



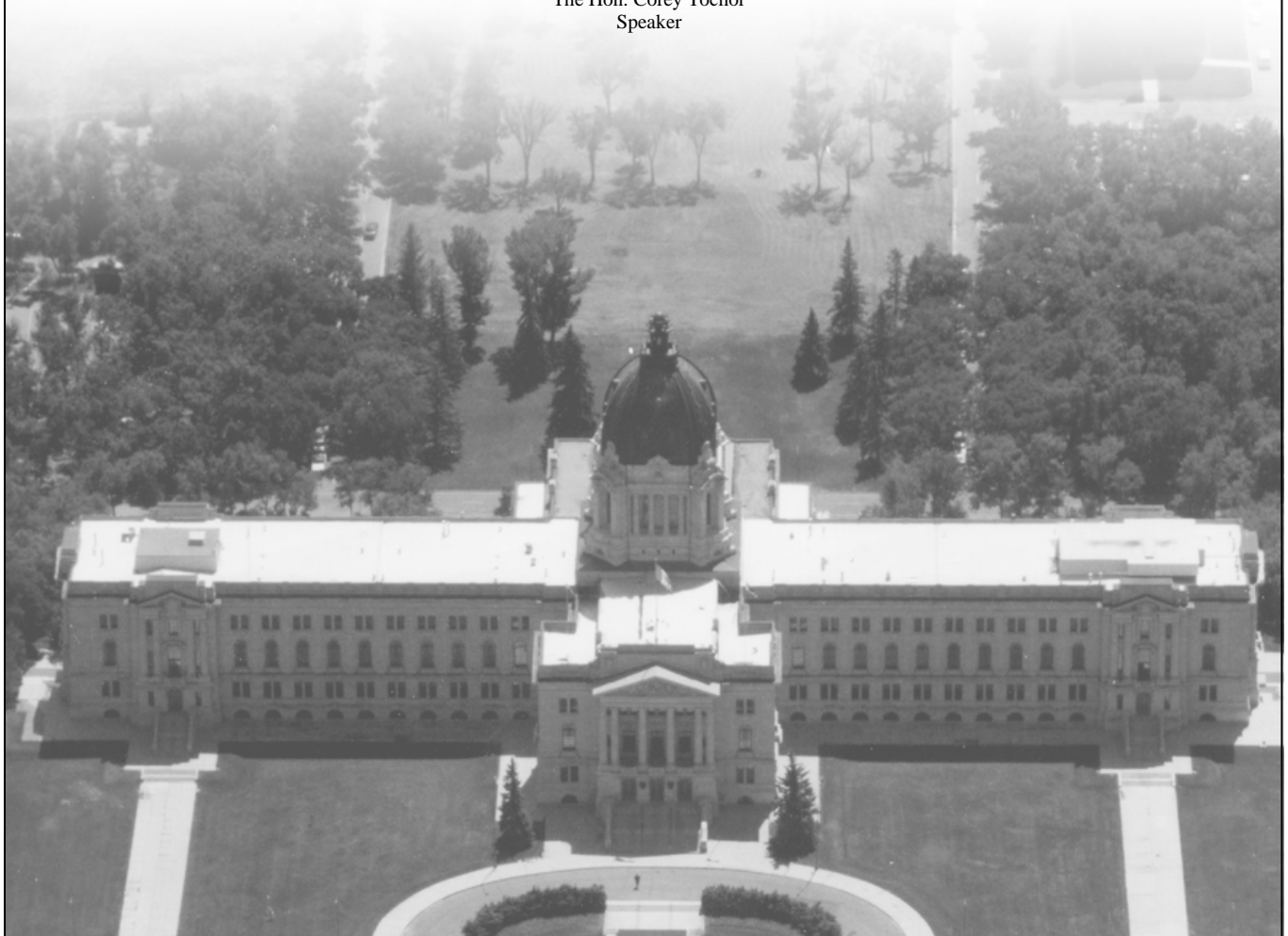
FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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

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Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hart, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

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Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Makowsky, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

McCall, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

McMorris, Don — Indian Head-Milestone (Ind.)

Merriman, Hon. 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)

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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) — 50; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 10; Independent (Ind.) — 1

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave to make a personal statement.

The Speaker: — The member has asked for leave to make a statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Apology

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on August the 5th I was charged with impaired driving. On September the 7th I pleaded guilty to that charge. At that time I spoke to the media. I apologized and wanted to apologize to my colleagues through the media. This is my first opportunity to do it in person. My actions, there is no rationale and no excuses, absolutely none for it. So with that I apologize to the members of this House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction of Sergeant-at-Arms

The Speaker: — I would like to present to the Assembly our new Sergeant-at-Arms, Terry Quinn.

Introduction of Pages

The Speaker: — I wish to inform the Assembly that the Pages for this session will be Hannah Dove — if she would please rise — Chase Drydale, Tina Knowles, Linnea McLellan, Nicolette Merasty, and Emma Walter. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Also today, joining us in the Speaker's gallery are several members of the officers of the Assembly: Ms. Mary McFadyen, Ombudsman, if she would quickly give us a wave; Mr. Ron Barclay, Conflict of Interest Commissioner; Mr. Michael Boda, Chief Electoral Officer. Please join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to my colleagues in the legislature, I'd like to bring to your attention a group sitting up in the Speaker's

gallery joining us here today. Several of my colleagues and I had the opportunity to meet with them while in town the last couple of days for their government relations days, Mr. Speaker.

Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada, is the association of choice for financial advisers and planners. With more than 11,000 members across the country and 500 here in Saskatchewan, Advocis is the definitive voice of the profession advocating for professionalism and consumer protection.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and to colleagues, and if they'll just give us a wave as I read out their name: Dean Owen; Abe Toews; Brian Mallard; John Dean . . . John's not here. Okay. Edward Ortiz; Greg Pollock, who's the president of the association; Andrew Kimber; Wade Baldwin; Walter Klassen; and Curtis Kimpton, Mr. Speaker, from Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these members of Advocis to the Legislative Assembly today.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I too rise to welcome individuals from Advocis here to their Assembly today. We had a fruitful meeting with them this morning and actually suggested they might want to give the Minister of Finance a little bit of help as well because we know he needs it. But we certainly had a fruitful meeting and we really appreciate the work that this group is doing and we really appreciate that you are advocating for the people of Saskatchewan and ensuring that we're protected when we are getting advice from financial advisers.

So thank you very much. Look forward to more fruitful discussions with you, and good luck and keep up the good work. So I'd like to welcome you all to your Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce a number of NORTEP [northern teacher education program] students who have made the drive from La Ronge to visit their legislature today. I've met a few of them before. When I was in La Ronge last month on a beautiful sunny day we had a cordial meeting. These are students who are engaged in their future and in the sustainability of post-secondary education in the North. And I would ask all members to join me and welcome this group to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave to make an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Opposition House

Leader.

Mr. McCall: — With thanks to my colleagues for that leave, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce the group that was just referenced. Seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are a group of students that have come a long way to be here today from NORTEP and NORPAC [Northern Professional Access College], headquartered in La Ronge of course. I'd like to introduce to the Assembly Rod Hansen, Alicia Maurice, Rielle Desjarlais — right on, two hands — Alex Mercredi, Scott Young, Jerilyn McKay, Elizabeth Fosseneuve, Jocelyn Daigneault, Amie Bell, and April Chiefcalf.

They are joined as well, Mr. Speaker, by two individuals from the Canadian Federation of Students. I am speaking of Carolyn Gaspar, who is at the University of Saskatchewan, who is the Graduate Students' Association vice-president, and Daniel Woloshin, a student here at the University of Regina and field organizer for the Canadian Federation of Students in the province of Saskatchewan.

Like I say, Mr. Speaker, these are individuals that have come a long way to be here today at their Legislative Assembly, and they are here because they are concerned about the future of their very important organization, NORTEP and NORPAC.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in saying tawāw, welcome to your Assembly. And thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, in the west gallery I'd like to introduce two friends of mine, Rick and James Dempsey. Rick and I go back a long ways. We went to university, well, back in the '70s — I don't know if I should say that — at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] and we both took the same diploma course in agriculture. And so it's been a long time since I've seen Rick. Rick and his son James are financial planners. They live in Lethbridge, Alberta and they are considering moving back to Saskatchewan, so I hope they do. So please join me in welcoming them to our Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues in the legislature, I'd like to also join the minister and my colleague on this side, the critic for post-secondary education, to welcome the NORTEP students. I want to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly. It's important what you're doing, you know, and I want to make sure that you understand this is your Legislative Assembly. You have a voice and we are going to welcome you here. Be proud of what you're doing.

I want to take time and just announce two of these graduates and students that are from NORTEP but they're from my home community, you know, when I think about that and I just want to . . . There's three of them that are here: a young lady, Ms. Bell; and April, I would like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly; and Elizabeth as well, I would like to welcome you here. But to all students I'd like to . . . but these

members I see around my community lots so I'd like to welcome. But the rest from all over the North, keep up what you're doing. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, and again it is an honour to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly. I ask all colleagues to please join me in welcoming them.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, it's with great pleasure I introduce to you, through you to all members of the Assembly a nice young friend of mine, 15-year-old Ethan Thomson up in your gallery. Can you give us a wave, Ethan?

Ethan just moved from Yorkton with his parents Pat and Andrea Thomson, who are great friends of ours. They just took over a church in Taber so, you know, more friends from Alberta. Great people that were in our community, again taking over that church.

Ethan is visiting with me here today and tomorrow for a while. Ethan's again a great young student. We have a similar love of aviation. He's been very involved in Air Cadets before he left Yorkton. He's looking forward to a career in the military as a fighter pilot so, you know, I just thank him for his service in the future, and ask all members to welcome him to this Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join in welcoming all the students, these students of power from northern Saskatchewan. I'm so glad that they're here. I'm so pleased that they've decided to exercise their democratic right to come forward to speak about an injustice served to northern Saskatchewan and NORTEP-NORPAC program.

And I want to say in my own language, in my own Cree language:

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

And in Cree it says, I'm so glad you're here, and do not let fear guide you of this place, because this place is yours. So once again, Mr. Speaker, I welcome all those students from NORTEP-NORPAC. Way to go. You're the best.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seated in the west gallery are 17 students from the Punnichy Community High School. They are, I'm told, mostly grade 12 students with one or two grade 11 students. But they are the students that are in the law 30 and native studies 30 classes. I had an opportunity to visit with the students and their teachers, Mr. Matthew McMillan and Mr. Perry Fehr, earlier.

I understand they were out at RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] Depot this morning. And they are here visiting with us today and will be observing the proceedings of the legislature,

Mr. Speaker. I know they will have probably a lot more questions after they've seen what happens in the Chamber. Unfortunately I think they have to get back fairly quickly. But, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members of the Assembly to welcome these students to their legislature.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the House, I'd like to introduce six very special guests in your gallery. These are members of the Service Employees International Union, SEIU here. You know, these folks work so hard for their members, talking about working conditions, wages, and that, but they also have a much bigger view of the world, talking about global issues such as climate change, living wages, that type of thing.

I'd like to introduce to you Sharon Cameron — if you could give a wave, Sharon — Catherine Anderson, Denise McConnell, Karen Purdy, Shelly Johnson, and Neil Colmin. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming the members of SEIU to the legislature today. We're always pleased when members of organized labour come. The people that work in our province provide incredible value and services to our province, and they're a voice that should be respected, listened to. And we thank them for being here today and we welcome them to their legislature. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce a person seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker: Ms. Barb Wright. Barb is a constituency assistant for the constituency of Saskatoon Willowgrove. And talking to her earlier today, she said she estimates she's been in the legislature here 25 to 30 times when she was a teacher bringing classes year after year.

Barb's made a great contribution to education in Saskatchewan, as well as arts and sports, and she certainly has made her province a better place. So I'd ask you, Mr. Speaker, and all members to help welcome Barb to the Legislative Assembly this afternoon.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is my honour today to introduce two special guests seated in your gallery. I'd like to welcome Tim and Pamela Guest here to their Legislative Assembly. In addition to being the parents of two busy young boys, they have also, particularly Pamela has been a tireless and passionate advocate for children in our province.

This summer she has spent her time with her supporters collecting over 400 signatures on a petition in support of sexual abuse prevention curriculum in our province. And I'd like to have all members join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Ms. Lambert: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce Bill Gowen, seated in the west gallery. Bill is a good and trusted friend, and he was my campaign manager during the provincial election campaign. He performed admirably, and I am most grateful for his efforts. In his day job Bill is a manager with Sanofi Canada. I ask all members to join me in welcoming him to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Economy.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure today to introduce a very good friend of mine, Mr. Tigger Johnson, located in the west gallery. Tigger, I think is very familiar with many members on both sides of the House: a political activist, and I'm proud to say a fellow Meadow Laker who I have known since I've been quite young. So it's great to see you here, Tigger, and I'd ask all members to welcome Tigger to his Assembly.

The Speaker: — I too would like to welcome all the guests today to their Assembly. And I would like to also remind them that they are not to take part in debate, which includes applause.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise again to present a petition to improve PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] coverage for Saskatchewan workers. The petitioners point out that delaying in diagnosis and treatment for PTSD can be detrimental to recovery and that PTSD is not on the list of workers' compensation illnesses presumed to be work related. And they also point out that many workers suffering from work-related PTSD are burdened by lengthy investigations and approval processes.

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Saskatchewan government to make the necessary changes to ensure that if Saskatchewan workers are exposed to traumatic events on the job and are then diagnosed with PTSD, it is presumed to be caused by the worker's employment, and the worker will subsequently be covered under workers' compensation and receive the same benefits as others with work-related injuries.

Mr. Speaker, this petition today is signed by folks from Shaunavon, Maple Creek, Saskatoon, and Eastend. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

Ms. Carr: — I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition from the citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Estevan, Torquay, Kenosee Lake, Bienfait, Lampman, Benson, Macoun, North Portal, Stoughton, Oxbow, and Weyburn. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to stand in my place to present a petition for a second bridge for Prince Albert. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

To ask the Saskatchewan Party government to stop stalling, hiding behind rhetoric and refusing to listen to the people calling for action, and to begin immediately to plan and then quickly commence the construction of a second bridge for Prince Albert using federal and provincial dollars.

And the people that have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, are primarily from Prince Albert and area. And I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too am proud to rise in my seat to present the following petition. The people that have signed this want to bring to our attention the following. Wetlands serve a very vital function in our ecosystem, and they take the form of marshes, bogs, fens, swamps, and open water. They are home to wildlife, including waterfowl, and they clean the water running off of agricultural fields. They protect us from flooding and drought. There is more comments here, Mr. Speaker, but the petition itself is quite long, so I'll start with that:

We, in the petition 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 water resource.

Speed up the evaluation of high-risk watersheds where there is significant damage annually from flooding. This evaluation must include a recognition of drainage works that could be closed or restored that will alleviate some of

the issues downstream with respect to flooding and nutrient loading.

Create a sound and transparent mitigation process that adequately addresses sustainable development.

The sequence should first focus on avoiding the environmental harm whenever possible before a secondary focus on minimizing the harm, with compensation being sought only when the development is deemed essential and the first two stages cannot be met.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by individuals from Regina, Saskatoon, and Dundurn. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of Wakamow Valley Authority. And we know that as a result of the passage of *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016* on June 30th, the Wakamow Valley Authority lost statutory funding of \$127,000 from the Saskatchewan government, in addition to \$30,000 in supplementary funding. But this loss of annual funding negatively affects the ability of Wakamow to maintain and repair its lands and buildings and provide services to its community. It's a well-known fact this will negatively impact the Moose Jaw economy through job loss and negatively impacts Moose Jaw tourism and businesses.

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to immediately repeal *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016* and reinstate statutory funding to the Wakamow Valley Authority.

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Moose Jaw and Regina. Thank you.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present to you a petition condemning the Sask Party cuts to the SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] program. After nearly a decade of wasting the economic boom and blowing through the savings, the government is now forcing the province's most vulnerable people to pay for the Sask Party's mismanagement.

The Sask Party's latest cold-hearted cut will take money away from people who aren't able to work due to disability. The many people who are being hurt by the Sask Party cuts live with very serious illnesses such as multiple sclerosis, cancer,

autism, among other illnesses. And that contrary to the Minister of Social Services' claims, the government underfunds clients in regards to shelter allowance, and that shelter allowance should be reflective of the current rental costs, not availability.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to stop their plan to cut the SAID funding and immediately restore funding for those living with a disability; that shelter allowance is reflective of the current rental costs; and that the Saskatchewan Party government implement the recommendations of the advisory group on poverty reduction.

Mr. Speaker, the residents who signed this petition are from Saskatoon, Regina, Weyburn, Cumberland House, and Dalmeny. I do so present.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of a sexual abuse prevention curriculum in Saskatchewan. Those signing this petition would like to bring the following to our attention. Saskatchewan has the second highest rate of sexual child abuse in Canada. Impacts of this abuse include decreased school attendance and achievement, decreased productivity throughout the lifespan. Other impacts include that those experiencing childhood sexual abuse are four times more likely to commit suicide.

Currently there is no comprehensive elementary or secondary curriculum regarding prevention and reporting of sexual child abuse in Saskatchewan and, as a province, it is our shared responsibility to protect children and youth to educate them, as every child has the right to be protected and safe. I'll read the prayer:

Requesting that the Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Education take immediate concrete action to develop and implement Erin's law; and that such legislation would ensure that a comprehensive health education program be developed and implemented which would require age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades pre-kindergarten through grade 12, along with training school staff on the prevention of sexual child abuse.

Those signing the petition are residents of Yellow Grass and Weyburn. I do submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition concerned with the sell-off of SaskTel. The petitioners point out that in the last five years alone, SaskTel's returned \$497 million to support government programs and services like education and health care. They point out that once SaskTel is gone, there's no getting it back. And there's no telling what else the Sask Party government will sell off. Mr. Speaker, in the prayer that reads as follows:

The petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to keep their promise, stop their plan to sell off SaskTel, and keep our valued Crown corporation in the hands of Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by people from Moose Jaw and Swift Current. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to stop the redirection of funding of the Northern Teacher Education Program Council, Inc. A recent report shows that 94 per cent of NORTEP grads found employment in the North. NORTEP has improved teacher retention rates in the North. NORTEP has a positive economic impact in northern Saskatchewan. NORTEP provides highly qualified face-to-face instruction and services to students. The province's financial deficit cannot be fixed by cutting indigenous education in the North and a program that has served the North for over 40 years. The prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to immediately restore their five-year agreement to fund the Northern Teacher Education Program Council, Inc. and continue to fund NORTEP-NORPAC programs in La Ronge.

This petition is signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Northern Teacher Education Program

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. For 40 years the NORTEP-NORPAC program has been working for northern communities to provide teacher education in the North with the focus on treaties, northern knowledge, elders, and languages. This valuable program has nurtured generations of teachers in communities across the North. It's no secret that this is where we need to continue to focus. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] commission, and this government's own task force talked about and points out the type of work going on at NORTEP and NORPAC as the best way forward to improve the lives of indigenous people in the North.

Amie Bell, the NORTEP student president, says, and I quote:

In the past week there have been four youth suicides in our northern communities. In light of this tragedy, it's a shame that our government is threatening to close down a program that plays a crucial role in providing education and hope to northern indigenous youth.

This program has been a success for so many years because it's run by and for northerners. Northerners' control over northern education is so important to improving northern communities.

And the last thing that the North needs is this problem from the Sask Party government imposed upon them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in condemning this callous cut to the NORTEP-NORPAC program, a cut that attacks northern education, northern jobs, and northern communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

There is Help and There is Hope

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our province is in mourning. We have lost the lives of four young children far before their time. Tragically these children took their own lives. Our most heartfelt condolences go to the families and to the communities during this difficult time. As a parent and grandparent, that is our biggest fear. I can't imagine the loss that you feel.

Mental health continues to be a prominent issue in northern, rural, and remote communities across Canada, and despite all efforts, the situation has become increasingly tragic in northern Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we have worked with all levels of government to ensure supports are available in any community that has experienced tragedy and loss, and it's important that we continue to do so.

We know that this devastating situation requires attention and effort from every level of government. We can and we must do better. The professionals who have provided support during this time deserve our unwavering support and our gratitude. The communities affected need to know that we are here now and in the days to come. We want everyone to know that there is help and that there is hope. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[14:00]

Middle Years Classroom Chat

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Vice-Principal Farrah Graham and the 7-8 and 8-9 classes at Milestone School. Today these 50 students from Milestone will be moderating a live online discussion at #myclasschat. This Twitter chat occurs every six to eight weeks and the hashtag stands for middle years classroom chat. Involving students from grades 5 to 9, this is a student-run chat led by the moderating class which chooses the theme and questions, then promotes and manages the live event. In addition to classes from around Saskatchewan, previous chats have welcomed participant classes from Ontario, Alberta, California, and even Africa.

While meeting the middle years English language arts outcomes, this forum also provides real-world opportunities for students to participate in positive online interactions and promotes sharing and networking between students in varying communities.

Today students will be chatting on the Education Week theme: Celebrating Today, Preparing for Tomorrow. They expect at

least 200 participating students from schools such as Ruth Pawson School here in Regina, Emerald Ridge School in White City, Aberdeen School, Luseland School, St. Dominic School, three classes from École St. Margaret School in Moose Jaw, Pilot Butte School in Pilot Butte.

I would ask that all members join me in acknowledging the good work of Ms. Graham, her students, and all of those preparing for the future in our schools across the province, this week and every week. Thank you.

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

Saskatchewan Physicist Selected for Prestigious Fellowship

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to recognize a Saskatchewan physicist who was recently selected for a fellowship at the prestigious Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Ontario.

Percy Paul, who hails from the English River First Nation in northern Saskatchewan, was awarded one of the only 20 spots in the visiting graduate fellows program to study and research alongside some of the world's brightest scientific minds.

Mr. Speaker, his story was recently featured in a *StarPhoenix* article which told of Mr. Paul's struggle with bipolar disorder, his sometimes difficult childhood, but more importantly his exceptional passion and gift for understanding science. At a young age, Mr. Paul pursued his interest by spending much of his time reading as many scientific publications as he could get his hands on.

While he continued to face hardship throughout his university life, that didn't stop him from winning a gold medal at the North American Indigenous Games and eventually attain a master's degree in physics.

Mr. Speaker, despite all the obstacles and adversity Mr. Paul faced, his story is one of encouragement and tenacity. I ask all members to join me in congratulating him on his remarkable academic achievement, and for being an inspiration to First Nations youth and young scientists throughout the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Remembering Shirley Ryan

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the Saskatoon business community lost a pioneer, Shirley Ryan.

Shirley proudly occupied the role as the head of the North Saskatoon Business Association for 19 years. And throughout those years, Mr. Speaker, Shirley was a major driving force behind membership growth and business advocacy.

Shirley was recognized for her involvement, and received many awards and recognitions. In 2010 the NSBA [North Saskatoon

Business Association] honoured her with the first-ever Shirley Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award, an annual award which continues to bear her name out of respect and honour.

Mr. Speaker, Shirley impacted the community in many ways. As much as she was a strong businesswoman, she was also a mentor, a friend to many people across Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, she was my friend and a friend to many on this side of the House.

At her retirement party — she had over 600 people in attendance — Shirley proudly declared that the formation of the Saskatchewan Party took place in her very own living room. Whether it was business, politics, or friendship, Shirley could be counted on to do the best that she could. Her tenacity, passion, quick wit, and sharp tongue will be greatly missed.

I last spoke to her, Mr. Speaker, three weeks ago when I heard her sharp-tongued criticism of something that I had suggested. And I will miss that, Mr. Speaker.

So it is without question, Mr. Speaker, that Shirley made Saskatchewan a better place. She will be truly missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Domestic Violence Shelter Opens in Melfort

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the House today to inform members about the opening of the North East Domestic Violence Shelter in Melfort on October 13th. This emergency shelter will help up to 16 women and their children who are fleeing domestic violence and serve the northeast area for many years to come.

This project was undertaken by North East Outreach with community and government involvement. And, Mr. Speaker, construction started on this in the spring of 2014 and unfortunately that November it was completely destroyed by fire. But this community didn't give up. Instead it strengthened its resolve to help women and children escape domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, our government and the Government of Canada have jointly contributed over \$1.6 million under the Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement. Further annual funding is provided through the Ministry of Justice's residential crisis services program and family violence outreach program.

Mr. Speaker, this story is about more than a building. It's about recognizing a community coming together to address a need. Mr. Speaker, our government is proud of what has been accomplished in Melfort and I would like to invite all members of the House to join me in acknowledging everyone involved in completing this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Martensville-Warman.

Election Spending

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for

years we have heard the NDP [New Democratic Party] angrily denouncing the use of out-of-province consultants. They actually even campaigned on it in the last election. But of course, like most things with the NDP, they say one thing and do the complete opposite.

The NDP just filed its provincial election return, and guess what? Almost three-quarters of their election spending went to out-of-province consultants and staffers: 236,000 to a company out of Vancouver; 118,000 to a company out of Toronto; \$84,000 to cStreet Campaigns of Toronto for their website and social media. How did that work out for them? 61,000 to Strategic Communications of Vancouver for election consulting, whatever that means; \$7,000 to Paper Chase Communications of Mississauga to do their tour planning. They even brought in a company from Ottawa, Project X Productions, and paid them \$33,000 to do their sound and lighting.

Mr. Speaker, on top of that, they paid a total of \$71,000 to 19 campaign staffers. Apparently they couldn't find any talent in the province. They brought them in from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, Burnaby, London, Kitchener, Saanich, Nepean, and Mississauga. In total, Mr. Speaker, over 630,000 of their \$870,000 that they spent on their provincial campaign went to out-of-province consultants and staffers. And, Mr. Speaker, considering the result of the last election was 10 seats and the worst showing that the NDP have seen when it comes to popular vote, the question is, are they going to be asking for a refund or at least a value-for-money audit, Mr. Speaker?

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Youth Suicides in the North

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, in politics the words tragedy and crisis are sometimes used so much that we can almost lose sight of what they actually mean. Yesterday we heard of a 10-year-old who ended her own life in our province. She was the fourth child in the North in less than two weeks to decide that she had so little hope, so much darkness and despair, that suicide was her answer.

Mr. Speaker, this crisis is playing out in the North, but it affects all the people of Saskatchewan in every corner of our province. To the Premier: what steps is his government taking to address this horribly tragic crisis that none of us can accept?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for leading off the first question period of the fall session as he has just done. There really are no words that we have to express our sorrow at the tragedy that has happened. Neither are there words to properly express our concern for what might lead young people to this conclusion in the numbers that we have seen.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that as a result of and prior to these particular examples, these tragedies, this loss of life, there have been actions taken by local leadership and also by the

provincial government and provincial agencies. The health region is connected with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band health and Stanley Mission Health Centre to initiate the local emergency operations centre. Health regions, First Nations, community and government partners participate in the daily emergency call. And there was an ops [operations] call this morning to discuss a plan to provide specific support for the Deschambault area.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of suicides in the North has been a top concern for local leaders and for the provincial government for some number of years. We have moved through the health region and through the ministries proper to provide better support, improved support. Clearly more needs to be done, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to respond to these suicides and work very, very hard with local leadership to ensure that they stop.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education has confirmed that their ministry works with, will continue working with Lac La Ronge Band and that there will be, through the Northern Lights School District, a meeting upcoming here later this month on this particular issue. That's just one example of work that we need to do with respect to the North and with respect to our young people there. We can afford to lose no more.

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

Role of Global Transportation Hub in Land Acquisitions

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, thanks for the response. I just need to let the Premier know that we're here as an opposition to stand with those communities and these people, the government, on any constructive measures, meaningful efforts that will reach out and respond to this crisis in meaningful ways, short term and long term, and we're here as partners.

Now we're back into the Legislative Assembly, and I am shifting gears a bit. There's question after question on so many fronts for this Sask Party government, so many areas that Saskatchewan people deserve answers from this Sask Party government.

And when it comes to the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal of this government, there are so many serious questions lingering. So let me start with a very simple one: why was the GTH used to buy the parcel of land instead of the normal practice of Highways acquiring it for far less, as they were planning to do?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Just as a follow-up to the Leader of the Opposition's first question, I do want to put on the record and point out for anybody watching the proceedings that there is a number to call for help. It's 811, and we're going to work hard to make sure that number is well known. And the suicide intervention workshops that I was referencing in the North are slated for October 24 through 27.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the GTH issue, I want to again share with members that when concerns were first raised about

the issue, the minister, then minister responsible went to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner indicated he was not in any conflict at all.

When the issues continued, it was the cabinet and the Government of Saskatchewan that referred the matter to the Provincial Auditor to ask questions as per what the Leader of the Opposition has just asked in the House. And the order in council, the minute of the order in council I think reflects the fact that the government wanted the Provincial Auditor to look at everything and anything related to the deal.

Mr. Speaker, the minute of that cabinet meeting and the order in council references the land purchases, references the Global Transportation Hub, and asks that the Provincial Auditor undertake an investigation and a review, including examination of any transaction leading up to and following the said acquisition.

So there were no limitations placed on the auditor. Moreover, we made sure that all of the cabinet documents, which isn't always the case, were shared with the auditor — anything the auditor wanted. She's made her recommendations, which I expect we'll get into in a subsequent question. We're prepared to stand by her recommendations, to implement them, and we hope the opposition will as well.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, not a single answer from the Premier. The question's simple: why were these lands not acquired by Highways as they were planning to do, and something that would have saved millions of dollars instead of, as happened, the GTH acquiring these lands?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, these questions have been asked in the past. In fact the Provincial Auditor would have had the chance to ask these questions as well, and the auditor did find that the government could have proceeded better in terms of the acquisition itself. In fact I'll quote her from page 19. The auditor's report said, delayed decisions on buying the land during a period of rapidly escalating land values contributed to buying this land at a significantly higher price.

She also did talk about the need for better communication between the government agencies involved, whether it was the Ministry of Highways or whether it was the GTH, Mr. Speaker. But she went on to say other things in her report and in the press release that accompanied the report, including the following: "The audit did not find evidence of conflicts of interest, or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or Board of Directors."

The chairman of the board of directors was the minister responsible, Mr. Speaker. She went on to say during an interview on the 4th of July, 2016:

We're always looking for red flags, and because this is a land transaction, we did look for conflicts of interest. And we didn't find evidence of conflict of interest or indications of fraud or wrongdoing in the course of our

work, so there were no red flags there.

Mr. Speaker, we accept the fact that government should have proceeded differently with respect to the acquisition, but on the matter of the allegations that that member makes, that others perhaps are making with respect of conflict of interest, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has said there are none. The Provincial Auditor has said there are none.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — No one, no one in Saskatchewan believes that that Premier doesn't know what's going on in his own cabinet. A very simple question for the Premier that hasn't been answered: why was Highways used to acquire those lands?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is the auditor had full authority. The cabinet referred the matter to the Provincial Auditor. The Public Accounts Committee also made reference to the Provincial Auditor that gave the Provincial Auditor full authority to examine any of the transactions leading up to and following the said acquisition.

The Provincial Auditor embarked on an audit of her own choosing, doing so in a way she felt would be most productive, and a team of experts to which she recruited to conduct that audit. She had full access to all the documentation and all the individuals that she needed in order to conduct that audit. She did so, and her conclusion was the audit did not find evidence of conflicts of interest, of indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or board of directors, and that includes the former minister, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Questions, not a single answer. We're not here to meet face to face just to say that we did. We're here to demand answers for Saskatchewan people, answers that they are owed.

As it relates to what's been exposed through investigation, a phone call to the minister, then-minister in April of 2012 is an important question to the Premier. Who was it that called the minister?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Provincial Auditor identified challenges. She made a number of recommendations in the context of her report, two of which related to the Global Transportation Hub, eight of which related to the Ministry of Highways. We've accepted those recommendations. We are moving forward on them.

One of the other challenges that were identified by the Provincial Auditor, not a recommendation enumerated in the report, but was around governance and how governance could be strengthened at the GTH. And she referred to their unique

relationship as the minister being a member of the board and also the chairman.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, I informed yesterday the board of the Global Transportation Hub that I would be stepping back from the role as being a member of the board and of being the chairman of the board. Mr. Gordon Houston has agreed to serve as the chairman of the board on an interim basis. And we're going to be moving forward, working with the board in order to address the government's challenge and make sure that governance is even stronger at the GTH going forward.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — This is pathetic. The question was for the Premier as well. Not a single answer from the government here today. The question is simple: who called the minister, and did they have any relationship to the Sask Party-supporting Alberta land baron that rented land to the then minister?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I think what the Leader of the Opposition may be insinuating is that the call was from this Mr. Tappauf to the minister. Both Mr. Tappauf and the minister have indicated they have never met or spoken before, Mr. Speaker. So that matter has been addressed publicly by both Mr. Tappauf and by the minister.

As I said, we're focused on moving the GTH forward, Mr. Speaker. The Provincial Auditor looked into all of these matters, had full authority to look into all of these matters, to address all of these questions, which she did in a very thorough way. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner also took a look at these matters and also addressed them. The Provincial Auditor found that there were no conflicts of interest, no indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or board.

What we are focused on right now is implementing the recommendations that were made by the auditor to ensure that the GTH succeeds going forward.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, weak and inexcusable. Not a single answer. And the question again, put to the Premier of Saskatchewan: it's been exposed through investigation that a confidential cabinet decision was leaked to the land speculator that government purchased land from. Who leaked this information?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — No, as I said, Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor had full scope and authority to look into this matter, which was something that was called for by the members opposite, something that this government and this Premier reacted to.

We asked the Provincial Auditor, we invited the Provincial Auditor to take a wide-ranging review of the matter. The Provincial Auditor did so. She had full authority and full access to every document to which she requested access to. She

interviewed all of the parties whom she felt necessary to interview in order to come to a conclusion. She found that there was no wrongdoing and there was no conflict of interest. That was the Provincial Auditor's conclusion, given full authority to look into the matter in any way in which she felt necessary, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, she said there were no red flags, not even red flags, Mr. Speaker, not to mention no conflicts or no wrongdoing.

So I will take the Provincial Auditor's word for that, Mr. Speaker. I will take the Conflict of Interest Commissioner's word for that, not the Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, these are simple questions to the Premier of Saskatchewan. In a deal that's wasted tens of millions of dollars of hard-earned dollars of Saskatchewan people, they deserve some answers. No answer to why Highways didn't acquire, and GTH, and the political operation was directing the traffic here. No answer about who called the then minister in April of 2012. And no answer about who leaked the information to the land speculator that government bought the land from and paid way too much. What did the Premier do when he learned that that information was leaked? What did he do to investigate that leak? Who has he held accountable?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I'm honestly not sure what the Leader of the Opposition is referring to. There was no reference in the Provincial Auditor's report that I can recall indicating that there was a cabinet leak with respect to any of these matters. If that member has information with respect to that, he should bring that forward and explain that in more detail.

But you know, once again, Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor identified challenges. She did. She made 10 recommendations. We're moving forward on those recommendations. The GTH board, for instance, dealt with the two recommendations for the GTH just yesterday and approved the new policy with respect to the items that she identified.

We identified, I identified as well, a challenge around the governance component. And to that end, Mr. Speaker, I stepped back from the board as of yesterday and will no longer be chairing the GTH board. There has been an interim Chair who's agreed to take the role, who is currently the Vice-Chair, a very, very well-respected individual. And we're going to be making additional changes in the coming weeks to strengthen the governance of the GTH because we want to see the GTH succeed.

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

Measures to Reduce Carbon Emissions

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, it's no surprise that the Premier doesn't want to talk about his scandal. His latest distraction started as a Twitter tantrum, and it hit full theatrical flight yesterday. Now of course we are opposed to Ottawa imposing

their own scheme on us without consultation. Of course we're opposed to that. But the Premier's ranting objections would be a lot more effective if he had any credibility on this file at all.

It's because of the Sask Party's inaction and their refusal to even enforce their own price on carbon, which passed through this Chamber six years ago with our support, that the Sask Party has thrown away their credibility and has given up Saskatchewan's voice at the table. Every other province has taken some action on carbon pricing, so every other province has a position from which to negotiate with the federal government. But the Sask Party stands alone.

As a first step, as a first step to show even some credibility, will the Sask Party finally enact and enforce their own price on carbon through the green tech fund?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member opposite for the question, a very important question, I might add, just at this point in time. And Saskatchewan, I would add, is committed to making their 30 per cent reduction of our 10 per cent of Canadian emissions, Mr. Speaker, which is 1.6 per cent of global emissions around the world.

Mr. Speaker, we'll do that through the use of technology, as we said, at the carbon capture and storage plant at Boundary dam 3, Mr. Speaker, which I might add is the largest public investment in any greenhouse gas mitigation technology in the nation of Canada. Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to . . . And it's also technology that has the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to address global emissions around the world, again with recognition of sequestration that we have here in the province of Saskatchewan, as well as our intent to go to 50 per cent renewable generation capacity here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

That's the effort that this government will be making, Mr. Speaker. And we will, Mr. Speaker, in time we will bring in the tech fund.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we're talking about the Sask Party's own plan. If it wasn't time when oil was well over \$100 a barrel, and it's not time now when the world is moving to address climate change, when is the time? The Premier says that our pollution is too small to count for anything. Well no one on this side of the House thinks anything about Saskatchewan is too small to matter.

When it comes to addressing climate change, we used to be leaders and now we are laggards. The Sask Party cut many of the advancements the last NDP government had made. Now all he wants to do is double down on his carbon capture boondoggle. Other jurisdictions are moving away from it, and it's no wonder. There's no guarantee that all the carbon will be sequestered, and it doubles the price of electricity. The people of Saskatchewan are already paying the price for it, with two rate hikes in just six months.

So why won't they admit that what the people of Saskatchewan can't afford is the Sask Party's \$1.5 billion carbon capture tax?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the member's question is very informative. Yesterday we outlined our response to the federal government's imposed carbon tax, our own plan which includes the largest per capita investment in carbon mitigation technology in Canada, we actually think in North America and, from a public sector investment, perhaps the world. She's perhaps ignoring the move to 50 per cent renewables through SaskPower by 2030. That's also part of our plan. There are a number of other elements to the plan we laid out yesterday.

And what we did say . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the member for Athabasca might want to pay attention since his colleague asked the question. The answer to the question continues as such. Mr. Speaker, I would point out that we have said that when the economy strengthens in this province, we will move to a heavy emitter tech fund. But hear what the NDP are saying. They're saying, implement the levy now. Increase taxes now.

We've seen thousands of layoffs in the oil and gas sector. We've seen layoffs in the mining sector. Mr. Speaker, we've seen some trouble in the economy, an economy that's reliant on agriculture and mining and energy, that would be part of the heavy emitters group. And the NDP's plan is to tax that sector right now.

Or maybe there's another plan. Her own constituency has a resolution going to the NDP convention this month. Her constituency of Saskatoon Nutana says — and I think this is what she really wants — shut down the coal industry completely in this province. That might be the NDP position, but it's not the position of the Government of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Funding for the Northern Teacher Education Program

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, NORTEP works because it's by and for northern people. But this government wants to cut the program and take the northern control away. With all the Sask Party is getting wrong in northern Saskatchewan, why are they attacking a program that is getting it right? The government's own study shows that graduates get jobs, and most of them stay in the North.

Mr. Speaker, last year the Sask Party signed a five-year commitment to NORTEP. So the simple question is, will the minister stop the cuts, honour the five-year agreement they signed, and let this program keep doing what it's been doing for over 40 years: helping northern people get training and find work?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Above all, Mr. Speaker, we are committed to supporting northern-based teacher education programs, and I have met with students and

staff in La Ronge, and administration, last month. I'll reiterate that to them and administration when I meet with them later today.

This is about students first and foremost. It's about working together to find the best northern-based solution for the delivery of teaching and professional access programs, not only for NORTEP, Mr. Speaker, but for other northern students. And what I find so edifying is that NORTEP council is taking the lead by self-determining and recommending to us, to me, which partner will work best for them to deliver their programs. That's important, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

[14:30]

Mr. McCall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, apparently it was such a great meeting that the minister had with the students that they've come all the way down to Regina to say that they were disrespected, that the minister wasn't paying attention in the meeting, and that they want to see the future of NORTEP and NORPAC secured, Mr. Speaker. That's the fact of the matter.

Earlier in this question period we heard about some of the tragic things that go on in this province, particularly in the North. And one of the institutions and one of the groups of people that have been on the front lines of fighting the lack of hope and the despair that comes with the suicides that we see over the past two weeks has been NORTEP-NORPAC.

Mr. Speaker, this government has an opportunity today to provide a solid assurance, instead of the messing around with the future of this program that we've seen since the dead of summer, that we've seen since . . . Their own study said that the program is doing a fine job and should be bolstered, not wrapped up or redirected. So, Mr. Speaker, the question is this: they have a chance to make good on their talk about doing what they can to bolster hope and help. Will they do that today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — First of all, Mr. Speaker, I must say I am deeply concerned, and I extend my heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of those vibrant, lovely young people who have so recently tragically died.

And in terms of meeting, emotions certainly are running high. That I understand. However again I will say, I did have what I can certainly describe as a respectful, cordial meeting with students, staff, and board members in La Ronge last month. And it's that goodwill, Mr. Speaker, that I only wish to continue, now more than ever.

Surely in light of what is going on in the North, we need to champion a strong North so that people can go to school, train for jobs, and live and build families in a vibrant, northern community, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability Program

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party cuts don't stop with NORTEP. This summer we've seen Sask Party cuts after Sask Party cuts. Mr. Speaker, if they were cutting back on Sask Party waste or mismanagement or scandals or lining the pockets of their Sask Party-supporting friends, I could go behind that. We all could. But no, they are targeting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Here with us today are concerned members from the community who are appalled by the Sask Party's cuts to the SAID program. The SAID program helps Saskatchewan people living with disabilities. It helps Saskatchewan people living with serious illnesses such as multiple sclerosis and cancer, and yet the best the new Minister of Social Services can say is the cuts are on pause.

How is it acceptable that your government wastes millions on scandalous land transfers but targets the most vulnerable with these cold-hearted cuts?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you for the question. I would say firstly that let's remember that it was this government in 2008 which created the SAID program for people with disabilities. And further to that, since 2008 we have raised our support for people with disabilities by 134 per cent.

I would also say, Mr. Speaker, that the cuts you speak about in the budget are on pause, and they currently continue to be on pause while we work through the budget process. And that will continue for now until we can make some other decisions. Thank you.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on House Services.

Standing Committee on House Services

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to report that the committee considered committee membership changes on August 31st, 2016 and pursuant to rule 136(6) filed with the Clerk the third report of the Standing Committee on House Services. I move:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Deputy Chair of House Services:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on House Services previously filed with the Clerk as sessional paper no. 216 be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on House Services.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to report that the committee considered committee memberships earlier today, and I am now presenting the committee's fourth report. And as such, Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Deputy Chair of House Services:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership of the Board of Internal Economy

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I would like to inform the Assembly that I have received a letter from the Lieutenant Governor stating that the membership of the Board of Internal Economy is the Hon. Corey Tochor, Chair; Hon. Dustin Duncan; Hon. Jeremy Harrison; Hon. Paul Merriman; Laura Ross; and MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] David Forbes; MLA Warren McCall.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — In accordance with the Board of Internal Economy directive #23, Caucus Accountability and Disclosure, I hereby table the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2016 and the term audited for the period November 7th, 2011 to April 4th, 2016, prepared for the Saskatchewan Party caucus by the accounting firm Meyers Norris Penny LLP. I so table.

In accordance with the Board of Internal Economy directive #23, Caucus Accountability and Disclosure, I hereby table the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31st, 2016 and the term audited for the period of November 7th, 2011 to April 4, 2016, prepared by the New Democratic Party caucus by the accounting firm of MWC Chartered Professional Accountants LLP. I so table.

In accordance with the directive #22, Members' Accountability and Disclosure, I hereby table reports for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2016 for all members.

I so now table all three documents.

Order. Would members come to order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and just a couple of words to express it's good to be back, good to see you, Mr. Speaker, in the Chair again. And I think we're ready to get going on the work of the Legislative Assembly here. So it is my indeed honour to be able to rise today in the adjourned debates on this particular bill and look forward to debating other bills as well.

This particular bill is dealing with something that's made it a little more difficult to understand the financial statements for over the last two years. But I think it'll straighten itself out eventually because what's happening here is the government is moving the year-end for a number of the Crown corporations to match the year-end of the government. And I think in the long run it will make a lot more sense.

One of my concerns about this bill is the length of time it takes to get those annual reports. And currently we get the annual reports for these Crowns in June. So I'm wondering if it will push them back to later, because certainly delays in receipt of annual reports make it much more difficult to put questions to the government and the minister when those reports are tabled.

Now of course we do have opportunity in committee, in the Crown investments . . . or the Crown and Central Agencies Committee to address some of these concerns. But again, unfortunately this committee doesn't meet on a regular basis and we aren't always able to raise questions about these annual reports from these Crown corporations in a very timely manner. And so again that's one of my concerns is that we don't have time . . . we don't have good time or early time to be able to address some of the concerns that come up in these annual reports. And indeed, Mr. Speaker, there are times when I've actually spoken to three annual reports in one sitting because that's how far behind they were. So those are the kinds of things that I think in order to be effective in our work at the Assembly

here, we have to be able to review annual reports from these very important Crowns, from the Crown and Central Agencies Committee, in a more timely fashion.

So moving these year-ends to three months later is, I think, going to mean that we will now be seeing the annual reports three months later as well, which will obviously cause a problem for a timely review of the activities and the financial activities of some of these Crowns. And for example we know that SaskPower is currently at the top of its spending abilities with the 70 . . . near or over the recommended 75 per cent debt ratio. So those kinds of factors have to be observed carefully, and we don't often get an opportunity here in the legislature or in committee to be able to address those kinds of concerns.

So that in itself is something that I think we need to have a careful eye on. And I think in our role as the official opposition, to hold this government to account we need the tools that we can . . . as many tools as we can have to properly hold the government to account, and that includes our Crown corporations. Because certainly the fiscal management of those corporations and of the province itself are of utmost importance to Saskatchewan people, and it's important that the official opposition has the proper tools to be able to do that.

Now the bill itself, I think it was tabled back on May 30th, and at that point the former minister for Crown Corporations indicated that . . . And I think this is well known, that each Crown is formed by its own separate legislation. But there wasn't consistency amongst all those separate pieces of legislation that form the Crown corporations suite, I guess, of bills, of law. So he is suggesting that some of them didn't even have fiscal year-ends on a specific date and others were subject to change by order in council.

So what this amendment is going to do is standardize all of the CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] Crowns by having a fiscal year-end determined by order in council as opposed to a legislative date. Now once again — and you've heard me say this before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'll say it again — every time that we move legislative authority from the bill itself, or the law itself, to the regulation power through order in council, it means we lose the opportunity to have scrutiny on those changes before they're actually made.

So that's one of the problems with not having this type of fixed year-end, fiscal year-end date in the legislation itself, but allowing it to be treated through order in council. What I think is going to be useful — and I think this is a positive move — is the fact that this order in council will now deal with all of the Crown corporations and not just one-offs one at a time.

One of the things the minister indicated and the goal behind this bill was to be better able to align the budget planning process between CIC and executive government. I would suppose that makes some sense, and certainly I would imagine that the officials at the Ministry of Finance as well as Crown officials that are looking after these matters would see the budgeting process needs to be better aligned.

These Crowns are an important part of our annual financial statements. They're an important part of the revenues that we derive. We know that SaskTel pays out a lot of dividends. I

don't have the numbers in front of me, but for example, a corporation like SaskTel provides a significant amount of dividends to the taxpayers, as did ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] before it was sold off and privatized. ISC was actually a very profitable Crown and continues to be a profitable Crown, but unfortunately those profits are no longer going to the people of Saskatchewan as taxpayers because that was sold off.

We know that's the concerns with Crowns like SaskTel, SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] as it's being torn apart. We see that these revenues are also being forgone for a short-term gain by this government. So those are the kinds of concerns when we see this government selling off and privatizing a lot of the assets that we worked so hard to acquire and develop over the years. Short-term gain is a dangerous game, Mr. Speaker, and it's concerning to see those kinds of approaches being used by this government when they're so desperate to manage their own finances.

[14:45]

The alignment of budget years, according to the minister, the former minister, would also provide Finance with more current information on Crown earning expectations and their impact to the provincial budget. So it's not clear to me about how you'll get better numbers if you're pushing the annual report back three months because currently it's in December, and surely those numbers then would be more available to Finance than if we are pushing it back to March to align with the provincial budget. So I'm going to be curious in committee to be able to ask questions about that and how pushing it three months later will allow Finance more current information on Crown earning expectations and impacts on budget. So that's something that seems a little bit backwards to me, but I think that those are questions that we will be able to ask once we get into committee.

So the bill itself is a fairly short bill. There are basically seven substantive clauses, or six I guess, and there is actually other bills that are being impacted relating to specific Crowns. So the first one is in relation to *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* — that's a CIC Crown, I believe — and then *The Saskatchewan Government Insurance Act*. Another bill is *The Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation Act*, *The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation Act*, and *The Saskatchewan Water Corporation Act*.

So those five particular Crown corporations have changes to their own particular legislation to bring this changing of the year-end in line, and then I think the rest of them are being changed through section 2 of the bill itself which is amending subsection 34(2) of *The Crown Corporations Act* by striking out April 30th and substituting "120th day."

Now if you look at the . . . Let's see if there are explanatory notes. I don't know that there . . . Oh, yes. Clause 2 makes the Crown Investments Corporation present its annual report 120 days after the end of the year instead of April 30th. So this is four months, and again that kind of equals April 30th. So it's not clear to me why you would use 120 days rather than April 30th unless this means now it's 120 days after March 31st which would lead us into April, May, June, July.

So that looks like we now aren't going to get the Crown Investments Corporation annual report until the very dead of summer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, right at the end of July. So I know we're all looking for some interesting reading while we're enjoying the summer weather in Saskatchewan, but certainly getting the Crown Investments Corporation annual report four months later than we currently get it, or three months later than we currently get it, will slow down the public response and our ability as the official opposition to do a proper review of the activities of the Crown corporation, and it will certainly delay any opportunity we have to ask questions in a timely fashion, especially when we see the budget being introduced in March of every year.

So again, not clear to me how moving the reporting date for Crown Investments Corporation three months later is going to enable budget planning and financial planning on an earlier basis.

So those are very important questions, Mr. Speaker, that I think we're going to have to ask in committee, and I'm sure some of my colleagues may have some questions about that as well. So it's a very short bill but I think the impact on financial reporting, the impact on public scrutiny of these important Crown corporations and the revenues and dividends that they bring to the people of Saskatchewan are ones that I think we really need to be able to have a very close look at.

Yes, I mean it's been helpful, I guess, for some of the Crowns who are dealing with deficit issues because they'll only have a nine-month reporting period rather than a 15-month reporting period for the previous fiscal year. As I said, it's making it hard to compare oranges to oranges and apples to apples when we have these different time periods for Crowns that are kind of causing a bit of a bump for the last couple of years. We know that it'll straighten out once this is all uniform again.

But in the meantime, I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we will have certainly more questions about how moving the timeline ahead three months for these Crowns to do their annual reports will actually benefit the budgeting and financing process which happens before. So it seems to be going in the wrong direction and those are questions that I think we will all look forward to getting the answers to.

At any rate, Mr. Speaker, I'm fairly certain that other of my colleagues are going to want to have an opportunity to comment on this bill as well before it goes to committee. So at this point, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 2, *An Act to amend certain Statutes to Standardize Provisions respecting the Fiscal Year End of certain Crown Corporations*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Crown Corporations' Fiscal Year End Standardization) Amendment Act, 2016*.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And once again, it is my honour to be able to rise in this Assembly and provide comments on bills that the government has introduced in the Assembly.

This particular bill was introduced on May 31st, earlier this year. It's somewhat unusual in our cycle in the legislature where we're actually combining nine calendar years into eight sort of legislative calendars. So normally these bills, as you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we would be looking at them being introduced after a Throne Speech in the fall. But of course, this year we had a Throne . . . We had no Throne Speech last year and now this year we have a Throne Speech in the spring. So this leads to a little bit of unusual procedure for the House and the Assembly. But here we are. We are now debating bills that were introduced in May.

So it's a little bit of a different scene but certainly it is again my honour to be able to be partaking in this debate and providing comment to the Assembly in terms of the legislative agenda that this government has brought forward. As many of the bills of this government reflect, this is more an administrative type of procedural bill that's being put forward here.

And it was introduced by the Minister of Justice, as I said . . . Oh May 30th, sorry, was when this bill was introduced. And he indicated in his second reading speech that this is attempting to do a few things, as I say, perhaps properly identified as housekeeping items. But in particular the first thing that he has indicated is that these amendments ". . . are required to fulfill Saskatchewan's obligations as a signatory to the New West Partnership Trade Agreement, which will allow existing or future awards made by dispute resolution panels to be enforced against any party as if they were civil judgments of the court."

So when we enter into these types of agreements, we have to find ways to make sure that they're enforced properly, and that requires changes to our laws here within the province of Saskatchewan. So if we want to take a look at that particular change, and I'll see if I quickly identify it, but there's no guarantee because . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Take my time. Thank you. My colleague gives me time to do that. This law is actually in English and French as well, so it makes a little bit of difficulty finding it. I'm going to have to look at the explanatory notes, Mr. Speaker.

Domestic trade agreements . . . So there's some changes, I guess, to the definitions that are being included in section 89 of the existing Act. First off, I believe, is an addition. They're going to amend the reference to a domestic trade agreement and so that word itself is just being struck, and these are now under award. I think the definition itself . . . There's an actual definition of a domestic trade agreement. It's now being

amended to remove the reference to domestic and to remove the restriction of the enforcement of the order to an order against the Crown. So currently that's . . . 89.2 of the existing bill says that:

If an award is made against the Crown, the person entitled to the award may file a certified copy of that award with the court if the Domestic Trade Agreement permits the award to be enforced in the same manner as an order against the Crown made by the court.

And so what this is doing here is it's providing the ability to enforce the award, whether it was made on or before this section came into force, and remove the restriction of the enforcement of the order to an order against the Crown.

So the new section 89.2 . . . I'll just refer to the bill now. It's near the end of the amendments, so it would be under the definitions, I believe, Mr. Speaker. Here we are, under the definitions. So this is section 6 of the new bill itself, and they've actually repealed the entire clause. And now you will see the reference to domestic trade agreement is basically gone. And now a certified copy only needs to be ". . . a copy of an award certified to be a true copy by the official or body designated in the regulations as responsible for administering a trade agreement."

So you see there's no longer a reference to an order of the Crown. So that's . . .

An Hon. Member: — She's going to introduce . . . [inaudible].

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. That's one of the changes that would be made.

The Deputy Speaker: — Why is the Minister of Social Services on her feet?

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — I ask for leave to make an introduction.

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave to make an introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister may proceed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — I thank my colleagues for the leave. I'd like to welcome a friend and constituent of mine who's sitting up in the gallery here, Mr. Rod Donison. He's not only a good friend to me, but I think he's a good friend to many, and he has provided not only his friendship but his calm and wise and spiritual counsel to many of us on this side of the House and in the community.

He's currently the chaplain for the Regina city police, an organization which definitely needs that in the difficult work that they do. He's the former chaplain of the Saskatchewan Riders, the area manager for LeaderImpact, a tireless community volunteer, a leader in this city and in this province.

He's married to his beautiful wife, Rebecca, both born and raised in Regina. Again, they're constituents of mine and it's my privilege to call him a friend, and I thank him for being here. Please join me in welcoming to his Legislative Assembly.

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

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 4 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*
(continued)

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And thank you for the introduction; it gave me a little chance to confer with one of my colleagues on some of the clauses of this bill, so things are looking up. This bill, Bill No. 4, also deals with the court-appointed counsels.

Now what you will see, Mr. Speaker, happening in a lot of legal proceedings, particularly with impecunious people, or people who don't have a lot of money, they will either choose to self-represent or they are eligible to apply for legal aid. Often they don't get a choice in terms of who will be representing them, and often they don't understand, may not understand the process and decide they don't want a particular lawyer for them.

So typically what's being done in the current Act is that there's an opportunity for the court to then appoint another legal counsel for that individual. And I haven't had an opportunity to look at this really closely, but I understand that this bill actually changes that totally.

So what we should probably do is look at what the minister himself said when he introduced the bill in May. And he said here that:

... related amendments to [this bill and] *The Constitutional Questions Act* ... will be made to provide for the appointment of an administrator for the purposes of managing the court-appointed lawyer process, set out rules and processes for the appointment of a court-appointed lawyer from a list of approved lawyers established by the administrator, provide that those lawyers are to be paid at a fee rate set by the administrator, and provide that any lawyers appointed outside this process are not entitled to payment by the government.

And it seems a bit draconian, Mr. Speaker, and certainly the minister didn't provide information in terms of why those kinds of changes are being instituted at this point in time. And we're still kind of wondering what the answers to those questions are. So we certainly will have a lot of questions for the minister himself once, again, this bill is put into committee. If we look at the explanatory notes that are provided by the government, it just says it provides for the new part III.1 to address court-appointed lawyers.

[15:00]

So if we want to look at the new part III.1, it will set out the definitions. That's done in section 15.1 of this bill. And the administrator here is defined for the purpose of the part. There's a list, and this is a list of lawyers maintained by the administrator. So one of the first questions I have is, what are the qualifications that this administrator would have to be able to determine who in fact would be an appropriate court-appointed lawyer? And that's not an easy decision, and certainly I think one that could have perils, Mr. Speaker, when we're controlling who may be seen as a court-appointed lawyer.

What it will do, if I understand correctly, is it will limit the independence of the judiciary to ensure that that particular accused under those particular circumstances with particular needs may not be able to access the legal counsel that they might need in order to obtain justice, basically.

So having a third party, an administrative body set up to do this, I think it's fraught with a number of concerns. And again, it excludes certain lawyers. I mean, how are you supposed to get on the list? What are ... We don't know what the procedures are going to be. And you would think that the law profession is one that could already make these kinds of determinations in terms of a self-regulating body in terms of who's available, who's interested, and who is appropriate for these people who are receiving court-appointed counsel.

And so setting up an additional administrative arm, I think, would provide a number of concerns and it could be fraught with a number of problems which may, in fact, act as barriers for people to access the justice that they so desperately need. I don't think this is something that the minister has given any sort of rationale or explanation for. Even in the explanatory notes, it just sort of tells us about the technical changes that are being made but there's certainly no justification. So that's very concerning.

The minister did say in his comments that currently there's a lack of a statutory basis for the administration of the court appointed legal counsel program, and it results in inconsistencies in when and how such counsel are appointed. I don't think that restricting the independence of the judiciary is the answer here, Mr. Speaker. And in fact, you know, this may be a regressive move instead of a progressive move.

So we certainly want to examine that and I know my colleagues will have much more to add to this as we go through the debates here in the Assembly and also right within the committee process itself. Because, as you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's really hard to get answers from the government. But when we are in committee, that is an opportunity for us as critics and as the members of the loyal opposition to provide detailed questions to the minister and their officials to answer these types of concerns and flesh out really the meaning of these bills.

And in fact, people look at the *Hansard* from the committees quite carefully. Just a couple months ago, I got a call from a lawyer that I know in Saskatoon and she was looking for the removal of indemnification provisions in *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* from 2010. And she actually studied not only the text of the bill itself, not only the regulations, and not only the *Hansard* in the House but she went to the committee. And that's where she went, to the

Hansard for committee to find out whether this had been discussed.

And it certainly was raised at the time by our critic but the answers, sadly, weren't fulsome on the part of the government. And so now it's still a question: why are these provisions removed? And it's hopefully something that I'll be able to raise in my capacity as Environment critic to the committee when there's an opportunity to do so.

I often find that committee is a limited period of time to be able to ask questions and we don't really have . . . we don't seem to get enough time to ask questions. But it's an intensive process and you know how tired we all are, Mr. Deputy Speaker, by the time the spring session is completed. But it is a very important part of legislative process.

And so, as I indicated, I'm sure our critic is going to have, she's very well versed in this topic and will have some very important questions for the minister. And maybe this is advanced notice for the minister to get a few of those answers ready so that we can have proper and complete answers to those questions as we bring them up in the committee process.

The other part, I guess . . . There's some small changes to the size of the court, increasing the size from the Chief Justice and 31 other judges to a Chief Justice and 32 other judges to reflect the actual size of the court. So apparently we have 32 plus a Chief Justice right now. And again I think what we're seeing in a lot of jurisdictions is that the legal system is getting backed up, that there simply isn't enough support and court time and available counsel with the necessary trial times to be able to conduct trials in an efficient and orderly fashion. And I think just recently — I forget what province; it might have been in one of the territories — where an alleged criminal was actually released because his trial didn't happen in a time that was, you know, proper for him as an accused to have.

Those kinds of things cause concern from the public, and I think our legal system is looking very hard at these issues. It was an issue when I was practising law and when I was articling 20-some-odd years ago. But it seems as the courts get . . . The complexity of trials is like the complexity of health care. Our society is becoming more complex, and obviously there are more people engaging with the criminal justice system and with the civil justice system. And again, access to that system as well seems to be less available than it was in the past as well. So I know things like pro bono law and the mediation process and the conciliatory process are stepping into the void and, I think, providing some good opportunities and understandings for people of the legal system that will maybe take some of that pressure off the actual formal court system, but I think we have a long ways to go.

So *The Queen's Bench Act*, as the minister indicated, establishes criteria for the operation of the Queen's Bench court. And some of these changes appear to be rather pro forma; like they're just, as the minister said, adjusting the size of the court to reflect its actual size to 32 rather than 31. So it is not an expansion, but it's just a case of the law catching up to the reality, which is not always the best way to do things, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But at least it's fixing a problem that exists, so that's important.

The changes to the domestic trade agreement interpretation of the Act, as I explained earlier, this is just to allow for trade agreements to have a broader application. And the only connection here with the Queen's Bench court is the reflection that these orders or awards with the domestic courts under the trade agreements would actually not have to be enforced in the same way as an order made by the Crown against the court. So that's the only parallel touch, I guess, upon the court system is how these trade agreements were expected to be enforced similar to that of the courts. So they're removing the restriction of the enforcement of the order to an order against the Crown. That's gone.

There's also some changes to the regulation provision just to remove the reference to "domestic" under domestic trade agreement. So "domestic" is gone. I guess that would then open it up to all international agreements as well, and we know there's plenty of those being floated around these days.

And then there's some other minor provisions relating to *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2012*. So that's the 31 judges that I talked about earlier. And of course, as the minister indicated, there were also some changes required for *The Constitutional Questions Act*. And in there, it also refers to appointments of court-appointed counsel. So that Act has to be amended, as well as *The Queen's Bench Act*, in order to bring in these new changes that we are questioning at this point in time. Certainly wanting more information there as well. So it has a dual impact because it's not only *The Queen's Bench Act*, but *The Court of Appeal Act*.

Constitutional questions are questions that reflects our rights under our Constitution, and these are fundamental questions that are often referred to the court by individuals when their rights under our constitution — the Charter would be part of that — are being infringed upon.

And again, the imposition of an administrator to look after court-appointed counsel and restricting the ability of the judiciary is something that needs to be taken very, very seriously. And I think the minister will certainly have to answer to that, once we get an opportunity to do so in committee.

Yes, there's a number of regulations that can be done now in terms of how this application for legal representation is going to be made, how notice is going to happen, so a lot of those administrative things that fall from one of these kinds of changes to the Act. So those are secondary, I guess, in the sense of what's happening within this bill. But those processes require amendment if in fact the court-appointed lawyers process is going to go forward in this way.

And also this bill allows the minister to keep a list of lawyers who can be appointed as court-appointed lawyers, regulating their compensation. So this again fixes the compensation that these lawyers can provide.

I know that, I don't know how Saskatchewan compares to other provinces, but I know that the compensation for legal aid lawyers that are providing services to folks in the community often does not reflect the fees that are charged by private bar lawyers. And whether that's fair or not, I guess is up to the public opinion. But the minister now will be able to keep a list

of those lawyers and also regulate the fees that they are entitled to have. I don't know how this impacts on the legal aid system or whether it does. As you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, legal aid tends to focus on criminal matters or family matters, so this may or may not apply in there. And again my other colleagues are going to have better commentary on that particular point.

But as far as it goes right now, this is an interesting Act. Again the minister didn't really provide justification in his introductory comments on second reading when he explained the technical processes that are being affected, but certainly not the rationale. And I think he's got some explaining to do, Mr. Speaker.

So at this point this time, I know other of my colleagues are going to want to be able to comment on this. And so I would like to move that we now adjourn debate on Bill No. 4 which is *An Act to amend The Queen's Bench Act, 1998 and to make related amendments to The Constitutional Questions Act, 2012*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and enter into the debate on Bill No. 5, *An Act to amend The Electronic Information and Documents Act, 2000*, or known informally as, where's the first quarter report? No, but this is something when you think about reports. And they love their reports over there, but the one that people are missing most this summer was that first quarter.

So here we are talking about reports and *The Electronic Information and Documents Act*. And in many ways this seems like a relatively simple, simple piece of legislation because really it talks about striking out the word "department" and introducing the word "ministry." And here we are how many years later, and we're still cleaning up after this government's needless change of getting rid of department language and creating ministries. And here we are how many years later, Mr. Deputy Speaker, still wrestling with that thing because they didn't do their homework the first time. And it really seems really straightforward, but there's a lot of questions about it.

And I know many of us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will be watching the debate tonight, the presidential debates, and you can see when things go horribly wrong with electronic information.

And I'm thinking of Hillary Clinton and how that just won't let go, the emails and WikiLeaks and all of that. You want to make sure you have it right. You've got to have it right, and that's very, very important.

And so if you were to look at this piece of legislation, and people at home TV watching, it's a little more than a page and a half, of which half of it talks about deleting the word, striking out the word "department" and substituting the word "ministry." And it goes on and on in doing that several times.

But there is one that I found interesting. You know, this is part of what we do here. We sit back, we read these pieces of legislation and say, does this meet the smell test, the sniff test? And I've got to tell you, this one leaves me a lot of questions. And I'm wondering if this is one that the government is saying, you know, the timing is not great for this piece of legislation to come forward because it's really pointing a finger at their credibility, their credibility.

And the one that really I want to talk about is section 4(1)(e) is repealed. And for most people, they would say, okay, well must be pretty innocuous. It's not very important. Can't be much, they're not even talking about what it is. But let me read what 4(1)(e) says. And they're making this now that you don't have to do it in paper form but you can do it electronically. They're getting rid of:

(e) documents that create or transfer interests in land and that require registration to be effective against third parties; or . . .

[15:15]

Now what have we been talking about in question period? Land, land fiascos, land scandals. And here they are, a government that's wanting to change legislation. And they're nodding their heads over there, going, I can't believe this. But isn't it kind of ironic that after all these years, the GTH and the ugly stink that has in this province, they're wanting to get rid of the fact that you have to do that in paper. Because they want to do it electronically because those folks over there have been dealing with really interesting situations at record speed, record speed that only telephone calls can stop on the way into the cabinet meetings. But they don't want to answer those questions, but they want to change legislation. So there's some really, really interesting things.

And I want to quote the minister. This is what he said on May 30th, you know, just a few weeks before the auditor's report came out. Actually it was interesting, the auditor's report came out, I think the last day of session, wasn't it? The last day of session. Oh, it's the auditor, they'd say over there, what can you do? What can you do? Well maybe we need to revisit that. But this is what, this is what the Minister of Justice said. And I quote:

Following requests from the real estate and credit union communities, it's recommended the Act be amended to remove the existing exemption from the application of the Act for documents that create or transfer interests in land and that require . . . to be effective against third parties, and to update references in the Act from department to

ministry.

Well maybe the real estate people and the credit unions have asked for that. And that's fair enough; we do listen to people. But you know, we have got a big elephant in the room called GTH and we've got to deal with it.

Today even the Premier couldn't answer questions about that, simple questions. And he deflected, and then the Minister of Economy got up, couldn't answer questions. People over there couldn't answer questions. And here we are putting this forward. And this may be interesting in committee to have questions put forward. Why the rush? Why the rush? Under the guise of simply changing from department to ministry after all these years, that seems to be a priority. But here is this one thing. And I go on to finish my quote of the minister:

Mr. Speaker, the exemption provision was originally intended to protect the registry system from land transactions occurring without adequate evidence and proper registration.

I think I want to read that again:

Mr. Speaker, the exemption provision was originally intended to protect the registry system from land transactions occurring without adequate evidence and proper registration.

And that really means without dotting the i's and crossing the t's, and if there ever was a case of not dotting the i's and crossing the t's was the Global Transportation land fiasco that we see before us these days of which the government has no answers, refused to come clean on. And here we are passing this pretty innocuous, pretty innocuous piece of legislation, Bill No. 5, that was introduced back in May, and it seemed pretty straightforward. Ministry, crossing the word department out, putting the word ministry, like getting rid of that simple protection. Now maybe they're okay with that. Maybe they feel, hey, what's a couple of, you know, 20 million, 25 million in lost income on land that's not quite worth it. Maybe that's just the way of doing business with the Sask Party government and you've just got to roll with it. Maybe that's how they work.

But I've got to tell you, we have a lot of questions, a lot of questions about it. And bills like this that come before us, you know, was so interestingly just after an election. Just after an election when you should be talking about big visionary pieces of legislation and here you are still housekeeping after the third election. And this is the best you've got? But I do want to draw attention to that one clause that really caused us to take a second look, a second look at this.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I say, I can't go on long on this because there's not much to it. But I do want to highlight to the people at home, this is a government that wasn't straightforward before the election about what was happening in the Global Transportation Hub, and so many other things — the cuts that were coming down, all those kind of big question marks out there. And here we have this piece of legislation that I can tell you we will have questions in committee about why that one piece is in there when it . . . When you think about the kind of scandals that we're going to be dealing with and talking

a lot about in this House, it just raises a lot of flags. And I think this is important.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that others will want to speak to this piece of legislation and have the same questions, and we'll have those answered in the time that's appropriate. But right now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, *The Electronic Information and Documents Act, 2000*, the Act to amend that Bill No. 5, I would move that we adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 5. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's good to be back and to have an opportunity to enter debate on bills before us here today. Today I'm pleased to enter the debate on Bill No. 6, *An Act to amend the Statute Law*. It's one of those bills again before us that is housekeeping by and large, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to make changes. The minister pointed out in his second reading speech that on Bill No. 6, 24 Acts, this bill impacts 24 other Acts. There will be amendments to update language and correct grammatical and reference errors, basically changing terminology.

There will be three Acts amended to remove the term provincial magistrates with provincial court judge. I had a conversation with my colleague who is a lawyer, of which I'm not, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and she pointed out that provincial magistrate is not something that exists here in Saskatchewan at this point in time. There will be eight Acts amended to be consistent with Queen's Bench rules changing the language from substitutional services to substituted services, Mr. Speaker. This Act also, Bill No. 6, *An Act to amend the Statute Law*, will also repeal and replace words that have a variety of spelling like extraprovincial and tortfeasor to move to more consistency in the legislation.

But I just want to walk you through some of these 24, just so folks at home have some idea about what this looks like. So for example, we've got *The Agricultural Implements Act* before, which is one of the 24, and it will be amended to replace references with department to ministry, which is interesting. Again my colleague who spoke before me on the previous bill points that out as well, that many years later here we're still moving from what we used to term these bodies that used to be departments and they've become ministries. I guess that was a decision the government decided. This happened in 2007 and 2008.

I have to confess at that point in time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I

was involved having a brand new baby and paying attention to being a mom of a brand new baby so I don't remember the debate or discussion why we moved from department to ministry.

But I remember thinking at the time, because I actually used to work for the Department of Labour, but I remember thinking at the time, isn't this is an awfully costly endeavour to move . . . So you think about bills that need changing, stationery, all the things in communications that happen in the ministry. I didn't know what, I don't know today still what the rationale was, what constituted the move from department to ministry, but it is interesting that still this many years later we are still updating bills, Mr. Speaker.

So that's one of the changes that's happening. I can point you to something like *The Child and Family Services Act* that will be amended to replacing *ex parte* with the language, "application without notice." And this is one of the Acts where substitutional service will be replaced with substituted service.

As the Health critic, it's always interesting to me when bills pop up that fall under my critic portfolio, and there are several Acts actually under Health that are going to be amended, albeit with minor amendments. We have *The Midwifery Act*, *The Occupational Therapists Act*, *The Medical Profession Act*, *The Regional Health Services Act* are some of the Health Acts that will be amended. And I'd just like to take a moment . . . Oh, and *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*. Again very minor amendments like the . . . Again we have *The Occupational Therapists Act, 1997*. The subsection 49(3) of this Act is amended to replace *ex parte* again with the words, application without notice, and substitutional service with substituted service.

But you know, I think again this provides us an opportunity when we see bills before us that will be amended, thinking about what else could be done or what the government is going to be proposing. And I want to draw your attention to *The Regional Health Services Act* which is one of the Acts that is being amended right now. And the change in this particular Act is clause 18(1)(a). *The Regional Health Services Act* is amended to correct an internal reference, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I suspect . . . I just have to put some comments on the record regarding *The Regional Health Services Act*. This is the bill that establishes our health regions here in Saskatchewan, and I think most people will be aware that this government, after the last election and during budget time, has announced the need for transformational change.

I think here on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't disagree that things need to change here in health care and education all across the board, Mr. Speaker. But I think we just need to think about over-capacity in hospitals and our ERs [emergency room] in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, all over Saskatchewan, quite frankly. We can think about the cuts to mental health services here in Regina, Mr. Speaker, 20 positions in mental health, which will have a huge impact on people.

So this government is embarking upon what they call transformational change, and we do need change here but we

have some big fears, not just as an opposition, but people in Saskatchewan are waiting not very happily. People who work in health, people who spend time in hospitals or any of our long-term care facilities are worried about what this transformational change is going to look like.

I've had an opportunity as the Health critic to travel around to some communities in Saskatchewan. I was most recently last week in La Ronge, North Battleford, and Prince Albert. And it was interesting to me, in La Ronge . . . Because we spoke a lot about this health services Act, and you know, people said to me that one of the things they think is really important, that if the process the government is embarking upon right now was really about a great vision for health care in this province, making equity of services across the province, that would be a really great goal. But people fear that this is simply an economic driver, Mr. Speaker, that this government thinks they can create the illusion of saving money by amalgamating health regions.

And we're not quite sure where this government is going to go yet. There was a consultation process that was very brief in terms of allowing people — less than a month, Mr. Speaker — in allowing people from across the province to add their voices to how they think this should go. And those invested stakeholders who know what happens in the system, they had a very short amount of time and very little face time with the committee to make a presentation, Mr. Speaker.

So when I think about this Bill No. 6, *An Act to amend the Statute Law* and the reference to *The Regional Health Services Act*, I suspect come spring we will have *The Regional Health Services Act* before us in a very different fashion. I don't know what the government will be doing and what will come out of these, not robust . . . I'm trying to think of the opposite of not robust — a very weak, lacking in time consultation process. And I wouldn't diminish the people who are doing them but I think this government has put them under a very tight timeline.

[15:30]

So I believe that we will have this regional health services Act before us as soon as this spring to fit with this government's budget line. And I have some huge concerns about what that's going to look like for the people of Saskatchewan on the delivery of services, Mr. Speaker.

This is a government who has had record revenues, more money than any government has ever had in the history of this province. And instead of creating a health care system that is visionary and ensures that equity of services, ensuring people in all parts of the province from La Ronge to Estevan to Stony Rapids, wherever it might be, have good quality services, instead we hear about what those services look like.

I was at the hospital in La Ronge. There was a nurse who worked a 24-hour shift, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Not good for the nurse, certainly not very good for the nurse and her well-being, but definitely not good for patient care.

So I'm very frustrated as a member of the opposition and as the Health critic thinking that the resources that this government had at its disposal, I think about \$40 million spent on John Black. And that's the tip of the iceberg that was spent on this

lean project. That was the John Black contract. What if we would have invested that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in poverty reduction, where we think about the costs of poverty, where they really are, and how that could have impacted outcomes today, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

So we have Bill No. 6, *An Act to amend the Statute Law* before us. And some of those Acts, as I said, include some health Acts including *The Regional Health Services Act*. And as I said, I suspect that will be before us in the spring and we will be continuing on this debate. But this is again a housekeeping Act, but it can't help but sort of twig or make you think about how things could have been different, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the last two terms of this government with the resources that they had at hand.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know I'll have colleagues who will add their own comments about Bill No. 6 to the record as well. But with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 6, Bill No. 7 . . . Sorry. Bill No. 6, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again I am pleased to weigh into the debate, this time on Bill No. 7, *An Act to amend the Statute Law (No. 2)*. Again this is mostly a housekeeping Act, a very brief bill before us. And what it does, much like Bill No. 6, it is making those housekeeping changes. But these are bilingual Acts, three bilingual Acts that will be amended, updating language, removing an unnecessary section, and correcting a reference error, and replacing the word substitutional with substituted again to be in line with Queen's Bench rules.

So the three Acts that are being amended are *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*, where subsection 46(2) of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997* is amended to correct a reference to the Queen's Bench rules. We have *The Evidence Act* before us or as one of the bills that will be amended where the section 67 of *The Evidence Act* is repealed because it was a transitional provision that is no longer effectual, Mr. Speaker. And we also have *The Family Maintenance Act*, which is impacted by this bill, and subsection 23(3) of the English version of *The Family Maintenance Act* is amended to replace "substitutional or other service" with "substituted or other service."

And small changes for sure, but language always does matter, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But that was a brief bill, and with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 7, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to the Bill No. 13, the cancer agency, or . . . I'm sorry, am I out of order with . . . Okay. *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that has been proposed to amend this Act with a number of changes to definition. It allows peace officers to submit statements by fax in cases where the Crown is proceeding summarily. It provides cabinet more power to change the way fines are charged and allows for people to apply for fine payment extensions through an administrative process than using valuable court time.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Belanger spoke to this particular bill back in the spring session talking more broadly about provisions of justice, and I want to add to some of those comments today. In his comments, Minister Wyant spoke to the amendments proposed being aimed to reduce court volumes and . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. I'd simply like to remind the member to refer to members by their seat or their title, not by their names. I recognize the member.

Ms. Beck: — Now I'm rattled. Mr. Speaker, when Minister Wyant rose in . . .

An Hon. Member: — The Minister of Justice.

Ms. Beck: — The Minister of Justice. Oh excuse me. Okay, rose in May, spoke to this bill talking about, the proposals were ". . . aimed at reducing court volumes and improving court efficiency." And I think that that certainly is, passing legislation is one way to deal with those issues.

Reducing court volumes, there were also a number of social factors that go into the volumes going before the courts. One of those would be community sentencing and measures at the community level to avoid the court system altogether, and I think that often goes overlooked and unfortunately even has been cut in recent years. Those opportunities to avoid the court

system not only improve outcomes for people within those programs but also improve outcomes for communities.

As was also noted, the aim of this bill was to expand regulation-making authority and other changes to the court processes, and allowing the means of telecommunication and other remote accesses applicable to provincial offences. I think that that is an interesting use of technology, Mr. Speaker, and I think that something . . . that in a province that has as many remote and rural communities as Saskatchewan, is something that we should continue to look at providing services that way, and is certainly one of the main benefits of having a public telecom company that can provide those services to areas that probably the big providers wouldn't come in and provide that type of service, be it through the justice system or education system or the medical system.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that my colleagues will have more to say on this bill, but with that I move to adjourn debate.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and it's a pleasure to rise on . . . enter into the debate on Bill No. 9, *An Act to amend The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act, 2002*. And I understand that this is a relatively straightforward piece of legislation. It allows for easier enforcement of tax judgments made by Canadian courts outside of Saskatchewan by removing an administrative process. And so, you know, again it's our job here to enter into debate, and it has been . . . This was a bill that was introduced back in the spring on May 30th by the Minister of Justice, and it seems a relatively straightforward piece of legislation.

And of course this is one that would be, I think, done internally between the federal government and the provincial government in terms of making sure that there's a process, that if there's a national judgment, a Canadian judgment, that in fact that collection can be made and can be carried out. And so this seems relatively straightforward. I mean, and maybe I'll cover parts of it because I know that folks at home may not have the same access to the bills. But of course it's Bill No. 9 and it talks about what a Canadian judgment . . . and that means:

a judgment, decree, or order made in a civil proceeding by

a court of a province or territory of Canada other than Saskatchewan.

So it's outside of Saskatchewan. If it was inside Saskatchewan, it'd be a Saskatchewan judgment, but we're talking about other provinces and territories.

that requires a person to pay money, including:

an order for the payment of money where the order is made in the exercise of a judicial function by a tribunal of a province or territory of Canada other than Saskatchewan and is enforceable as a judgment of the superior court of unlimited trial jurisdiction in that province or territory; and

an order made and entered pursuant to section 741 of the *Criminal Code* in a court of a province or territory of Canada other than Saskatchewan . . .

but does not include a judgment, decree or order that:

is for maintenance or support, including an order enforceable pursuant to *The Family Maintenance Act, 1997*.

So it's important to have that clarification, and is not for a:

. . . payment of money as a penalty or fine committing an offence; [or]

relates to the care, control or welfare of a minor, other than a Canadian civil protection order.

And it's a bilingual piece of legislation, and that would make sense. It's:

. . . made by a tribunal of a province or territory of Canada other than Saskatchewan whether or not it is enforceable as an order of the superior court of unlimited trial jurisdiction of the province or territory . . . to the extent that it provides for relief other than the payment of money; or

relates to the granting of probate or letters of administration or the administration of the estate of a deceased person.

And so it seems relatively straightforward, and we've had that opportunity in the months in between May and now to hear from people who would have that interest. I'm not aware of issues raised by other organizations that would have concerns, but as I said it's a pretty well straightforward piece of legislation.

I just want to take a moment and review what the minister said back on May 30th, because quite often their remarks — the ministers' remarks — are quite informative, either by what that minister says or doesn't say. Sometimes it's a lack of clarity, but really as my colleagues already had said, the minister's remarks upon the introduction of a bill is very important, because people come back to the remarks often to look at what was the plain language, the intent of the legislation.

And so what he talks about is it provides for a registration procedure for the enforcement of civil judgments between Canadian provinces and territories, and that's confirmed that courts in each province need to recognize tax judgments for other jurisdictions in Canada. So this is important, and this is something the Uniform Law Conference of Canada has recommended. And they've recommended these amendments to provide greater certainty with respect to enforcement of Canadian tax judgments.

[15:45]

And we have a lot of respect for the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. It's gone a long ways to make sense of the differences between interpretations in the law between the provinces, sometimes quite unintentional and sometimes quite significant. And if we can straighten those out, make those a little bit more level, that's a good thing.

He goes on and talks about Manitoba recently implementing these amendments, and by being among the first of the provinces to make these changes, Saskatchewan will be leading by example, encouraging other provinces and territories to adopt these amendments.

So it's something this government would like to see move forward. And while it seems to be more or less a straightforward piece of legislation, something that most people would hope that they're never involved with, a tax judgment, that they pay their taxes and in fact they hope they get a little refund and not having to pay a little more. Most people would hope that they don't have to be on the receiving end of this kind of legislation, and particularly from another province where they might have worked or conducted business.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that there will be . . . There's lots of work to continue here on this afternoon, and this one seems a relatively straightforward piece of legislation, and so with that I would move that Bill No. 9, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016* be adjourned.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved adjournment 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 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and again it's my honour to rise to speak today in this portion of the proceedings about Bill No. 10 which is *An Act to amend The*

Forest Resources Management Act.

So first up I will make a couple of comments regarding the second reading speech by the previous minister on May 30th. He actually makes some very extended comments, and I think that's a very helpful thing, not only for us as members who are entering into the debate, but it's also very helpful I think for posterity. When people have the opportunity to see these extended comments, it gives people a better understanding of what the bill is about. So I do want to thank the former minister for taking the opportunity to do that. He had a fair bit to say about this Act itself and about the amendments, so that's very helpful for all who are taking a look at these bills and why they're coming to the House.

The first thing, this forest resources management amendment Act, he did indicate in his comments that it addresses a number of subjects, a variety of streamlining for industry while sort of enhancing the government's ability to ensure that forests are properly managed. He says it's in line with the results-based approach that we now see the government using for environmental legislation. And we know that that approach does have its limits, Mr. Speaker, and certainly I think time will tell whether events like the Husky oil spill this summer happened where there was actually no inspection of that particular pipeline.

And so when you have results-based legislation which allows things that are deemed to be low risk go uninspected, I think we see now what the price can be when those kinds of things happen. So obviously no one wants overinspection, no one wants irresponsible inspection, but even the auditor herself is calling for better inspection and actually inspecting, which is not a bad thing. And I think it's sort of getting a bum rap here, Mr. Speaker, when we see this results-based approach.

I think, you know, government's role is to be responsible for this regulatory review. And I think whenever the government introduces something that says it's a results-based approach, I think we need to pay special attention to that. When they say it's being streamlined, then I say, well what corners are being cut here? What shortcuts are being provided, and then what's the net price of that? So streamlining, fine, but what are we losing as a result of the streamlining? Is it streamlining or is it actually shortcuts?

And so those are two very different things, and I think we have to take a very close look at whether or not this claim of streamlining is really not a shortcut, and ensuring that the people of Saskatchewan are protected, and in this case the forest resources that we rely on for our Crown resources for the taxpayers. And the citizens of Saskatchewan rely on these resources for filling our coffers and providing the services and programs that we need to access as much as we can.

He indicates there will be streamlining, more flexible processes to adjust management fees and ensure that fees are collected or in line with actual forest management costs, ensuring public forests are properly renewed, and that the Saskatchewan forest industry remains competitive. So again we're talking about balancing, Mr. Speaker, between profit-making ability for industry versus protection of the environment and protection of the resource. And as you know, our forest industry is obviously

a renewable resource so extra care needs to be taken when we're managing that resource, and forest management agreements need to be carefully reviewed and scrutinized and ensure that they are not only responding to industry needs but to the needs of the people that live there and to the needs of the people of Saskatchewan and protecting the resources.

One of the very first things he talks about in terms of the changes that this bill is addressing is the long-standing issue of abandoned forest roads and trails. And I was immediately taken back to memory lane back in the early '90s when I was a tree planter, and we actually used to have to plant out these abandoned trails and roads. What would happen is the forest company, once they would build the roads into the cutblocks in order to be able to remove the forest product, and then they would just basically take a backhoe and dig out a big gouge out of the road once they left the cutblock so that trucks and vehicles couldn't get in and out of that area. But then, as tree planters, we were asked to go in and actually plant the road and reforest that road portion as much as we would reforest the other parts of the cutblock.

Roads were kind of interesting because, as you can imagine, all the debris and the organic matter that used to lie on those roads was scraped right off and you're dealing with basically hardpan. That's what we call the hardpan. So whenever we got to those reforested areas, we would ask for a little bit more money from the boss because, when you're doing hardpan, it's rock-solid and it was really a lot of work to do those cutblocks or, sorry, the abandoned roads. On the other hand, you could put a lot of trees in a small area. So in some ways it was a good bit of work to get assigned to if your foreman decided that you were the one that was to go in and do the roads.

So a little memory trail there. Back down memory lane, I guess, when I saw that this was happening to the forest roads and trails that are being managed by the Minister of Environment.

Now the minister had pointed out that the roads compose both public safety and environmental risk. Legislative changes supporting enhanced efforts to address this issue will be welcomed by all stakeholders. Now the actual change itself is fairly straightforward when you're looking at the existing Act as found in clause 7(1)(i), and that basically talks about the roads. I'm just going to pull up the actual clause itself.

An Hon. Member: — They're probably harvesting those trees right now.

Ms. Sproule: — I don't know. The member thought we might be harvesting. Twenty-five years? It's not that long ago, Mr. Speaker. It's actually . . . They might be this high. Who knows? A lot of those were done in the area of Carrot River where this member is from, and so we should maybe go, take a road trip and see if we can find some of these roads and see how tall they are. I hope they survived, I really do, because we put a lot of care into those seedlings. I hope they're still there, Mr. Speaker.

Section 7(1) reads following:

The minister may enter into agreements with the Government of Canada, the government of any other province or . . . minister . . . [etc., etc.] . . . for the purposes

of furthering activities . . .

And currently, the activity described in subsection (i) says, "the location, clearing, closure and reclamation of roads."

According to the explanatory notes that were provided by the ministry, what this clause now does is much more comprehensive than just those seven words basically describing roads. It'll expand on the minister's authority to enter into agreements for the purpose of developing, improving, maintaining, closing, reclaiming, and managing new and existing roads, road allowances, and rights-of-way.

So in this case, it now allows the minister to enter into agreements for maybe keeping that road and developing it, improving it, maintaining it, not just closing it or clearing it or reclaiming it. So obviously the tree planting we did was part of the reclamation, but in some cases the trail may be seen as appropriate for recreational use, and lots of people like to use the forests for recreational use, both snowmobiles, obviously skiers, and horseback riders and hikers. So in some cases those trails may actually now be developed and improved.

And one of the things the explanation points out that I'm not sure the minister made clear in his comments was that because of past industrial activities, a legacy of roads and unreclaimed access remains on provincial forest lands. Requests to use these legacy roads and trails are regularly received from forest users. So the authority to enter into agreements with others to use, maintain, or reclaim the abandoned roads and trails will help reduce the ecological impacts and public safety issues created by them.

And immediately, one of the public safety issues that I can imagine when, if you have young folks out quadding along these trails, all of a sudden one of those cut-outs that they used to use to close the road off may not be properly signed. And I know it's happened where any number of people have actually gone into those cut-outs, damaging their vehicles for sure, but also could cause serious injury to the individuals and perhaps even loss of life.

So I think that's something positive. We need to make sure, if they weren't properly reclaimed, that they are reclaimed and that these legacy roads and trails which are being used, that the ministry has the proper authority to be able to allow other people to use them and not just deal with the closure and reclamation of roads through the forest management agreement itself.

The next part of the bill that the minister speaks about is provisions for greater accountability for forest companies operating in publicly owned forests. These include requiring long-term forest management planning following the second renewal of a term supply licence, making licensees accountable for the actions of their contractors, and issuing long-term licence prohibitions for those who refuse to follow the rules.

Now I know, Mr. Speaker, that there aren't a lot of large forest management agreements, licence agreements, out there in Saskatchewan. Certainly the one that Weyerhaeuser had, I guess it would have been in the 2000s, they basically walked away from it, and as a result we saw the closure of the Prince Albert

pulp mill and, for a number of years, the closure of the Big River saw mill or the mill in Big River. Fortunately that has been reopened but we still don't see any action on the part of the pulp mill.

And there was a company that made big promises, and I think it was even part of a campaign promise to the people of Prince Albert in the 2011 election, that that pulp mill and the jobs associated with it would be forthcoming. And there was some talk of a diaper fluff factory and all kinds of things that were going to happen in the Prince Albert pulp mill, but unfortunately for the city of Prince Albert that hasn't yet happened.

And I think a lot of promises were made on the part of the government to the people of Prince Albert that those jobs would be secured. And sadly I think there was several hundred jobs that were impacted by the closure of that mill. And there is still no diversification of that mill. And I'm not sure what the intentions are of the current owner of the mill, but basically they were let off the hook. Weyerhaeuser had obligations to keep that mill running, and they got to walk away from that.

There's also been a complete shift in sort of how that forest licence management agreement was transformed, I guess is a good word for it. And I think that the transformation to a management company, Sakaw Askiy forest company, was not one that was welcomed by the companies that were involved, but it was imposed upon them. I think there's still questions to be asked about how that's going for the individual companies, the smaller companies that got pieces of that rather large forest management agreement.

[16:00]

I remember in my natural resources law class, and this is again many years ago when those seedlings were still pretty little, in that class we studied the forest management agreement that Weyerhaeuser had. And the area that they were granted was a size larger than the province of New Brunswick, so it's a very, very large area of forest that was given to Weyerhaeuser at the time. And this was in the '80s I believe, Mr. Speaker.

And Weyerhaeuser's had a pretty good deal. I mean their main obligation was to establish public roads for use. And certainly the pulp road north of Big River is a very well-used public road. I think it's . . . I'm trying to remember, the number of 722 or something. Anyways it has a provincial highways number. And that was one of the main arteries that Weyerhaeuser was required by law to establish when that forest management agreement was signed in the '80s. Unfortunately that was about it.

And somebody basically said, we sold the farm on that one and weren't able to realize the benefits from the sale of these natural resources vis-à-vis Weyerhaeuser and then ultimately seeing Weyerhaeuser basically walk away from it when the softwood woes with the United States of America began in the mid-2000s. That has impacted a lot on the lives of people in these small communities who are losing jobs, and certainly the city of Prince Albert. So these are things that need to be looked at carefully.

This particular bill addresses another, a whole number of different subject areas, things like forest management fees. And again these are ones that need to be balanced in terms of enough incentive for a company to undertake forest activities in the area, but also to ensure that the reforestation is taking place and that the public is getting, through the royalties and the stumpage fees, an appropriate return on our Crown resource. So these are things that governments always have to look at carefully.

And in this case I haven't seen an exact comparison of the forest management fees that are being proposed under this bill as opposed to what's happening in other provinces, so that's certainly something I think that we would need to look at in committee once that opportunity is presented.

The minister also referred to a 2009 Provincial Auditor's report where there were recommendations regarding reforestation for provincial forests that are being harvested. And one of the findings he indicated of the auditor from back in 2009 was that the forest management fees need to be sufficient to cover the actual costs of reforesting harvested areas, which can vary depending on the site. The current fee is not at all appropriate, so there is a change in the bill regarding forest management fees. And I just want to take a minute to see if I can identify quickly which one that is. The licensing section is section 21, and that's being amended to be . . . As far as I can see, it's a much more clean section. It's quite long in the original bill but this one is a very pithy section, so that's interesting.

Section 22 is being repealed, 22(6). And we see a substitution there about fees, referring to the regulation and the prescription and the regulations of the fees themselves. Subsection 38 is being repealed and substituted with some directions for forest management plans and when they're to be submitted. And then section 45 is, again, the forest management plan and operating plan, some requirements relating to that.

So under the forest management plan obviously the reforestation provisions are found within there, so there's nothing specific in the wording of the new bill that refers to that. But if I take the explanatory notes, we can look at it there. There it is. It's the amendment to section 22(6) because what it does is it enables the minister to address the findings by the Provincial Auditor to establish a set ". . . a process be established to set reforestation fees at a level sufficient to cover reforestation costs on non-forest management agreement areas."

This is an enabling provision . . . [it sets] an alternative to set the amount and manner of payment of forest management fees in a licence. Setting the amount in the licence is suited to area based term supply licenses who have renewal obligations and who are seeking a more streamlined and timelier process to adjust forest management fee rates so that they are in keeping with the actual reforestation costs.

So again I think the particulars of this would be . . . It would be worthwhile to address with the officials in committee when that time comes, Mr. Speaker, depending on when committee will be convened for this bill.

I know that there are a lot of theories on reforestation and appropriate methods of reforestation and when you actually

need to physically replant areas when, you know, other techniques like dropping seedlings through, you know, pine cone seeds through helicopters. There's all different ways and often just natural regeneration.

And back in I think it was 1990, I did a regeneration survey in the Hudson Bay area of this province near a place called McLean Lake. And we were actually looking at reforestation within a burn area, a forest area that had been burned a few years earlier. So you could see how reforestation happens when there's a fire which is in most cases a natural occurrence, although it could be caused by human activity which, I guess, could be argued is natural. But at any rate when you see the regeneration from fire . . .

And then we were in areas that had been harvested by MacMillan Bloedel. So this is going way back in the '70s and checking out the reforestation there, and the regeneration of conifers, not deciduous trees but coniferous trees. So the pine trees and the spruce trees was much more significant in the burn area than it was in the forested area. So those are interesting observations, and I know that the people who look after this in the ministry are very keenly aware and follow those sorts of that type of information. And that's indeed why we were hired was to go in and look at how the regeneration was happening.

We also got to go in and check on some plantations that had actually been reforested, and sadly those trees that were planted in the '70s hadn't survived very well. There was very few of them that had actually made it and were continuing to grow. So reforestation itself is a big investment, and I think we need to ensure that not only are those seedlings being put in the ground but that they are being put in in situations where they will survive. And I've often wanted to go back and check out some of the plantations that I was involved in in the early '90s, and maybe will someday. But that's part of the scientific, I guess, approach to reforestation, and we learn from what we do. And so I'm hoping that those efforts in the '70s and '80s and '90s are now informing tree planting operations in this time and age. And I know . . . Now my sons are tree planters, so I guess they're the ones that are benefiting, and their work will continue to inform reforestation efforts on our forest resources here in the province and elsewhere.

But it's an interesting cycle when you think about it, Mr. Speaker, and certainly I think in order for forest companies to be able to manage their finances that they have to make sure they put aside enough for these reforestation fees. And they need to be required to do that. And that's what happened in the '70s. MacMillan Bloedel wasn't required to do reforestation in the same way that they would have been in the '90s or the 2000s. So in that case then, the liability for the lack of regeneration is assumed by us as taxpayers and by the government as the responsible authority.

So when we set these fees under this process, we have to be careful to ensure that they are sufficient, that they're being put aside and that, although they're being streamlined, that there aren't shortcuts being taken which will impact the ability of these forests to regenerate in the future and continue to provide the people of Saskatchewan the resource that they are, renewable resource that has potential for the future, that it will continue to provide for us in the future.

And as we know, our forests are huge carbon sinks too. So they serve a very important function not only as a renewable resource but also in terms of our climate and the way greenhouse gases are processed. So our forests are taking on a much more important role as we see the climate change as we go along. And unfortunately I think those changes are happening more quickly than scientists anticipated. So the role of the forest takes on even a larger and more critical role. So we need healthy forests just to provide that service to the planet, let alone the profits that we derive from the forest industry as taxpayers and citizens of the province.

So that's regarding the reforestation fees and that again, that's section 22(6) which is now being expanded. And I'll just look at the new bill; 22(6) is repealed and it basically just directs the licensee to pay the fees in the prescribed amount and in the prescribed manner. So there's not a big change to this, although it says it enables the minister to address the Provincial Auditor's findings that requires a process to be established. This is an enabling provision that establishes an alternative to set the amount and manner of payment.

So it looks like they're looking for a much more flexible way to provide for these reforestation fees. And I guess it allows them to look at areas outside of the supply area, non-forest management agreement areas, which raises a few questions in my mind, Mr. Speaker, because why would you ask a company to reforest in an area that's not in their forest management agreement? So again those are other questions I think that we'll want to pose to the minister and the officials to get some explanation for that. There's nothing in the explanation notes.

I will check with the minister's comments and see what he says here. He said, "The obligation to reforest . . . is established in two types of licences: the 20-year forest management agreement and the five-year area-based term supply licences [which are issued within the forest management agreement.]" And what they're saying is the "area-based term supply licence holders pay rates established in the regulations which are not easily adjusted . . ." So it looks like there's problems with adjusting the rates for the five-year plans. They haven't been updated since 1999, and the people that hold these licences are seeking an alternative to the fixed regulation fees. So this is a request coming from industry, according to the minister.

In 2014, during the development of the new provincial dues system, the ministry was advised that an amendment to the Act would be required . . . [to get that] streamlined and timelier process to adjust the fee rates . . . Ensuring that sufficient fees are collected to renew harvested areas . . . will reduce the government's potential financial liability associated with nonregenerating areas . . .

He didn't talk in detail about why the areas that are not within the forest management agreement are included in the new section. So again I think that's something we'll look for further explanation once the committee is established, and we are able to ask direct questions because these are technical issues that I think again, people who are looking for explanation of these bills will want to see in the future when there's questions being raised.

There's another fairly long comment, as I said, by the minister.

And he talks a lot about the roads on page 202 of *Hansard* on May 30th, and he talks a little bit about forest management plans in general. So he talks a little bit about management objectives for large forestry licence areas and that:

Originally the Act contemplated term supply of forestry licences being issued only to small- and medium-scale operators . . . Over time, a subset of those licences was adopted to be transitional five-year, area-based term supply licences.

And they were supposed to give a “. . . window of opportunity for larger scale companies to harvest timber while seeking to transition to the longer term . . . agreement.”

He says now:

The government has found itself in a position where proponents were negotiating for multiple renewals of the five-year licence with the intent of avoiding the requirement to prepare a forest management plan.

So I think, if I understand that correctly, what that means is that rather than do what was required under the long-term 20-year plan, they were just recycling . . . not recycling but operating on five-year plans without a proper view as to the 20-year plan. He says it doesn't mean they're trying to avoid the responsibility. That could be arguable, but I think it's just where we need to have those long-term plans in place. And I think that's what this bill is intending to do.

[16:15]

There are some commitments by the minister that the amendments will enhance the public's confidence that their valued forest resources are well managed and that there's significant consequences for those who break the rules. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker, we need to have confidence in our legislation and into the activities of government when it comes to managing our valued Crown resources and our renewable resources in particular.

And as I said, for the forest resource that we have here in Saskatchewan, it's taking on a more and more important role in terms of collecting and sequestering carbon as we deal with more and more emissions of carbon being put into our atmosphere. So the role of the forests is becoming way more important as we go forward into the future.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the rest of my colleagues are also going to want to be speaking to this bill. I'm not sure if . . . I don't think everyone's had a chance to speak to it yet, so I look forward to their comments as well. And I think at this point that's the extent of my comments. So I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 10, *An Act to amend The Forest Resources Management Act*.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's me again. This is Bill No. 11, *An Act to amend The Forestry Professions Act*. It's a very short bill, and I think it's intended to address one particular matter.

I think what's interesting, when you look at the legislative agenda of this particular government, is that we often see bills coming back for fixing, and this is another example of that where this bill was more recently, just recently in the House in 2013. And I remember the debate on the bill at the time because the forest professionals were looking for self-regulatory authority and an ability to deal with members. Only certain people could call themselves forest professionals, so they were given that authority in legislation. And again, they were looking for ability to fine people who were holding themselves out to be forest professionals but weren't.

So that was all fine and dandy, and that was supposed to be done in section 40 of the Act which only referred to section 23. So let's take a look at section 40 of the Act which basically set out the fines and contraventions that were available. So it says, "Every person who contravenes section 23 is guilty of an offence" and here are the fines that are in relation to that. So that's section 23.

Now what we find out is that they actually meant section 23 and section 23.01. Now if we want to take a look at those two clauses, section 23 is who can use the title of registered professional forester, registered forester and professional forester. So there's a whole . . . No one other than a professional forester can use those titles. No one other than a professional forest technologist can use the other titles in section 2, and then section 3 deals with foresters in training, and section 4 deals with a forest technologist in training. So we've got the forester, the technologist, the forester in training and forest technologist in training. So that's that section.

And that's where, if you are holding yourself out to be one of these people and don't have the authority to do that, there's a fine: first offence, 5,000; second offence, 10,000; and each subsequent offence a fine of not more than 15,000 or imprisonment for a term of not more than six months. So you could actually be put in jail if you were using these terms and weren't authorized to do so.

Now if we look at the amendments, there's two little amendments in this Act, so it's just a cleanup of something that should have been caught in 2013. But it's now adding section 23.01 in an existing Act. This is the section that's entitled "Prohibited practice and exceptions." So again it goes on to say, no person shall engage in the professional practice of forestry unless they're a practising member who is registered.

And it says there's a few people that are exempt from that, for example, Saskatchewan land surveyors, professional engineers. These are people who are regulated under another Act. And I guess, interestingly enough, no member of the Canadian Forces. They're exempted from the penalty provisions in this Act and the protection of the title.

So this is basically a cleanup Act where they forgot to include the fines being applicable to people who engaged in the professional practice of forestry. They remembered to make the fines applicable to those who called themselves professional foresters or professional forest technologists without authority, but they forgot to add the section that says you can't also engage in that practice of forestry without being properly registered, subject to the exceptions that are there, of course.

So here we are debating it now. I think that this is just clearly a cleanup item that was missed back when the bill was amended, I think it was in 2014 actually it was before the House, and in 2013 and in 2010 and in 2009. So this is the fifth time the bill has been before us since the Sask Party government took over government. So I guess they're keeping their officials busy, and maybe they'll get it all fixed up here pretty soon. So we'll keep taking a stab at it each time it comes forward in the House, Mr. Speaker.

I just find it interesting that, you know, the forestry professions have engaged with government through lobbying to create their own professional Act. Today we met with individuals from the financial adviser profession, and I don't know that everybody knows this in Saskatchewan, but you can hang out your shingle as a financial adviser and not be subject to any professional regulation at all. We had a chat with the advisers about that. We know that social workers have to belong to a professional body, lawyers from my profession, teachers, doctors — the list goes on. But when you think about people giving you financial advice as, you know, your future as a pensioner or as a senior, I kind of would like for them to have a professional body.

So I think what's happened here with the forestry profession is you see these professions getting organized and coming forward. And it's just interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that that process continues with other professions as well. So again, I think this is just a matter of cleanup that was missed by the Sask Party in the last five times the bill was before us. But certainly it's been caught now, and now these individuals who actually practise the forestry as a professional forester are also subject to fines as well.

At this point I don't think there's much more to add to the bill or to the debate from my perspective, so I would like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 11, *An Act to amend The Forestry Professions Act*.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved the adjourned 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 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It brings me great pleasure to be able to stand up in the House to talk about Bill No. 12, *The Public Health Amendment Act*. I think it's very important that both sides of the House, we take a look at different bills and we ensure that they're up to date because it's important for everybody who's working on the front lines. And it's also important for us to make sure everything is up to snuff, so like I said, I'm really happy to be talking about this bill.

This was brought up by the Minister of Health at our last session. And it's the very first day of this session, and it's nice to be able to stand here and be able to talk a little bit about health care items because my previous employment, I worked in health care. So I'm really interested in things that pertain to that.

And so when I was looking at this bill, I was looking at how there was quite a few sections that they were adding the nurse practitioner after physician, which is really important with the fact that we have a lot of nurse practitioners working in the field. And they have the opportunity to do a lot of diagnosing, and so we need to make sure that they're also identified in these bills so that they are looked upon as being the professionals that they are.

So there's also the update of the definition of clinic nurse, and that's to be in line of some of the bylaws with regards to the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association. So we need to work with these registered bodies as well, and they need to help us and provide us the guidance that we need so that we ensure, like I said before, that the bills are in line so front-line practitioners, they have the support that they need to provide the jobs that they have to provide.

Another part of this bill discusses having public access to public health inspection, and it's really important to be open and transparent with regards to health-related information. And it also talks in this bill about how things are being currently provided with regards to eating establishments, which I think is important, and I don't know if anyone else here has, you know, gone online and checked out some of the eating establishments and made sure that they were properly inspected and what the health inspector has to say about that. And that's important to have that, the health inspectors going out and ensuring that these businesses are doing everything that they need to do to ensure that services and things like food are going to be served to us in a proper manner.

So I just had a little bit of questions, and I'm hoping that they'll be, through the process of all these discussions, talked about. But I don't know exactly what . . . how many establishments this is going to mean and what other areas that public health needs to disclose of their information that isn't already being

disclosed. I couldn't find too much information with regards to that, but I always do think it's really important that, you know, people in the public know exactly what level of services all of the public agencies are providing. And they need to be accountable to citizens in our communities as well.

Also there's a lot of discussion about public health, and public health is a really important feature of our health system. Ensuring that reporting of communicable disease control is done, and ensuring that it's current and reflective of the health practitioner's scope of practice, I believe that's what the Minister of Health indicated when he brought this bill forward.

And of course we do realize how important public health is in our communities, and that it's important that our public health facilities have the services available. I know, like I'm more familiar of the Prince Albert and northern areas and the services that are provided there. And I know our public health agency, they're run off their feet. They're trying to get into the schools and do some preventative services, and they're trying to get out to the community to inform people of the possibilities of these communicable diseases. Plus they're also working with some very, very vulnerable people in our communities that have severe, sometimes, addiction issues or mental health issues and that are oftentimes very transient.

And so I was reading a little bit about how part of the guideline is to ensure that anyone who may be in contact of a communicable disease, especially one in the category of number two communicable disease, that public health does everything that they can to contact these clients or people who may have been in contact within the 72-hour period. And I think nobody would disagree that that's a really good time frame to ensure that people are being, you know, notified about their possible contact.

But we also have to make sure that we have supports in these community agencies so that our practitioners can actually inform people within that 72 hours so that we're not putting up something here that's not achievable. And I think we all want this to be achievable. So I hope the Minister of Health is prepared to ensure that the public health agencies in our communities have the appropriate funding so that they can have the staff complement that they need so that they can provide that. Because I know in Prince Albert, in the North, like we talk about the AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] epidemic, you know, and we talk about how much more diseases we are finding and we are noticing.

And like I said before, those practitioners are doing it as much as they can to ensure that people are notified and that they're receiving the proper treatment and treatment's being followed through. But because of the population that they oftentimes work with, it is quite difficult for them to ensure that, you know, they can reach everybody in a timely fashion. So I really hope that, because the Minister of Health has put this bill forward, that this is an indication that he believes that public health is a priority, and that he'll ensure that within future budgets that the proper budgeting is provided for public health and for these services that are much needed and very appreciated in our society.

[16:30]

And also, like when I talk about public health, and we talked a little bit about the public health inspection, that whole area needs to make sure that it's a focus of our government and that we ensure that they have again the proper budgeting for that.

So other issues with regards to this bill, I noticed there was a lot of housekeeping issues. And again, like I said, I think it's important that we always consistently review bills so that we can assure that some of those housekeeping items are up to date and that we know that we are keeping up with what's going on because, you know, every day here we're passing things and things are proceeding. And we've got to ensure that all the documentation is being followed through also with that.

So with regards to that, I'm sure I have some other colleagues that have a lot that they would like to add to this bill, but at this time I'm going to move to adjourn debate on this bill. Thanks.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm standing today to speak on *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016*. When the minister rose earlier this year to speak to these proposed amendments, one of the main reasons stated for the proposed amendments was to update substantively the term "cancer care" to "cancer control." My understanding in reading through the explanatory notes was that the term "cancer control" is now a term used to describe a broad range of services used to prevent cancer, improve early detection, reduce the incidents of cancer, improve cancer patients' treatment outcomes, and support cancer research. And I think that, unfortunately, cancer is . . . Those are good goals, and cancer is something that I'm sure we can't find a member in this legislature who has not been touched by cancer and the rates of cancer.

Also in the preamble to that discussion, it was noted that despite efforts . . . We have an 85-year-old cancer agency in this province that has done a lot of good work around education and prevention and innovation in the area of cancer care. Despite all of those efforts, we're looking at a 54 per cent increase in rates of cancer in this province by 2013. And I certainly do share the concern with the minister that this is an issue that certainly needs addressing, and I know my colleagues on this side would wholeheartedly agree with that.

There are a number of factors that impact health and certainly rates of cancer, and a number of them I think we know about.

Lifestyle issues such as . . . I think of our knowledge about the impact of smoking on the rates of cancer, and that certainly has been something over the 85-year history of the cancer agency that has been updated through research, through that sort of investment in public health research.

We also know that other lifestyle factors such as diet and rates of exercise play a role, as do genetics.

And I do think that it is important that we continue to ensure in this province that people have timely and well-researched access to cancer treatment and cancer care. But one thing that I can't help but wonder if we're not missing in terms of the picture when we're looking at rates of cancer in the province, and those are the social determinants of health, which we often overlook, I'm afraid.

When we look for shorter term solutions, sometimes the impact that things such as education levels and income levels, we overlook the impact that those have on our health and particularly, in this case, on rates of cancer.

In doing some background on this bill, I noticed that there is about a 12 per cent, almost a twelve and a half per cent gap in terms of mortality rates in Canada between those at the lowest and the highest income rates. And I think that that represents a very troubling situation. So not only are those other factors, you know . . . You can control for rates of smoking, control for lifestyle, but if you are poor, you have a 12 per cent increased rate of likelihood of dying from your cancer. And I think that that's something that we can't turn a blind eye to in this province or elsewhere.

Other factors that impact, those social determinants of health that impact not only rates of cancer but the outcomes of cancer include education levels, unemployment, geography. We live in a province where many people live in rural and remote areas and their access to treatment, to timely treatment, of not only diagnosis and treatment — those are very important factors — but also their access to food and their access to educational opportunities . . .

I think of the program like we talked about earlier today, NORTEP, and the role that those teachers play in educating their students, the role that they play in terms of taking that knowledge, that local knowledge at their school and disseminating it throughout the North in their classrooms. And I think that's very important. And it's something that when we're looking at a real, long-term, thoughtful discussion about reducing cancer rates in this province that we need to look at.

I think that on the issue of access to food, there was a recent study that came out looking at not only availability but the cost of food across the province. And it's no surprise that not only access but the cost of food in the North makes that diet that we talked about, the high-fruit, high-vegetable diet that we strive to attain all that more unattainable. And when you layer over top of that low levels of income and that income disparity, it only exacerbates that problem. So I think that, you know, looking at rates of cancer, looking at ways to innovate is important and I do agree with that. But let's be long term and strategic and let's acknowledge that income inequality does play a role, and plays a big role in this province in terms of health outcomes,

including with cancer.

One of the other stated goals with this bill, or sorry, one of the changes that is proposed is adding the term "palliation" to the mandate of the agency. And I really do think that this is important. Access to palliative care programs is . . . You know, adding it to the bill is important, but the second step is ensuring that people in Saskatchewan actually have access to those palliative care services.

Earlier — I believe it was last year — I had the opportunity to have breakfast with a gentlemen called Ian Bos who was walking across Canada to raise awareness about hospice care in Canada. And he started his journey after his father had passed away. And Ian was so struck by the comfort and the care that not only his father received in the hospice care, but also he and his family, and how that improved his grieving. But he was really supportive of those services, and when he found out that the experience that his family had is all too rare in Canada, he decided to set out across the country to raise awareness for this issue.

It's my understanding that of those who require or request palliative care and hospice care in this country, only 16 to 30 per cent of those people actually have the opportunity. And I think that that's something that . . . You know, we really need to look at the full spectrum of care. And when we're talking about things like transformational change, these are opportunities to really look at transformational change, look at socio-economics and how that impacts health care, look at the full spectrum of care provided.

Too many people are dying in hospitals when it's not the best place for them. It's actually in some cases, with weakened immune systems and exposure to superbugs, that actually can contribute to declining health. And, you know, acute care beds is in most cases not where people would choose to spend the last days of their lives. And it's not only where they are but it's the access to the services.

I had the opportunity to work with some of who I considered to be the most special people that I know and those are those who work in palliative care — the physicians, the nurses, the social workers within our health care system — and how they can provide support to the patient but also the family so that those last few days of a person's life can be marked with positive memories, with, you know, saying the things that need to be said. And it really impacts a whole family in terms of their grieving process and their ability to move on from that space and view it as positive after, you know, after the shock of the initial diagnosis passes by.

So when we're talking about transformation and innovation, these are truly transformational changes that I would suggest could have a big impact in our health care system and, you know, while the adding of the word is a start in this legislation, again I'll reiterate that the word is one thing. It's actually providing those services that is going to be the real measure of that service.

One of the other changes that is proposed — and I'm sure that my colleagues will have more to say about this — is the proposal allowing the Ministry of Health to disclose a patient's

cancer diagnosis to the agency. I'm just going to pause for a second here.

While I certainly understand the reasons for this as outlined by the minister allowing the agency to share information and to participate in research and keeping better statistics on rates of cancer and treatment in the province, I think that it's very important every time that we are talking about loosening rules around sharing of health information that we take a very careful, careful look at that.

Mr. Speaker, in his comments the minister noted that:

I want to assure all members 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 I know that we will be paying attention to that, and ensuring that that does take place and that we will have additional questions about that. Of course this is very sensitive and delicate information, and it needs to be put through with thoughtful consultation and with many, many eyes on it, including the Privacy Commissioner.

One more thing that I wanted to touch on, and this got me thinking as I was looking through this bill and the proposed amendments, and this is on this side of prevention of cancers. And while we're talking about innovation and prevention and using research to provide the best care in this province, one thing that has been on my mind a lot over the summer is HPV [human papillomavirus]. A few years back there's been an initiative to ensure that girls receive the HPV vaccine in school, and I think that that was a very strong, evidence-based initiative and very important.

[16:45]

I think half of it is missing, though, Mr. Speaker, if I might. The fact is that rates of HPV cancers — and there are six types of cancers that can be caused by the HPV virus — don't only show up as cervical cancer in girls, but they also show up in boys and young men. And yes, it's a story that we're hearing too often. And I think that this would be a real opportunity when we're talking about innovation and we're talking about prevention of cancers in the province and, you know, looking at the Cancer Agency, that I might suggest that this would be something that we should really consider and look at the evidence elsewhere. I know this is the way that other jurisdictions are going, and I think that it would be something that would improve those rates of HPV-related cancer in the province and is just the next logical step with that vaccination program, so by way of adding some suggestions to this.

I'm sure that my colleagues will have further comments as we move through, but with that I would like to adjourn debate on Bill No. 13, *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 13, the cancer amendment Act, 2016. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to speak to *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act*. I believe this is the first piece of legislation I get to give my comments on, so I couldn't ask for a more incredible, frankly, legislation to be able to speak to, one of which I didn't — I'm not going to lie — I didn't have a whole lot of knowledge of before. But I'm happy that the minister provided quite a good commentary when he tabled this legislation for the second reading.

For those who don't know, the legislation repeals *The Horned Cattle Purchases Act* as well as the accompanying amendment Act. And there aren't a whole lot of explanatory notes in here, but that's simply because that's pretty much what this legislation is. And it's removing and repealing basically a very antiquated legislation that's out of date for this particular group of producers. And from what I see, the cattle producers have been consulted on this, and they're favourable about this change. I'm very happy to see that some consultation was listened to because as I know, historically, that's one thing that the Sask Party is not very good at, is listening to consultations. So I was very happy to see that with this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

So the bill removes the \$2-a-head penalty for selling horned cattle in Saskatchewan. Like I said, I didn't have a lot of knowledge of this before. I'm grateful to the minister for providing some information. You know, I didn't grow up on a farm. My dad grew up on a farm that had some cattle, some grain, chickens. Unfortunately he never provided me any information on this important piece of legislation so, you know, it would have been really nice if he would've taught me that growing up, but he didn't and that's okay. I'll make do with what I do know.

This, like I said, is a very antiquated piece of legislation, so it's really good to see that this is being moved forward and that it's being repealed, and I thank the minister for doing the work on that. For those who don't know, this Act is quite old. It actually came into force in July of 1939, which is quite a long time ago — it obviously was a bit before I was born — to penalize the marketing of cattle with horns in Saskatchewan.

So the intention of the Act, Mr. Speaker, was to reduce the number of cattle with horns being marketed. And essentially this isn't really necessary anymore, Mr. Speaker, so it's good that we're moving forward on this.

Now industry has asked government to intervene with legislation that's no longer required. And it sounds like there's

some consultation going with industry to figure out what the best solution is for this moving forward. So like I said, very happy to see the government consulting and listening to the stakeholders in this area, that's for sure.

Not only does it have the support of the cattle organizations, but it has many beef cattle producers in support as well, so we're happy to see that. We're looking forward to this going further. And we're also looking forward to monitoring this particular area and ensuring that stakeholders are continued to be listened to and that a solution is put in place that works for everybody in the province, in particular those in the cattle industry, and that we can move forward on that in a way that's best for everyone in the province.

Unfortunately I would like to speak more, but I know I have colleagues that will want to speak to this rather lengthy piece of legislation, so with that I will move adjourned debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park 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 Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 15

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 15** — *The Provincial Court 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. A pleasure to join debate this afternoon on Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016*. And as ever, always good to have colleagues from across the way shouting encouragement, or perhaps bidding a good afternoon; it's sometimes hard to figure out which. But anyway, good to join debate.

It's sometimes said, Mr. Speaker, that there's housekeeping legislation and then there is justice system housekeeping legislation. And it's interesting to go through the minister's second reading remarks as pertains to the amendment and of course the fine tuning that this piece of legislation anticipates for the Provincial Court.

Now I'm no lawyer, just a hard-working legislator, Mr. Speaker, in the opposition, of course and, you know, God willing, some day from the government benches again. But it's interesting to look at this piece of legislation, and it provides a good sort of tour through the complexities of what is our legal system for the layperson as they contemplate the different levels of court and the different powers that those courts exercise, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of part V of the legislation, and again we're referring to the second reading speech from the minister, part V . . . And

that's, you know, available in *Hansard*, May 31st, 2016. But from the minister's second reading speech:

Part V 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.

Fair enough, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to see that bit of clarification brought to bear. And certainly if you can't be clear about who will judge the judges, you know, it's a good place to start in terms of making certain that your system is one based on integrity and consistency.

Perusing further on in the second reading speech, Mr. Speaker, where the minister states . . . And this is the Minister of Justice, of course, Mr. Speaker, stating:

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.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it's important to not just be judicious but to have the sanctions that bring a level of propriety to the various offences involved. So again that you'd have greater flexibility and provide the Judicial Council the opportunity to be judicious, you know. Great work, great work, but that's where I'd again refer you to my earlier remarks around there's housekeeping legislation and, you know, at the very pinnacle of the housekeeping legislation mountain, Mr. Speaker, there is justice system housekeeping legislation. So here we are with one such example of that kind of stirring legal action.

Carrying on in the minister's second reading speech, where he states that:

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.

It's again an interesting sort of bit of something in terms of a measure in the legislation. But again, that division of powers between what is an order in council and what is more properly the purview of the Judicial Council, and what this says about the separation between the different branches of how we govern ourselves in Saskatchewan, and that distance that should be there between the judiciary and the executive government as evidenced by the transfer of powers from order in council to what is, you know, more properly clarified as a decision for the Judicial Council — and again, fair enough.

In terms of the list of the temporary judges, again fair enough. It's important work, maybe a bit mundane, Mr. Speaker. But you've got to make sure these things are nailed down properly, Lord knows.

Again referring to the minister's second reading speech where

he states that:

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

Again, Mr. Speaker, fair ball. And always good to bring greater clarity to matters of law, to questions of law, who's got the power and who's got the appropriate authority.

And then getting back to the minister's second reading speech where he states:

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

Again, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't ring quite like the Magna Carta or, you know, the Bill of Rights or anything like that, but important points, certainly. Perhaps, you know, not Sermon on the Mount, but these things need to be refined and are defined over time, certainly. But this is . . . I wouldn't want to say this is representative of the legislative agenda of this government but it's certainly not exactly an exception to the rule.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, noting the time, to bring my remarks to a close on the Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016*, and with that I'd move to adjourn debate on said same bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — It now being 5 p.m., this Assembly will stand adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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