court by Revenue Canada or by a provincial body for tax, maybe it's a property tax as well. I mean, you're living in another province and you decide to move to Saskatchewan, that there's more complications when you try to enforce a judgment on an individual in another province.

To me it looks like, being of course not a lawyer, but I know there's work that's going to have to be done in clarification on this one. Because I'm not sure again if it's strictly talking about Revenue Canada or if it's talking about provincial tax, if it's talking about property tax. It just says tax judgment enforcement. They're making the change, and I think what it's saying, it's the ability to enforce in Saskatchewan, should another province come forward, to enforce collection of a tax. And like I said, it doesn't refer to strictly one type of tax. It just refers to tax judgment.

So we'll have to work through that and find out, and I know my colleagues will have an opportunity to ask some questions. We'll debate it. We'll do maybe some talks with the minister, their officials, when we have an opportunity in committee to even flesh it out more, not that . . . And this may be, you know, fine to support in the sense of, you know, you're enforcing a judgment and you're making sure that once a judgment has been . . . Obviously the person has gone through a process, and

for whatever reason there is a judgment that goes against an individual, that they can come to Saskatchewan and say, well you can't collect these dollars once I'm over here. Like, I'm here; I'm safe. And I think what it is clearing up is that it makes it easier, that process to make sure you enforce here when someone resides here or comes over, a business or whatever. My understanding I'm getting from that is it clears up that.

It also talks about administrative process, that it's making it easier and doesn't cause more grief or red tape, maybe it gets rid of the red tape that can cause problems to enforce a tax judgment. So when I think about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's kind of where I'm thinking it's coming from. It's clearing up and making it easier to enforce, once a judgment has been placed on an individual, it's going to make it easier for them to enforce that judgment to collect, I guess, taxes that is owed to them.

And like I said, whether it be property tax . . . And I don't know this, but I have to assume they say tax judgment, an order like that. So I'm thinking it could be, like I said, income tax, property tax, provincial, federal tax. Is it Revenue Canada? Is it . . . So there's different taxes that we're talking about whether in force . . . I guess it could be GST [goods and services tax], PST [provincial sales tax] in a province, where you come to Saskatchewan and you think you can . . .

And this is, I think, kind of gets where they're, I believe, making it easier to enforce and to collect the dollars that's owed to another, I guess, province or agency, whether it's government, to collect the dollars whether it's an order or that's been, you know, designated. You've gone through that process and you've been found guilty. The order is now by the court, has been put in place, and you are supposed to comply with that. And I think this is what my understanding is, what it's trying to clarify to make that process easier.

So at this point my colleagues again will probably have more discussions on this, more clarification probably, you know, to consult and we'll have our critic look at this and then go over it and have that opportunity to have the debate in the House but also in committee to flush out any issues or concerns that there may be for residents of the province.

At this time I don't have any further discussions on this bill and I'm prepared to adjourn on this bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 9, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 10

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cox that **Bill No. 10 — *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again, glad to join debate on Bill No. 10, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016*. And certainly, you know, as a card-carrying southerner in this province, Mr. Speaker, it's something that is, you know . . . I'm a bit more used to the golden side or the yellow side of the flag equation, a little less on the green for our beautiful forests in the North. But I do have some experience and some exposure to the beautiful forests that we have in this province and do have, certainly, some knowledge of folks that make their living in this sector. And certainly some of those folks are very closely tied to our caucus and there's advice from those individuals that certainly we'll be counting on as we proceed in our reckoning with this particular piece of legislation, but it's always an interesting thing to see the government making moves on a given sector.

This is a fairly significant piece of legislation, fairly wide ranging in the different measures contained therein and certainly lends itself to a wider ranging consultation. And you know, there are certain aspects of this that will lend themselves well to closer discussion at the committee stage.

[15:45]

But in terms of this particular phase of the consideration of this legislation at second reading, it's with great interest I've read the minister's second reading speech and the way that this piece of legislation provides the government with more powers to make agreements related to the use and reclamation of roads that have been constructed in conjunction with forestry, in terms of allowing for new regulations that change the value of fees for reforestation, the way that this legislation removes the requirement for submitting a forest management plan before starting forestry operations, and the way that it allows for tougher penalties for those who break the laws of forestry. Again we'll be taking a deeper dive into these and be looking to see how it plays out.

But certainly the forestry sector in the province has gone through some tough times, Mr. Speaker. There's certainly some good news stories to be encountered out there, but there are questions that persist. I know that I've been around this House long enough to have been familiar with those that got elected on the pledge for the mill in Prince Albert to be open and families working again, and that has yet to materialize, Mr. Speaker.

I followed with interest the discussion we've had about reforestation in Saskatchewan just this past week. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, you've got areas with, in some cases, more than 70 per cent unemployment and at the same time tenders being let out to outside of province. Concerns for reforestry efforts, you know, surely to goodness there's some way where we can make this work with the different sort of economic development institutions that are out there in the North and the great work that they've done in other sectors of the economy. And certainly there's got to be a better opportunity for those actors to take up the opportunities that are there in something as straightforward as reforestation, Mr. Speaker, let alone the different sort of value-added components to the industry and how that could be realized.

But again, Mr. Speaker, as often is the case in a caucus, you rely on certainly outside expertise and you certainly rely on the life experience and the expertise of folks that you have the privilege of serving alongside, and you take all that together and you try to put your best opinion forward. And I'll be interested to get further feedback on what is a fairly . . . what can be complex in places certainly, Mr. Speaker, a complex piece of legislation. So with that I would move to adjourn consideration of Bill No. 10, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 10, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 11

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cox that **Bill No. 11 — *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again, good to join debate on Bill No. 11, *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016*. In his fairly lengthy second reading speech, the minister gave a pretty good overview of the professionalization of forestry workers in the province of Saskatchewan, how that has come about, and how that's impacted the way that forestry professionals do their business here in Saskatchewan. He talked to a fair number of . . . He talked about the different subdesignations that have been evolved in terms of the folks that have access to the association that governs the work of foresters, and certainly the designation such as professional forester, professional forest technologist, forester-in-training, forest technologist-in-training.

Again referring to the minister's second reading speech on this and as well, Mr. Speaker, the different folks that were consulted in the work of the forestry professions. But certainly it's encouraging to see the minister referencing different groups such as the Saskatchewan Forestry Association, the Saskatchewan Trappers Association the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Saskatchewan nature, Tourism Saskatchewan, Ducks Unlimited, Saskatchewan Outfitters Association. Although you know if I might speak parenthetically there, Mr. Speaker, we realize there's some there's some turmoil and division within the outfitter community and perhaps that awaits legislation on a further day. But back to the minister's listing: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Saskatchewan Resource Council, and the folks that have played a role in the professionalization of the industry and the development of the Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals.

Again, you know, we're always interested to see what the balance is between a sector getting organized and being able to recognize credentials, and in turn the value that that provides to

the people of Saskatchewan and to be the . . . on the community level or in business. But we'll be interested to see that the different assurances in this piece of legislation that were made by the minister around the consultation that had taken place, to see if that is in fact as it is promoted. But that will await further consultation, and for the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we'll undertake to do that work and do it well, but certainly this follows on Bill No. 10. But with that being said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 11, *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 11, *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 12

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 12 — *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 12, *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016*. Going through I guess a little bit about it, they're doing some updates and definitions of clinical nurse to be in line with the bylaws of the SRNA, Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association.

So they're making those changes and they'll be within the bylaws of that organization. Now I'm not sure, and again this process . . . I talked about this earlier, obviously, and I'm hoping that, you know, the ministry, the minister, the officials have gone through a process obviously to make these changes and to make the amendments that they want. And again I always provide that opportunity to make sure that we've consulted with those that will be impacted and affected by the changes and amendments, and I'm hoping that process has happened and that the government has gone through that process.

Now having said that, we may have to actually, as a critic, as opposition, as members opposite, they can inquire to individuals and have those conversations with individuals when we're making changes to legislation that is supposed to affect our province and certain individuals. That's where you want, all of us, we have a due diligence and, you know, an obligation to make sure legislation changes, amendments we're doing, are the right ones as best we can. I mean we can't . . . At the end of the day we'd like to say we get everything perfect. I'll disagree on that one. You know, government has passed legislation that has not been perfect and has hurt many people in this province. But having said that, you know, they're making some changes.

The other area that I noticed they were talking about, it's adding

different reporting duties of nurse practitioners, how they report certain . . . If they're treating certain individuals for a certain disease, I guess, there's a reporting process that they want them to have. So that's in there as well. There's some changes. But again I don't know exactly the clarification. It'll have to be worked out, and we need to find out exactly what that is. And we have that opportunity to make sure it's done right, it covers off what needs to be done.

And hopefully again the minister and the officials have done the work that they needed to do to make sure we get it right so that we're not later on changing something or adding things. So hopefully, you know, when we pass it, it's not saying legislation that passed . . . I know this government has not always made it perfect. They've had to make changes shortly after and have done that. And maybe all governments do that, you know, to be fair. That's fine. That may have to do.

At this bill when we talked about miscellaneous changes, there's also something else that's been referred to, and it allows government to create a new public health registry system similar to one in place for restaurants. And I mean that's another area where I think needs to have further scrutiny here on our side, but also hopefully the work has been done with the minister and why they're proposing these amendments coming forward. So I'm hoping that they've done the work that needs to be done and have asked, and why. So at this point I don't know why it is in there, but there must be a reason why, and maybe through committee and explanation of the minister, you know, it'll be figured out and it's fine. And sometimes these are things that are fine, but sometimes we have to go through the process to make sure we've asked them the questions. And I've talked about that, making sure those individuals are consulted, talked to. And sometimes they're straightforward and it's just . . . We've supported different legislation, and maybe these are just fine and it's just, you know, some changes they're proposing and they want to do.

So at this point, you know, my colleagues may have more questions, and we have a chance to debate this more and then go into committee and get some clarification, consult with those that are out there, our nurse practitioners, our RNs [registered nurse], and talk to them, the associations that are represented and will be impacted, to make sure, whether it's families or individuals, patients that will be impacted, to make sure we've done our due diligence.

So at this point I have no further discussions on Bill No. 12, *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016*, and I adjourn on that.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 12, *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 13

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 13 — *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Good to join debate on Bill No. 13, *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016*. Certainly as I had occasion to be painfully reminded this weekend in a couple of different circumstances, Mr. Deputy Speaker, cancer is a plague that affects far too many lives, and often as not, tragically and fatally, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I guess when it comes to efforts aimed at bolstering the efforts by which we take on cancer, be it cancer care or cancer control efforts, Mr. Speaker, I mean sign me up. This particular piece of legislation, as behooves legislation aimed at the functioning of a given organization in the main, has to do with the way that the work of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency both asserts its proper legislative authority, the way that it interacts and reports to different registries, both on a Canadian basis and an international basis. It clarifies the situation wherein if the legislation is in dispute between regional health authorities and the Cancer Agency itself, how that is adjudicated.

[16:00]

But in the main, Mr. Speaker, I think the primary benefit coming from this piece of legislation . . . And just one other aspect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of the way that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner will be consulted about the agency's ability to collect information and disclose it for specific purposes and to specific organizations that will be prescribed through the regulations. Again, Mr. Speaker, that's what the independent officers are there for. And certainly we've seen different passes in the career of this government, and certainly in other jurisdictions, where privacy is compromised by the way that different agencies care for it.

But the main thing that I see of benefit in terms of the work of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is the way that information is collected, the way the agency will be able to maintain “. . . an accurate picture of an individual's care status and a more accurate picture of cancer services provided to Saskatchewan citizens.” That's from the minister's second reading speech.

But again, Mr. Speaker, knowledge is power, and it's certainly the case when we take on illnesses, diseases such as cancer. And Saskatchewan has a long and determined history when it comes to different measures of cancer treatment and the different way government organizes alongside community to take on cancer. And that fight is not, that battle is not won yet, Mr. Speaker, to say the least.

So in aid of better cancer treatment and in better information gathering that will strengthen the hand of those who are out there in the front lines taking on cancer and its horrendous impact on far too many lives, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I look with great interest at this piece of legislation and will look forward to a more detailed discussion as regards who was consulted and how this piece of legislation will go forward and what the expected outcomes will be, Mr. Speaker. But as it stands for the moment, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 13, *The*

Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 13, *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 14

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 14 — *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on debate Bill No. 14, *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016*. It's interesting this bill, actually, is being repealed. Obviously it's not needed, and the minister talked about it in his notes, 1939. And I don't know who was all born at that time but apparently that's when this bill came into play. And it was interesting, having a little discussion and looking at some of the comments, you know, the reasons why we had this bill in the first place. And now today it's about \$2 for dehorning.

But actually, you know, talking about that, growing up, you know, and spending a lot of time on the farm back home with my grandfather and, you know, my grandmother, and at certain times of the year you end up . . . You dehorned and you did a few other things, you know, to the animals to get them ready. But having said that, whether we were branding and stuff, it's interesting at that time, you know, horns. And it does a lot of damage so they're repealing this where they collect the \$2. And it's probably spending more money.

And we know that the government's looking to ways to find cost savings and, you know, maybe this is one area they're spending a lot of money so they're going to save some money.

So at the end of the day what they're doing, they're repealing it. It's not going to exist. And maybe the cattle association has brought it forward themselves as a discussion as the government saying, it just doesn't make sense any more. It's costing us more money. You know, that might be the fact here but I guess at this point I have no further comments about it. They're repealing it. It no longer exists. At this point, I'm prepared to adjourn on it.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 14, *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:05.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Beaudry-Mellor	215
Sproule	215
Buckingham	215
Belanger	215
Weekes	215
Hargrave	216
Duncan	216
Rancourt	216

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Belanger	216
Sproule	216

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

University of Regina Professors Recognized for Excellence

Beaudry-Mellor	217
----------------------	-----

Prince Albert Educator Receives Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal

Rancourt	217
----------------	-----

Rise Up National Walk to End Violence

Hargrave	217
----------------	-----

Saskatoon YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

Sproule	217
---------------	-----

Davidson Residents Travel to Costa Rica with Operation Christmas Child

Brkich	218
--------------	-----

Breakfast Café in Preeceville Wins Bursary

Dennis	218
--------------	-----

Yorkton Film Festival Golden Sheaf Awards

Ottenbreit	218
------------------	-----

QUESTION PERIOD

Government's Fiscal Management

Wotherspoon	219
Wall	219

Funding for Education Infrastructure

Wotherspoon	219
Wall	219
Beck	220
Morgan	220

Support for Education in Northern Communities

Belanger	220
Morgan	221
Vermette	221
McCall	221

Provincial Funding for First Nations and Métis Education

McCall	221
Morgan	221

Federal Funding for First Nations Education

Wotherspoon	221
Wall	222

Reaction to SaskPower Rate Increases

Sproule	222
Boyd	222

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker	223
-------------------	-----

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Merriman	223
----------------	-----

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 15 — *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016*

Wyant	223
Belanger	224

Bill No. 16 — *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'adoption*

Harpauer	226
Belanger	227

ADJOURNED DEBATES**SECOND READINGS**

Bill No. 3 — <i>The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
Beck	230
Cheveldayoff (referral to Human Services Committee)	230
Bill No. 2 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Crown Corporations' Fiscal Year End Standardization) Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
McCall	230
Bill No. 4 — <i>The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016/ Loi modificative de 2016 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine</i>	
Vermette	232
Bill No. 5 — <i>The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
McCall	233
Bill No. 6 — <i>The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
Vermette	233
Bill No. 7 — <i>The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2)/Loi no 2 de 2016 modifiant le droit législatif</i>	
Vermette	234
Bill No. 8 — <i>The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
McCall	234
Bill No. 9 — <i>The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016</i> <i>Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens</i>	
Vermette	235
Bill No. 10 — <i>The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
McCall	236
Bill No. 11 — <i>The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
McCall	236
Bill No. 12 — <i>The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
Vermette	237
Bill No. 13 — <i>The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
McCall	238
Bill No. 14 — <i>The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016</i>	
Vermette	238

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of the Economy
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Jennifer Campeau
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Herb Cox
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Mark Docherty
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. Kevin Doherty
Minister of Finance

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister Responsible for Immigration,
Jobs, Skills and Training
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Don McMorris
Deputy Premier
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

Hon. Scott Moe
Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Lyle Stewart
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds